



FEMA

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Know Before You Go: Travel Safety Tips for Your Thanksgiving Holiday

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CHICAGO –The Thanksgiving week ahead is one typically filled with travel, a busy schedule and potentially bad weather.

“Don’t let this hectic time of year sidetrack you from safety on the road,” said FEMA Region V Administrator Andrew Velasquez III. “Take some time now to talk to your family about how to handle a travel emergency, and stockpile necessary supplies in your car in case you become stranded.”

Remember to take these simple steps to help ensure safe travel for you and your family:

1. **Know the risks before leaving home.** Listen to the radio or television for the latest weather forecasts and road conditions. If bad weather is forecast, drive only if absolutely necessary.
2. **Keep your gas tank above half-full.** When temperatures are extremely cold, condensation can build up in a near-empty gas tank, potentially freezing fuel lines and leaving you stranded.
3. **Check or have a mechanic check the following items on your vehicle:**
 - *Antifreeze levels* - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
 - *Brakes* - check for wear and fluid levels.
 - *Exhaust system* - repair as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
 - *Fuel and air filters* - replace as needed.
 - *Battery and ignition system* - make sure they’re clean and functioning properly.
 - *Heater and defroster* - ensure they work properly.
 - *Lights and flashing hazard lights* - check for serviceability.
 - *Thermostat* - ensure it works properly.
 - *Windshield wiper equipment* - repair any problems and maintain proper washer fluid level.
 - *Install good winter tires* - make sure the tires have adequate tread.
4. **Have an emergency supply kit for your car in case it’s needed. Include the following items:**
 - *Jumper cables* - consider including flares or reflective triangles
 - *Flashlights* - with extra batteries
 - *First aid kit* - remember any necessary medications, baby food or diapers
 - *Food* - non-perishable food such as canned food, and protein rich foods like nuts and energy bars
 - *Manual can opener*
 - *Water* - at least 1 gallon of water per person a day for at least 3 days
 - *Basic toolkit* - pliers, wrench, screwdriver
 - *Radio* - battery or hand cranked
 - *Cat litter or sand* - for better tire traction
 - *Shovel*
 - *Ice scraper*
 - *Clothes* - warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots, jacket and an extra change of clothes for the cold
 - *Blankets or sleeping bags*
 - *Charged cell phone* - and car charger
 - *Pet supplies* - food and water

You can always find valuable information to help you prepare for winter at www.ready.gov/winter-weather, and click [here](#) to watch our video on preparing your car for weather emergencies. Bookmark FEMA's mobile site <http://m.fema.gov>, or [download](#) the FEMA app today to have vital information just one click away.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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