

Prepare Your Vehicle

Your vehicle can be an important place in an emergency situation. It can provide transportation and shelter. It is an essential part of your emergency preparedness plan.

It is important to equip your vehicle for a wide range of possibilities. A well-stocked vehicle kit provides the necessary items in the case of a vehicle breakdown, accident or in preparation for an evacuation. In today's world, we spend a great deal of time in our vehicles. It is very possible that you will be in your vehicle when disaster strikes. In the case of a natural or biological disaster, your vehicle can provide transportation to safety or may serve as your place of shelter.

PREPARING FOR YOUR VEHICLE:

- ❖ Always carry a vehicle emergency preparedness kit in the truck of your car.
- ❖ It is advisable to carry an additional one to two gallons of drinking water in your vehicle.
- ❖ Be informed of potential events that could affect your area by contacting your local Emergency Management Office or American Red Cross. They will provide specific information on disasters, evacuations routes and maps.
- ❖ Keep your gas tank at least half full at all times.
- ❖ Keep your vehicle properly maintained, including tire pressure.
- ❖ **Thunder and Lightening Storms:** Your hard topped vehicle is a safe place to be in the event of a thunder and lightening storm. Keep your windows up and doors closed. Pull off the roadway and do not use a phone or touch any metal parts.
- ❖ **Floods and Tsunamis:** Do not drive through flowing water. Nearly half of all flood fatalities are vehicle related. As little as six inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle. Two feet of water will carry most vehicles away.
- ❖ **Snow & Ice:** If driving conditions require you to abandon your vehicle, pull as far off the road as possible. Abandoned vehicles make the job of clearing roads nearly impossible and can create dangers for other motorists.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY:

- ❖ Tune in your radio and follow the instructions of local authorities as to where to go and how to travel on roadways.
- ❖ When using your vehicle for evacuation, remember your family and pet emergency preparedness kits as well.
- ❖ **Earthquakes:** Slow down and drive to a clear space away from overpasses, power lines, buildings and trees. Stay in your vehicle, with the seatbelt fastened, until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution. Avoid bridges or ramps that may have been damaged.



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