

What Are You Doing for Wing Safety Day?

Mr. Joseph Vigil, 6 ARW Safety Manager

Brigadier General Soligan, 6th Air Refueling Wing Commander, has designated Thursday, 27 May 1999, as a 6th Air Refueling Wing Safety Day. Several people have asked me, "What's the wing doing for Wing Safety Day?" Now, that's a fair question, and I'll get to that a little later. But I submit that it is more important for everyone in the wing to ask themselves, "What am I doing for Wing Safety Day?" As an individual, what are you going to do to make your work environment or your home safer? As a supervisor or commander, what are you going to do to make your work places safer for the people whose safety you are responsible for? Safety Day is not for the "other people"--Safety Day is for you.

Another important question is, "What does it mean to make a place or a process safer?" To answer that one, look at the goal of all safety programs: mishap prevention. How do we protect ourselves from mishap injury or death? How do we ensure that our resources are not unnecessarily damaged or destroyed? The answer is simple: it depends--every work place and every operation we perform is unique in some way. That's why Operational Risk Management (ORM) is so important. We all can and must learn to use the six-step ORM process to implement effective control measures to reduce the risk of mishap.

So, what is the wing doing for Safety Day? Here are the highlights: Every commander will conduct a safety meeting with his or her unit. Every work center will spend at least two hours using ORM concepts to focus on three areas: sports and recreational activities, and one workplace-specific area. All work centers will conduct at least one hour of in-house safety training that is tailored to the work center.

Don't pass up the opportunity to discuss the high risks associated with drinking and driving, and remember that some non-essential services throughout the wing will be limited on 27 May to accommodate Safety Day activities. If you need additional resources to make your Safety Day a success, contact your Unit Safety Representative or the Wing Safety Division.

Make the most of your Wing Safety Day. I know you're busy enough without adding one more thing to your plates, but history has shown that time spent preventing that next mishap will pay back great rewards. Safety and Operational Risk Management are not costs--they are investments.