Stranded Vehicles

You may become stranded in your vehicle during extreme weather conditions like snow, ice and storms or in a vehicle break down. Being prepared is the best defense for surviving if you are stranded.

**ITEMS TO ALWAYS KEEP IN YOUR VEHICLE**

- Your vehicle Owner’s Manual
- Sunglasses
- First aid supplies
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Flares and other reflective triangles
- Basic tool kit
- Booster cables
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Mobile phone with vehicle charger

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR COLD WEATHER**

- Heavy, warm clothing and blankets
- Gas tank that is at least two-thirds full
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Supply of sand or kitty litter to use for tire traction
- Non-perishable foods and liquids
- Snow shovel

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR HOT WEATHER**

- Umbrella
- Drinking water
- Reflective sun visor for your windshield
- Gas tank that is at least two-thirds full
- Comfortable shoes and socks for walking

**PREPARATION STEPS**

- Maintain proper levels for all fluids in your vehicle – antifreeze, oil, windshield wipers, transmission, power steering, battery and brakes.
- Make sure your tires are in good condition, properly inflated and rotated regularly.
- Check regularly for cracked hoses and frayed wires.
- Schedule all routine maintenance.
- Keep the vehicle clean – keep ice, snow and dirt off of windows, headlights and taillights.
PREPARATION STEPS (CONT)

- Replace and test windshield wipers regularly.
- Read the Owner’s Manual and become familiar with your vehicle – especially how to check your oil, windshield fluid and antifreeze levels.
- Learn how to properly use booster cables and how to change a tire.
- Always check the weather forecast and traffic conditions for your route, and let a family member or friend know your route, travel plans and scheduled time of arrival.
- Always keep bottles of water in the vehicle.

STEPS TO TAKE IN AN EMERGENCY

1. If you break down, move as far off the road as is safely possible.
2. Indicate trouble by turning on your emergency flashers. Don’t leave the hood open as it can block your view of approaching vehicles.
3. Place a “Call Police” sign in your rear window or use a mobile phone to summon help.
4. 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.
5. In a highway situation, it is not recommended that you stay in your vehicle in case of a collision with another truck or vehicle.
6. 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.
7. Don’t accept help from anyone other than a uniformed police officer or official roadside assistance vehicle.