

# 1 TRAVEL SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

## DRIVING TIPS:

- (1) Plan ahead.  
Highways are packed with weary travelers trying to get to their destinations before the turkey and dressing gets cold.  
Bad traffic jams can often be avoided with a little planning.  
The heaviest travel days occur immediately before and after Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.  
Consider taking an extra day and leaving two days before the holiday, or returning two days after to avoid the congestion.  
Plan to drive during the daylight hours. More fatal crashes happen at night.  
Stay on major highways when you can.  
Avoid isolated gas stations and rest stops! There is safety in numbers!  
Two lane roads are far more deadly than interstate highways.  
Check the road conditions and the weather report.  
Go to the weather channel's website - [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) - and you can see what the weather and traffic will be like on your travel route.  
Always keep the car doors locked - even if stopping for just a moment.
- (2) Get your car checked prior to leaving on your trip. Oil, anti-freeze, windshield wipers, brakes. Especially your tires - the tire tread and the air in your tires!  
Make sure your insurance card and registration are in the glove box too.
- (3) Drive defensively!  
Think about the other people that are going to be behind the wheel and on the roads. They are hurried, worried, distracted, and thinking about the gifts they must buy. This frame of mind can cause drivers to be more careless. This means that you should be more vigilant when you are driving. Watch out for others - give them more distance. Be forgiving when someone does something rash or absent minded. Avoid confrontations and keep the road rage in check.  
Don't get distracted behind the wheel yourself.  
No texting while driving. No cell phone use. Pull over to a safe location if you must do this.
- (4) Always be prepared.  
Make sure you carry equipment for on the road emergencies, especially if you are driving great distances, in potentially harsh weather, or unfamiliar areas.  
Jumper cables, first aid kits, flares, cell phone charger for your car.  
If you break down in an isolated area, call the police.  
Make sure you are safely off the road. Move over to the passenger seat. Stay in the car with the doors locked. Do not get out of the car and sit on the hood or the trunk.

- (5) Drive responsibly.  
Please drive slowly and carefully.  
I know you have places to be, but take a deep breath and slow down.  
Impatience can kill. Watch your speed.  
If you have kids in the car, take a moment and look at them in the rear view mirror.  
Think about how their safety and well-being rests in your hands on the wheel and your foot on the accelerator.  
Make sure you are well rested. Take frequent breaks when driving.
- (6) Never drink and drive. Enough said.
- (7) Everyone must use safety belts or a child safety seat anytime the vehicle is in motion.  
Remember that children under 4'9" must be in a booster seat, regardless of their age.
- (8) Pack your car wisely.  
Make sure all objects are secure in the car. In the event of a wreck or quick braking, some items that are not secured can become dangerous projectiles.