

STAYING PREPARED:

Preparing Your Vehicle for Holiday Travel

Entering the 'holiday months', means potential travel in inclement weather. The following is what you need to do to prepare your vehicle:

- Ensure your car has been serviced and ready for winter weather.
- Obtain a packing tote that is big enough to contain all of your supplies/easily retrievable, while not consuming too much room in the vehicle.
- Develop a fuel plan that ensures you will never be on the 'road' with less than a half-tank.
- Snow shovel
- Blankets
- First Aid Kit
- Pocket knife or Utility tool
- High energy munchies (in a sealable bag)
- Appropriate medications for your family (in a sealable bag)
- A hand-crank powered flashlight
- Candles/matches (in a sealable bag)
- Small sack of course sand (double bagged)
- Extra clothing and protective coats/gloves/boots (in a sealable bag)
- A roll of 30 gallon trash bags
- Old towels
- Car battery booster cables
- Tool box (pliers, wrenches, vice grips, and screw drivers)
- Cards, games, puzzles
- Orange plastic marking tape
- Extra sealable plastic bags (1 – 2 gallon)
- A hand-crank cell-phone battery charger

Then consider material from an old Boy Scout trick; several plastic bags your newspaper comes in. They can easily be slipped over your stocking feet before you put your shoes back on. Then, if you have to go outside into snow, water, or mud without protective foot wear. Your shoes can get wet, but your feet will still remain dry. (My thanks to Steve Hubbell for that valuable hint).

As you are heading out the door to travel for holiday cheer, remember to take with you enough bottled water for every passenger in the vehicle. The empty bottles can be used later if you need them.

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On behalf of the 'Preparedness Volunteer Group' of Volunteer Partners