

# Driving and Being Prepared

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Most people wouldn't head off to an important meeting or a big presentation without being prepared. Yet every day, no matter how long or short the trip, drivers head out onto the road without ensuring that their vehicle is well-maintained and stocked with essential emergency items, their route is planned and they are physically and mentally prepared to drive. Staying safe while driving is all a matter of being "road ready."

## Road Ready Checklist

- **Plan route ahead of time.** There are many websites that provide timely information to assist drivers in planning their route. To obtain national links for traffic and road conditions, road construction projects, and up-to-date weather reports, visit: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm). For Texas traffic and road conditions visit: [http://apps.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road\\_conditions2.htm](http://apps.dot.state.tx.us/travel/road_conditions2.htm) or call 1-800-452-9292.
- **Ensure that vehicle is in good working order.** A small problem can turn into a big problem on the road. Stay current on all regular maintenance.
  - Fill the tank with gas
  - Check all fluids, belts, and hoses
  - Test tire pressure and tread depth, remember the spare tire
  - Check windshield wiper blades and replace if necessary
  - Check headlights, taillights and turn signals
  - Check brakes
- **Keep vehicle stocked with essential items for an emergency.**
  - Flares
  - Battery booster cables
  - Flashlight with fresh batteries
  - Spare tire and jack
  - Vehicle owner's manual
  - Blanket
  - First aid kit
- **Avoid problems on the "roads more traveled".**
  - Give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination.
  - Be well rested and relaxed.
  - Share the road safely and courteously with others.
  - Always wear your seat belt and insist all passengers wear theirs.
  - Drive focused without distractions.
  - Never drink alcohol and drive.

Remember to practice safety. Don't learn it by accident.

This safety checklist was developed in cooperation with the Network of Employers for Traffic Safety, the Texas Department of Transportation, and the Texas Department of Insurance/Division of Workers' Compensation.



**The Texas Department of Insurance**

The Texas Department of Insurance,  
Division of Workers' Compensation (TDI, DWC)  
E-mail [resourcecenter@tdi.state.tx.us](mailto:resourcecenter@tdi.state.tx.us)  
or call 1-800-687-7080 for more information.

*Safety Violations Hotline*  
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