

MOTOR VEHICLE PREPAREDNESS

If a disaster occurred while you were driving, would you know what to do?
Making the wrong decision could be fatal.

All drivers should remember these important safety tips when facing a variety of emergencies on the road. When facing an emergency, remember to first **STAY CALM** and think **SAFETY**.

WINTER STORMS

Stay in your vehicle



Avoid driving in severe winter storms. If you are caught in a storm and get stuck, stay in the vehicle and await rescue. Do not attempt to walk from the vehicle unless you can see a definite safe haven that is close. A visible light in the distance does not necessarily indicate a safe haven.

to provide heat and recharge the battery. Periodically make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow and always leave a downwind window open slightly when running the engine to avoid a build-up of deadly carbon monoxide.

Generate body heat by not remaining in one position for long; clap your hands, stomp your feet, or just move around a bit. Avoid exposure or overexertion from trying to dig or push your car out.

Listen to the radio or television for the latest National Weather Service Bulletins on severe weather for the area in which you will be driving.

HIGH WINDS

Avoid Driving

Gale force winds can easily push a car out of its lane of travel or off the road. The larger the vehicle, the more susceptible it will be to the force of the wind. Avoid driving when gale force winds are predicted or present. If you are driving when high winds occur, pull safely off of the road and seek shelter in a building. Being in a parked car is safer than being outside; however, being in a building is safer yet.

During and after periods of high winds, be cautious of debris in the roadway and downed or low hanging utility wires.

SUMMER HEAT

Stay out of parked vehicles



During hot weather, heat can build up rapidly in a closed or nearly closed car. Children, the elderly, and pets can die from heat stroke in a matter of minutes when left in a closed car.


Never leave people or pets in a parked car during periods of high temperatures

FLOOD

Never attempt to drive through water on a road. Two feet of water can float most cars,

DEVELOPING EMERGENCY

Stay informed



During emergencies such as severe weather, hazardous material spills or earthquakes, keep a radio or television on and wait for further information and instructions.

If evacuation is recommended, the area to be evacuated will be announced along with the routes to be used, the location of evacuation shelters, and other related information.