



# Vehicle Safety and Preparedness

During a disaster, you may be away from home or forced to leave your home. Keeping your vehicle in good working order, keeping an emergency supply kit in your vehicle and knowing how to drive in difficult conditions can help you through any emergency.

## Get your vehicle ready

- Keep a Disaster Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- Prepare to be on your own for at least 24-hours.
- Write the date on all food and water stored in your kit. Replace items every six months.
- Keep food items in airtight plastic bags inside your kit

## Emergency supplies for your vehicle

- One gallon of water per person. Store water in large soft-drink containers. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles.
- Emergency food. Avoid foods that will make you thirsty. Choose whole grain cereals and foods with high liquid content. Include infant and others with special diets.
- Small shovel, jumper cables, tow chain.
- Road flare
- Battery-operated radio/extra batteries
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- ABC-type fire extinguisher
- Whistle
- Plastic storage bags
- Cash and change for phones
- A supply of vital medications
- Sturdy shoes, socks, work gloves
- Rain gear
- Mylar blankets, plastic shelter tarps
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Latex gloves (at least 2 pair)
- Map of the area (for locating shelters)
- Compass
- Games and books for kids
- Pet supplies
- Toilet paper, towelettes
- Feminine and personal hygiene items
- Infant diapers and wipes

## Driving in difficult conditions

- Drive with your headlights on.
- Fill the fuel tank before entering open country. Stop to fill up long before the tank begins to run low.
- Don't try to out-drive the conditions.
- Start early. Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement.
- Leave plenty of room to stop.
- Brake carefully. It takes more time to stop in adverse conditions.
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do to gain extra time to safely react to situations.
- Drive cautiously near trucks — they take longer to respond. Avoid cutting quickly in front of them.

## Winter driving

- Be prepared with good winter tires, chains, a scraper, and a bag of sand for traction on ice.
- Carry extra winter clothing — the first rule of winter comfort and survival is to stay dry.
- Don't use cruise control in wintry conditions. A brief touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control feature can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle — they can lose traction as quickly as a 2-wheel drive vehicle.
- Make sure your car is in good working condition. Check the:

Ignition system	Wiper blades
Fuel system	Washer fluid
Belts	Tire tread/pressure
Fluid levels	Defroster
Brakes	Proper grade oil
Exhaust system	Cooling system
Battery	Lights
Antifreeze	



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