

# Scratching Post



**Holiday Safety**



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## Words from the Skipper

CDR Steve Hnatt

VT-10 Commanding Officer



Greetings Wildcats! As 2013 comes to end, I want to take a moment and thank you all for such a great year. We've certainly had our share of obstacles including integration of the new UMFO syllabus, the T-6 parts supply shortage, and probably the biggest hurdle - the government shutting its doors and closing its purse; and we have safely persevered through it all. As the year comes to end, now is a good time to reflect back on what we have done well, and what improvements we can still make. You, the members of this squadron, remain the most valuable asset and I take your thoughts and opinions very seriously.

2014 will be here before you know it. Just like 2013, next year will not be without its own unique set of challenges and all of us in VT-10 must be at our very best every day in order to face them. Whether it's making the tough decision to fly or not in the face of inclement weather, or staying sharp with NATOPS knowledge when the pressure to perform is delayed by Washington, your professionalism and devotion to safe operations are what will keep everyone out of harm's way. Remember, **IF THERE IS DOUBT, THERE IS NO DOUBT!!**

On a lighter note, the holiday season is upon us. For many of us, this time of year is characterized by spending well-earned time off with family and friends, and eating lots of tasty artery-clogging foods. For others, it's a time of year for traveling and increased social activity, which unfortunately means increased risk. In the following pages you will find a couple of interesting articles regarding how to help keep yourself and your loved ones a little bit safer throughout the season. Remember, risk management isn't just something to talk about before going flying; it should be applied to all activities at all times. It can be as simple as having a second person look over that turkey you're about to fry, or as imperative as identifying the designated driver for the holiday party you're about to attend. The bottom line is that spending an extra moment or two identifying and mitigating risks could make the difference between success and failure.

Alright Wildcats, be safe and have a fantastic time this winter!  
Skipper

# The XO Snarl

CDR Mark Yates

VT-10 Executive Officer



Hello VT-10 Wildcats! First and foremost, thanks to all of you for a productive and safe year. You continue to demonstrate your high level of professionalism both on and off duty, and for that I'm both proud and thankful.

So far, we have managed to avoid those dreaded DUIs and other alcohol-related incidents by exercising great ORM principles and just flat out taking care of one another. You all make it look easy, but we know that's not always the case. Every year the Navy and Marine Corps spend countless dollars in order to raise awareness to the potential costs, both monetary and personal, of alcohol-related incidents. The days are long gone where a person can get a DUI and suffer no repercussions; today's military takes such offenses very seriously, often prosecuting them to the fullest extent allowed. Take pride in what you have accomplished

thus far and continue to press with your meticulously clean record for the remainder of the year and beyond. Help each other make smart decisions, and don't be afraid to intervene when it's called for!

Have fun this holiday season, but don't forget the basics. More Sailors and Marines are lost each year to off-duty related accidents than to all overseas operations combined, and the holiday season brings with it a unique set of risks. The answer to this increase in risk continues to be simple - ORM. Take a pause each day to approach events in your life (driving, riding a motorcycle, taking a trip, going boating, etc) with the same kind of professionalism that you approach flying. Plan, assess the risks, mitigate them with sound decisions, and then make sure you're alert and rested during execution. When the risks seem too high, adjust the plan or simply cancel for another day.

Each of us will have ample opportunities to make good decisions during the holiday season. I know for a fact that you all have the training and skill sets to make them even when it's tough. The last remaining requirement is simply slowing down enough to actually put your training and skills to use in your daily lives.

Happy Holidays!  
XO

# Thanksgiving Safety

Excerpt directly from Naval Safety Center



According to the National Fire Protection Association, Thanksgiving is **THE LEADING DAY** for home-cooking fires. Utilize these Thanksgiving safety tips this holiday season, and be thankful for your home and family's safety.



-  Be sure to keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen in case of emergency, and teach your family how to use it.
-  Be cautious when using turkey fryers as they pose a number of distinct safety concerns, including burn and fire hazards.
-  Never wear loose fitting clothing when cooking. Long, open sleeves could ignite and catch fire from a gas flame or a hot burner. Wear short, close fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking

**To ensure a worry-free holiday, follow these simple, convenient travel and Thanksgiving safety tips to keep your family and home safe for the holidays:**

-  Prepare your vehicle for long distance travel: Check your wipers and fluids. Have your radiator and cooling system serviced. Simple maintenance can prevent many of the problems that strand motorists on the side of the road before you leave your home.

-  Plan ahead: Before you get on a highway, know your exit by name and number, and watch the signs as you near the off-ramp. Drivers making unexpected lane changes to exit often cause accidents.
-  Use a map or GPS: Surprisingly, few motorists plan their routes, even when driving through unfamiliar areas. Knowing the road is essential for safe driving - it allows you to anticipate lane changes and avoid a panicked search for directions.
-  Check your emergency kit: Contents should include: battery powered radio, flashlight, blanket, jumper cables, fire extinguisher, first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable foods, maps, tire repair kit and flares.
-  Be aware of changes in weather. Weather conditions across the U.S. will be changing - especially during early mornings and evenings with the cold. Watch for ice, snow and other weather related obstacles. Also, remember weather can change dramatically from when you start your trip to when you end. Bring a sweater and watch for the signs.
-  Thanksgiving is the most traveled holiday and more motorists create additional obstacles - be sure to use extra caution. Leave early so you won't be anxious about arriving late and to accommodate delays. Road conditions may change due to inclement weather or traffic congestion.
-  Know your limitations: Don't drive when tired, upset, or physically ill. Remember, when traveling in a car, you are in control and can take a break if needed.
-  Thanksgiving holiday is one of the busiest travel times of the year, and wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to save your life and the lives of your loved ones while on the road this Thanksgiving.

### **Thanksgiving Safety Resources**

<http://www.redcross.org/news/article/Travel-Safely-During-Thanksgiving-Holiday>

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/holidays/thanksgiving-safety>

<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/causes/cooking/turkey-fryers>

<http://www.nifast.org/blog/22/thanksgiving-day-cooking-safety-tips/>

<http://www.ul.com/global/eng/pages/offerings/perspectives/consumer/productsafety/turkeys/>



## Driving Under the Influence

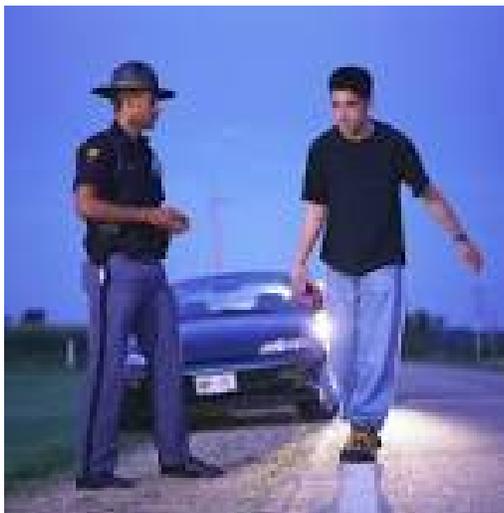
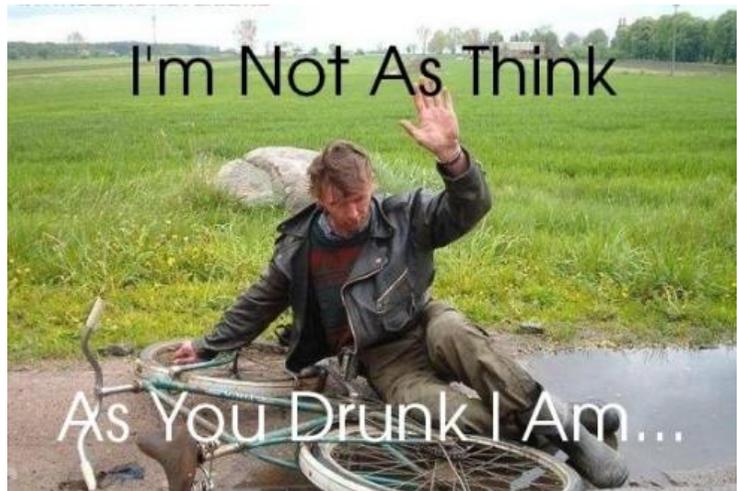
Driving under the influence not only jeopardizes the lives of the offender and everyone around them, but if caught, it can also have far-reaching consequences for the driver's career. The following are a few statistics concerning DUI in the United States.

Drunk and impaired drivers kill or injure a person every minute!

Approximately 43,000 people die each year on U.S. Highways, and Alcohol is a factor in at least half of those deaths

Alcohol is involved in approximately **44%** of all fatal crashes, **9%** of reported injury crashes and **5%** of non-injury crashes.

There is no such thing as a drunk driving accident...Virtually all crashes involving alcohol/drugs could have been avoided if the impaired person were sober.



The rate of drunk driving is highest among 21 to 25 year olds (23.4 percent). Subsequently, the largest age group in the navy is 22 – 30.

Ways to ensure you don't end up as another drinking and driving statistic:

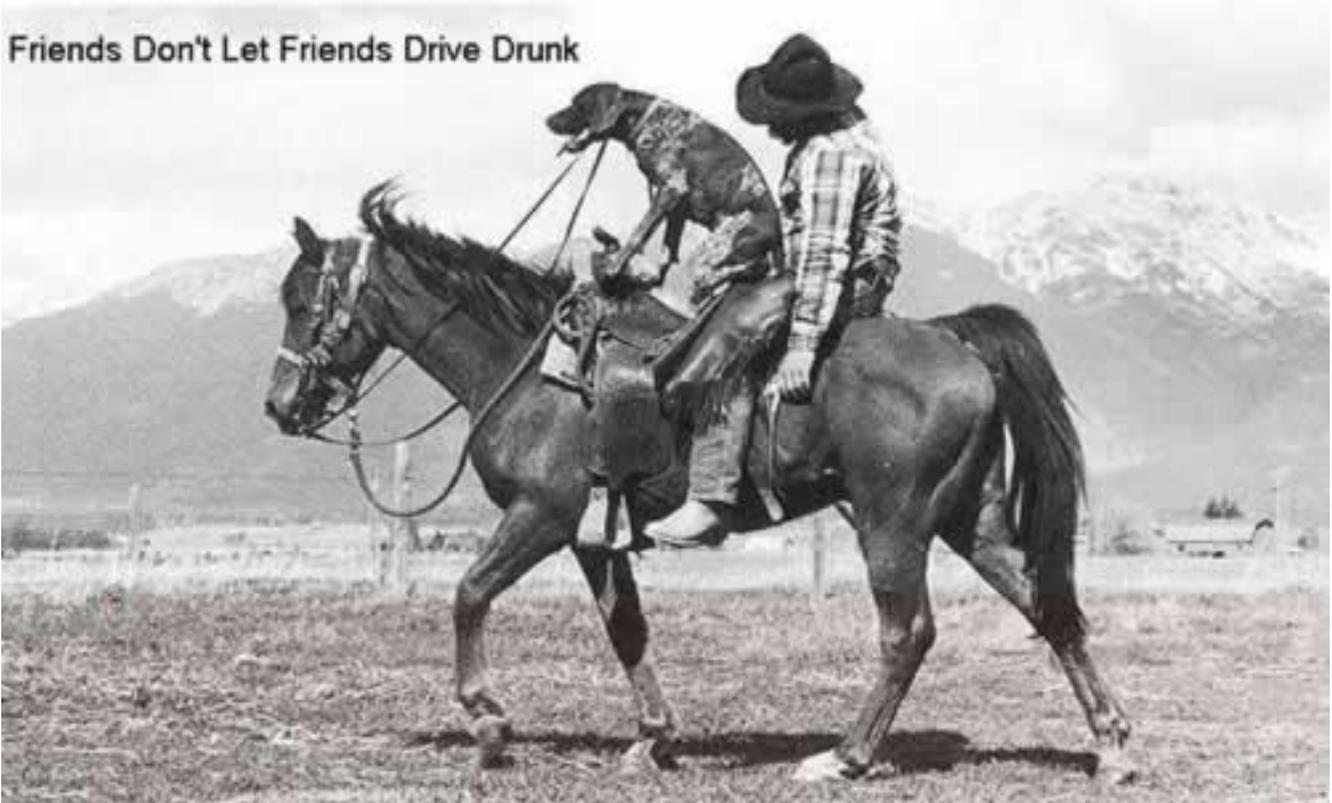
**Call a cab...**



**VT-10 Tipsy Taxi...**

**TRAINING SQUADRON TEN WARDROOM**  
THE HOLDER OF THIS CARD, WHEN PRESENTED WITH MILITARY ID, IS ENTITLED TO A FREE TAXI RIDE TO THEIR HOME. TRAINING SQUADRON TEN WARDROOM WILL REIMBURSE THE PROVIDING TAXI SERVICE, INCLUDING FARE AND TIP. KEEP THIS CARD AND CALL THE VT-10 GROUND SAFETY OFFICER AT 452-4411 OR 452-4641 TO COLLECT.  
PARTICIPATING TAXI SERVICES:  
YELLOW CAB.....433-3333  
ARRIVE ALIVE ACCT # 350  
NO. 5137      EXPIRES \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**Designate a Driver...**



DO YOUR PART TO PREVENT INJURIES AND DEATHS.

BE SMART - DRIVE SOBER - HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY SEASON!

## Around The Water Cooler...

- FOD - a.k.a., the silent killer, rears its ugly head yet again...



Talk about a potential missile hazard. If this person had ejected, who knows where this battery would have ended up. Take this as a reminder to always properly pre-flight your gear before stepping into an aircraft.

- Failed EADI / EHSI - Two recent EADI / EHSI display failures have caused smoke / fumes inside the cockpit:

### Smoke / Fume Elimination:

- 1.) Descent below 10,000ft MSL – initiate (as required)
- 2.) Pressurization switch – ram/dump
- 3.) Bleed air inflow switch – off

If smoke/fire persists:

- 4.) Bat, gen, and aux bat switches – off
- 5.) CFS handle safety pin – removed (both) (USAF only)
- 6.) CFS- rotate 90°- counterclockwise and pull (if necessary)

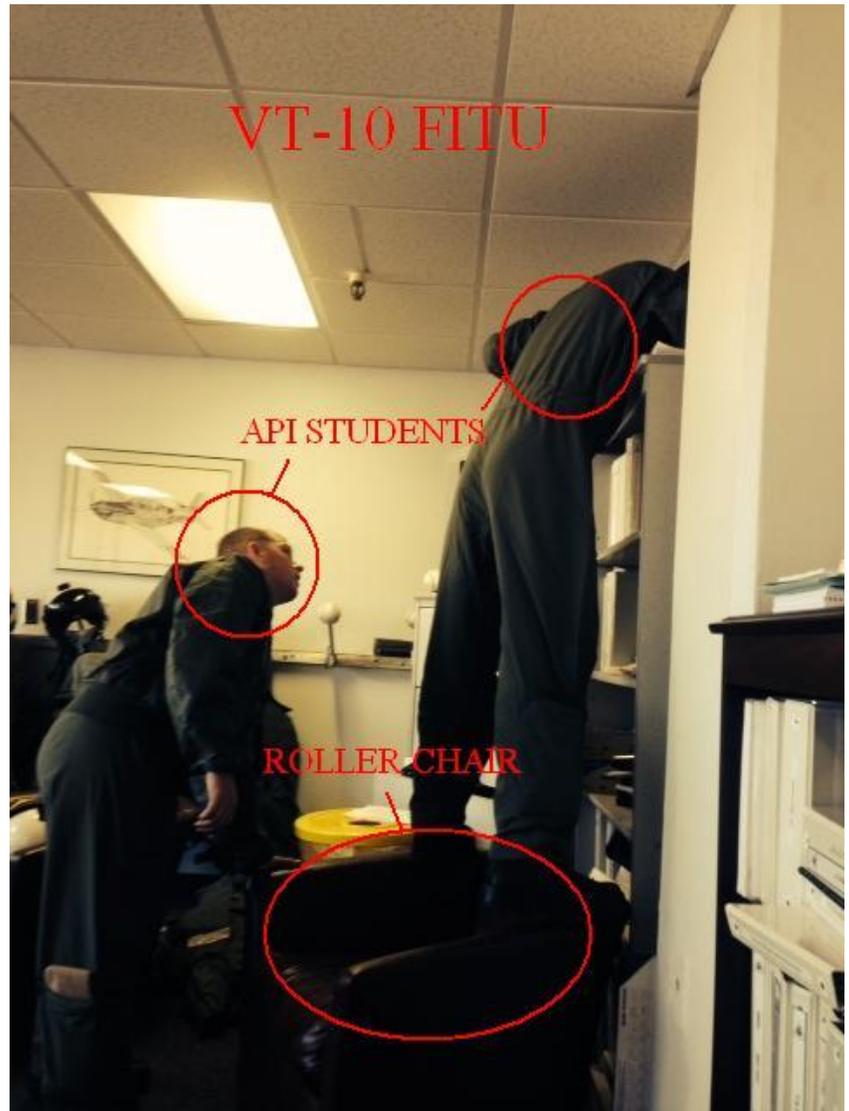
If smoke/fire ceases:

- 7.) Restore electrical power – as required
- 8.) Land as soon as possible



## Around The Water Cooler...

*Although most of us have had some exposure to general workplace safety, remember that there are those among us who have not. The person who took this particular picture was quick to teach these young Ensigns the dangers associated with climbing on an object not specifically designed for the task.*



# Safety - It's an all hands effort.

*Assess* the risk

*Adapt* the plan to mitigate risk & continue to assess

*Attack* the mission once risks are acceptable

while continuing to assess and adapt



S A F E T Y F A I L