



The Safety Beacon is for informational purposes. Simply reading the Beacon does not satisfy your monthly safety education requirements but unit safety officers are encouraged to use the articles in the Beacon as topics for their monthly safety briefings and discussions.

September 2016

Changes to Annual Safety Survey

Survey Coming on 1 ~~October~~ November

George Vogt, CAP/SE

The Annual Safety Survey will be delayed until 1 November this year, and there will be a few changes to make it a more effective tool to improve our Safety Program!

In the past, the Safety Survey, directed by CAPR 62-1, was another attempt to assess compliance with Safety program guidance, and it became just an exercise in filling out forms and submitting them on time rather than being a useful tool for assessing the health of our safety programs. That is changing.

This year's survey will contain questions about how you the members, and your safety officers, actually make safety work in your units. We won't ask IF you do something; we'll ask you HOW you do it. We want to learn what methods work for you and what help you need with the Safety Program. Is safety guidance outdated? Do you need more training? How do you prepare for cadet activities? Now is your chance to tell us.

When the squadrons finish their surveys and submit them, the wing directors of safety and wing commanders will review the surveys, looking for the benchmark ideas and areas for improvement, and they'll look for trends. It will help them get a feel for the safety culture in their units. The wings will send a summary of their wing's surveys to the region commanders who will get a sense of the "safety health" of their wings and regions. We will use this information to strengthen our overall program.

Stay tuned for more information!

What's New This Month?

Lots of short pieces this month, with lots of resources and lots of topics for your monthly safety briefings!

Check out features on Suicide Prevention, FEMA's National Preparedness Month, how you can help us improve SIRS, the need to "wear" an ID when you can't carry your wallet, known and unknown knowns and unknowns, old vehicle tires, a good and the bad example of safety reporting, and the usual mishap summary.

How's that for variety?

safety@capnhq.gov

Help Us Make SIRS Better

Share Your Ideas

We are beginning the process of redesigning the Safety Information and Reporting System (SIRS). While SIRS is a worthwhile tool, it needs some significant improvements and we need your help as we try to capture all the ideas.

For example, SIRS does a good job collecting the who, when, and where about a mishap, but it's not easy to find or input what caused a mishap. Do you find it hard to enter a new mishap? If you're a safety officer, is there a certain function you wish SIRS had? What do YOU think the SIRS should do for YOU? Are there more reports you'd like to see? Safety Education? More links? Better ways to report hazards or make a suggestion?

We've created a special e-mail address for you to use to send us your suggestions. There will be more information about this coming out soon, and an input form to help you capture your ideas, but for now just send us your ideas as you think of them.

Follow a simple format of telling us who you are, what you want the system to do, and why. For example, "As a safety officer, I want to know which of my members is enrolled in the Safety Specialty Track so I can get their help on a project." We'll figure out how to make that happen for you.

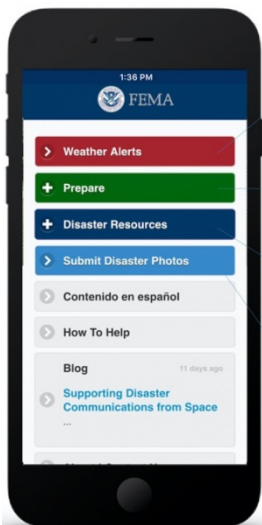
Send your ideas, no matter how big or small, to [SIRS Suggestions@capnhq.gov](mailto:SIRS_Suggestions@capnhq.gov) !

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month, and FEMA offers a wealth of information to help individuals, families, and communities prepare themselves for life's emergencies. Check out Ready.gov, a Department of Homeland Security website for all the information you need.



[Click here!](http://Ready.gov)



[Click here!](#)

Do you like apps for your smart phone?

Click on the smart phone and you'll have all sorts of preparedness tools at your fingertips.

These FEMA websites will provide the tools you need to stay prepared year around while providing some great informative briefing ideas for your monthly safety education briefings.

Share your ideas!

Safety@capnhq.gov

