

# YOUR PREPAREDNESS FACT

*This Week:*

## **PREPARING FOR HOLIDAY TRAVELS**



The holidays are creeping up on us faster than the leaves are falling off of the trees. Will you be traveling this holiday season? Whether you travel long or short distances, you should always be prepared - not just for the travels, but for the weather as well.

As you make your list of holiday errands, groceries, gifts and items to pack, don't forget to make a checklist for preparing your vehicle for the trip too! You say you don't have time to get your car in order? What you *don't* have is time to spend along side the road during a holiday travel; worse yet, in an auto shop waiting for repairs. In addition to routine maintenance and repair of your vehicle, here is a checklist to help you reduce the risk of a breakdown:

- ✓ Be sure tires (including the spare) are properly inflated. Watch out for uneven tread wear and follow your owner's manual for proper tire rotation frequency.
- ✓ Test brake lights, headlights and turn signals to make sure they work properly. Change any weak bulbs.
- ✓ Replace worn wiper blades.

- ✓ Check fluid levels under the hood, including battery fluid, brake fluid, coolant, oil, transmission fluid and windshield wiper fluid.
- ✓ Check belts and hoses for any visible cracks or bulges. If belts and hoses are over 4 years old, they may need to be replaced.

Already checked the above off of your list? Ready to hit the road? So, you have your auto kit all packed and ready too, right? No matter how prepared you and your vehicles are, you should always have a travel kit with you in the car. (I like to use backpacks to keep all items secure and easy to find).

Ten essential supplies include:

- Blanket and warm clothing
- An extra change of clothes and plastic bags (trash bags work well-even smaller plastic grocery bags)
- Exterior windshield cleaner and coolant (also called antifreeze)
- First aid kit
- Non-perishable food
- Reflective triangles and brightly-colored cloth
- Tool kit/Car care kit
- Water
- A little extra cash stashed away in the vehicle
- Working flashlight and extra batteries
- Waterproof matches
- And as always, if you are traveling with a pet, don't forget your Pet Kit!



Here's wishing you safe travels this holiday season!

Do *YOUR* part for Emergency Preparedness....pass on the information!

Resources:

[www.sheknows.com](http://www.sheknows.com)

[www.dogtraining.com](http://www.dogtraining.com)