

# SAFETY ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5056



AFZF-GA-SAFE

12 OCT 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Privately Owned Vehicle (POV) Accident Prevention – Safety Alert 02-01

1. Throughout the Army, POV accidents are the number one killer of our soldiers. Approximately 85% of all accidental fatalities result from POV accidents. Within the last week, we have experienced several serious POV accidents that could have been fatal.
2. One intoxicated soldier fell out of a pickup truck while standing in the bed of the moving truck. A driver with a .227 BAC ran a red light and collided with two automobiles. A third driver with a .15 BAC lost control and struck a tree, injuring him and two buddies. All three incidents occurred at night. Alcohol and driving at night are common POV accident denominators, in addition to speed, fatigue, and not wearing seat belts. These factors are all indicators of a lack of soldier discipline and must be addressed by leaders at every level.
3. Reckless and irresponsible drivers sometimes cause the death or injury of innocent passengers. Soldiers must apply common sense before entering a vehicle operated by an impaired driver. In addition to other useful POV safety ideas, III Corps Policy Memo G1-01-05, contains guidance for leaders to identify “at risk” soldiers. “At risk” soldiers should be properly counseled with the intent to modify unsafe behavior. Don’t put your life in the hands of a reckless and irresponsible driver!
4. In our line of “business,” there is no room for unnecessary chance taking or reckless behavior. Identifying “at risk” soldiers and influencing positive changes are beneficial to enhance activities, both on-duty and off-duty. With everyone keeping an eye open for unsafe actions/behavior, we all can benefit by promoting a safe training/working environment.

**Ensure this Safety Alert receives widest dissemination and is posted on unit bulletin boards.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. B. Bell".

B. B. BELL  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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