

Travel Safety Tips

- ✦ When you travel, know where you are going and how to get there and back. Try to find out as much about your destination and your intended travel routes as possible, prior to traveling.
- ✦ Check for construction detours; for longer trips, get a weather forecast. Much of this information is readily available on the web.
- ✦ When driving, keep doors locked and windows rolled up. Maintain at least half a tank of fuel, and keep your vehicle in good repair.
- ✦ Inform a family member or friend where you will be and when to expect you back; give them your route if they don't know it. This could help in locating you in the event that something unexpected happens such as your car breaking down, an accident, etc.
- ✦ If you experience a breakdown, pull as far onto the shoulder as possible and turn your emergency flashers on.
- ✦ If you have a cellular phone, summon assistance from a reputable source or call for police assistance. Otherwise, raise your hood or tie a streamer to your antenna, and wait for assistance inside your locked vehicle.
- ✦ Always carry a flashlight with fresh batteries in your car.
- ✦ **If a stranger stops**, speak to them through a partially rolled-down window, and ask them to go to a phone and call police or a tow service; **do not exit your vehicle** until a law enforcement officer or tow truck operator is on the scene.
- ✦ If signaled to stop by any vehicle other than a **clearly marked law enforcement vehicle**, acknowledge the signal, and wave the driver to follow you to a safe location (where there are other people and lights). Drive within the speed limit and take the shortest possible route to the nearest safe place. If you have a cellular phone, dial 9-1-1, tell the dispatcher that you are being followed by an unmarked vehicle attempting to stop you, and ask them to send a marked law enforcement vehicle to your location.
- ✦ On longer trips, be sure you have water, food, blankets, and a first aid kit in the car.
- ✦ Always wear your seat belts, and always have children safely restrained in car seats or lap and shoulder belts.