

April-June 2016



CIVIL AIR PATROL - NORTHEAST REGION
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
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Your NER Safety Team

I'd like to introduce myself as the newly appointed Northeast Region Safety Officer. Myself along with Maj. Paulo Costa will work hard for you to answer questions, provide guidance and serve as a team member for all members of NER. Our emphasis is adopting a safety culture in everything we do in CAP and even outside of CAP. Our safety culture mindset should not begin and stop at the squadron door, it should be as ever vigilant beyond those times. If you need to contact us about anything safety related, please email me at dbrooks@ner.cap.gov or Maj. Costa at pcosta@ner.cap.gov. We look forward to a successful team doing great things together for the safety of the organization and of our members.

SIRS replaces SMS

If you haven't seen the catchphrase, "that's SIRS to you!" then you may have missed to announcement of SIRS (Safety Information and Reporting System) which has replaced SMS (Safety Management System) in eServices. SIRS has a more user friendly look and feel. In addition to the look there are a few important items to mention. First, there is a Mishap Entry Practice area. This will give you the ability to practice on making those sometimes frightening mishap reports. Take the worry and stress out of these reports by practicing in the practice area. Also there are new tutorials and links to FAA and AOPA safety topics. If you haven't done so yet, take a look and try out the new SIRS.

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Special points of interest

- SIRS replaces SMS
- Postflight just as important as preflight
- Mishap reviews
- Summer is coming!
- Other points of interest

Postflight just as important as preflight

In reviewing recent mishaps across the region, it has been noticed that many mishaps could have been easily identified had the flight crew done a thorough postflight review. We want to put the plane away and call our FRO and close out the flight plan but doing an effective walk around of the aircraft is just as important. Remember unless the plane is hangered, we must tie down the plane, what better way for us to do an effective post flight. I've heard of fellow pilots who have hit birds in flight and never knew they did until they get back and see the damage. How about those tires? Nothing wrong with taking a quick look. Remember what you may catch on the postflight will ensure that the aircraft is mission ready for the next flight. We don't want to be in a situation where we place our fellow crew members or even cadets at risk or unable to fly a mission because we simply didn't check the plane after a flight.

But what about our corporate vehicles as well? The same principle applies to our corporate vehicles whether it's the squadron van, car or trailer. Most of us admittedly do not check out vehicles when we get in them or after we have driven somewhere. We just get in and go and when we get there we lock the doors and walk away. Perform the same safety checks on corporate vehicles as we should our aircraft. Remember these assets are ours and its important we take care of them and those that use them.

“Our safety culture defines who we are as an individual and as an Emergency Services organization”

Mishap Reviews

This section will summarize incidents that have been reported for us all to know what type of incidents are being reported in the Region. This gives us an idea of what to look for when we are performing our duties.

- Cadet developed a nose bleed during a meeting
- Corporate vehicle came in contact with a guardrail on a sharp turn
- Aircraft on static display damaged by tent that became airborne
- Cadet became dizzy after running during PT
- Senior member slipped and fell
- Aircraft taken to maintenance shop had missing screws and other missing items
- Engine began to run rough on takeoff, returned to the airport

Summer is coming!

Even though we are still a few days away from the official start of the summer season, remember that the hot summer weather will be here soon, hopefully! With that comes a lot of conversations around safety. There are so many topics that we could talk about but I will simply highlight some here to think about:

- Flying—Cadet Orientation rides and mission training and proficiency can be challenging when its hot out. Make sure you are well hydrated and are wearing the appropriate clothes for the weather currently as well as forecasted. Watch the weather forecast! Those storms pop up quick!
- Physical Fitness—When doing PT outdoors, make sure cadets are well hydrated and are given rest breaks in hot weather.
- Outdoor activities such as riding your bike, skateboarding, boating, etc require your attention. Remember to look up and around and be aware of your surroundings especially when using your smartphone.

Other points of interest

- Changes to CAPR62-1 and 62-2 have been made. Please visit www.capmembers.com or eServices to review the changes.
- NER supplement to CAPR62-1 and 62-2 have also been completed. Please review these supplements on the NER website.

Remember be safe in everything that you do! Your life depends on it!
