UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
MARINE CORPS SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
VOLUMES 1-5

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
(SAFETY DIVISION)

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.
1. Situation

a. This Order establishes the Marine Corps Safety Management System (MCSMS), a system designed to focus our Corps on Operational Excellence. References (a) through (g) provide the MCSMS minimum requirements. This Order prescribes strategic policy, procedures, and responsibilities for managing all categories of safety under Marine Corps control in compliance with Department of Defense (DoD) directives.

b. Operational Excellence is the professional, efficient, and expert execution of our warfighting missions, functions, and tasks. It demands a culture of continuous improvement and the pursuit of the highest standards. It requires vision and decisive action from every Marine. Specifically, Operational Excellence requires understanding there is a right way to do things, knowing what that way is, and the conscious choice to do things the right way, every time. We need to
focus more on Operational Excellence and less on safety, because
“safety” is what naturally happens when we are performing to high
standards.

c. Our Corps must choose to evolve beyond our legacy safety
program and mindset. To accomplish this, commanders must actively
strive to change our culture by re-focusing on Operational Excellence
in all things, including safety and readiness.

d. This new Order, which defines the MCSMS, marks the beginning
of our new approach to risk management. We do not manage risk for the
sake of being safe. We manage risk in pursuit of Operational
Excellence—to be ready and able to accomplish our assigned missions
when we are called to action.

2. Cancellation. The publication of this Order in combination with
the volumes published herein state volume-specific cancellations at
the beginning of each volume.

3. Mission. Commanders at all levels shall create and implement
their own Safety Management System within the framework provided by
this overarching Marine Corps Safety Management System. Each unit’s
Safety Management System shall contain assigned personnel and
deliberate procedures to identify hazards, assess risk, and implement
safety controls. Each commander shall tailor their system to their
unit’s specific mission and the specific hazards, on and off duty,
faced by their Marines.

4. Execution

   a. Commander’s Intent and Concept of Operations

   (1) Commander’s Intent. Change the culture of the Marine
Corps by redefining safety to focus on the Operational Excellence of
our units and Marines, and by refocusing all Marines on the continuous
management of risk. At the most basic and useful level, safety is the
identification of hazards, the assessment of risk, and the
implementation of controls. When Marines view safety this way, and
actively perform these tasks, operational readiness improves. When
Marines fail to identify hazards, we lose combat power to preventable
damage, injury, and death.

   (a) The Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps (ACMC) is
the Designated Agency Safety and Health Official for the Marine Corps
and shall be listed as such on all posted Occupational Safety and
Health Protection for Employees of the Marine Corp Posters, available
The ACMC establishes Marine Corps safety policy and chairs the Marine
Corps Executive Safety Board (ESB).

   (b) Director, CMC Safety Division is the designated
service safety chief and provides direct support to the ACMC in
establishing and executing the Marine Corps Safety Management System, and all associated policies and procedures.

(c) Commanders shall implement this Order including the requirements of this Order, its Volumes, and references (b) and (c) as applicable.

(d) All Marines, Civilian Marines, and sailors attached to Marine units will use Risk Management processes for operational, training, and on- and off-duty activities in accordance with this Order and their specific command’s Safety Management System.

(2) Concept of Operations. The MCSMS details systematic policies, practices, and procedures for the improvement of operational readiness, the prevention of mishaps, and the management of safety activities. The MCSMS is comprised of four pillars:

(a) Policy and Leadership. Operational safety policy defines the safety methods, processes, and organizational structure needed to meet both readiness and capability goals. Visible senior leader advocacy for the universal application of risk management reinforces leader and subordinate commitment to continually improving safety processes. At the most fundamental level, correct policy matched with leader engagement will create the reporting culture required to improve readiness and prevent mishaps.

(b) Risk Management. The Marine Corps charges all leaders to continuously communicate that consistent application of Risk Management is critical to success. Leaders must embed the Risk Management process into day-to-day operations, deliberate planning processes, and most importantly into the mindset Marines apply to warfighting.

(c) Safety Assurance. The evaluation, review, and monitoring of activities that assures commanders the elements of the MCSMS are being implemented, and guide continuous improvement efforts.

(d) Safety Promotion and Training. The communication, training, and other actions that create a positive safety culture across all echelons of Marine Corps organizations and activities.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Commanders shall ensure adequate staff and budgets are provided to implement a comprehensive safety management system that meets the requirements and intent of this Order.

(2) Commanders shall publish local implementing guidance and appropriate supplemental policies when necessary. Such guidance and policy must be consistent with this Order, but commanders are directed to adopt more detailed rules to meet specific unit and location needs, when not covered by this Order. Safety and Occupational Health (SOH)
Program policies shall be integrated into appropriate orders, training and indoctrination programs, publications, checklists, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

(3) Commanders shall integrate Risk Management processes into all planning, unit orders, training and indoctrination programs, checklists, and SOPs.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. This Order is applicable to all Marine Corps activities, including non-appropriated fund activities, operations under the sponsorship of the Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Program Director, and MCCS morale, welfare, and recreation activities. This Order also applies to acquisition, operation, sponsorship, and maintenance for all facilities.

b. The official and current version of this Order will be posted to Marine Corps Publications Electronic Library (MCPEL) http://www.marines.mil/News/Publications/ELECTRONICLIBRARY.aspx.

c. Recommendations. Send recommendations for improving the Marine Corps Safety Management System to the Director, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Safety Division, via CMC Safety Division OMB account: <M_HQMC_CMC_Safety_Division_UD@usmc.mil>, and in coordination with their Command’s safety office. Each individual volume states its own sponsor and means of sending recommendations or content contained within that volume.

d. Records Management. Records created as a result of this directive shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved dispositions per SECNAV M-5210.1 CH-1 to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Records disposition schedules are located on the Department of the Navy/Assistant for Administration (DON/AA), Directives and Records Management Division (DRMD) portal page at: https://portal.secnav.navy.mil/orgs/DUSNM/DONAA/DRM/Records-and-Information-Management/Approved%20Record%20Schedules/Forms/AllItems.aspx. Refer to MCO 5210.11F for Marine Corps records management policy and procedures.

e. Privacy Act. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) may result in both civil and criminal penalties. The Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes that the privacy of an individual is a personal and fundamental right that shall be respected and protected. The DON's need to collect, use, maintain, or disseminate PII about individuals for purposes of discharging its statutory responsibilities shall be balanced against the individuals' right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of privacy. All collection, use, maintenance, or dissemination of PII
shall be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a) and implemented per SECNAVINST 5211.5F.

6. Command and Signal
   
   a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force to include all active duty military personnel on- or off-duty, reserve military personnel and DoD civilian personnel on duty. This Order extends to military family members, all other civilian personnel, including contractors, while on Marine Corps installations, participants in any Marine Corps sponsored events, operations, or training, and applies to all Marine Corps facilities, equipment, and materiel.

   b. Signal. This Order is effective on the date signed.

   GARY L. THOMAS
   Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

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## Marine Corps Safety Management System Listing of Volumes

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Note: Volumes 6, 7, and 8 are in progress and will be incorporated into the MCO 5100.29C, Marine Corps Safety Management System. Safety Division anticipates the publication of MCO 5100.29C Change 1 during the 2021 Fiscal Year (FY21). The additional volumes are:

- Volume 6 - Safety and Occupational Health
- Volume 7 - Marine Corps Radiation Safety Program
- Volume 8 - Explosives Safety Management System