Stranded Vehicles Tip Sheet

Steps to Take in an Emergency

• If you break down, move as far off the road as is safely possible
• Indicate trouble by turning on your emergency flashers
• Don’t leave the hood open as it can block your view of approaching vehicles
• Place a “Call Police” sign in your rear window or use a mobile phone to summon help
• If making your own repairs, stay well away from passing traffic. Place flares or reflective triangles at 100 feet (40 paces) in front of your vehicle and 100 feet (40 paces) behind to warn oncoming traffic
• In winter weather, leave at least one window open slightly and run the engine and heater for 10 minutes every hour, depending on the amount of gas left in your tank. Make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow and ice

Don't Leave Home Without These

In an emergency situation, in addition to a full tank of gas and fresh antifreeze, the National Safety Council recommends having these with you at all times:

• Properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and tripod jack
• Shovel
• Jumper cables
• Tow and tire chains
• Bag of salt or cat litter for better tire traction or to melt snow
• Tool kit
• Flashlight and extra batteries
• Reflective triangles or flares
• Compass
• First aid kit
• Windshield cleaner
• Ice scraper and snow brush
• Matches in a waterproof container
• Scissors and string or cord
• Nonperishable, high-energy foods like unsalted, canned nuts, dried fruits and hard candy
• Blankets, mittens, socks and hats