

Emergency Preparedness Pointers

Travel Safety

Whether it's a weekend away or the vacation of a lifetime, a little time away from home can be a rich and rewarding adventure. Whether you have waited to take that perfect trip or are an experienced traveler, there are some things you can do to help ensure that you have a safe and healthy trip.

With a little planning and attention to detail, vacations and business trips can be safe, enjoyable and productive. Start planning early. Allow plenty of time to research your destination and find the best routes. This could save you a lot of time and headaches on down the road. Double check to make sure that you have enough cash and credit for both the expected and unexpected. You never know when an emergency may arise during your travel.

Traveling By Car

Even the most careful driver can be faced with an emergency situation. Use your common sense and instincts to help protect yourself from danger.

- Make certain that the car is in good repair to avoid a breakdown.
- As much as possible, avoid driving at night-when you are more apt to get tired.
- Keep doors locked and **WEAR SEAT BELTS AT ALL TIMES.**
- Keep valuables out of sight, even while driving.
- Don't use short-cuts, narrow alleys or poorly lit streets.
Before leaving your hotel, ask for directions.
- Be suspicious of anyone who hails you or tries to get your attention. Keep in mind; criminals can be ingenious, even causing "accidents" to get you out of your car.



Traveling By Air

Everyone needs to play an active role in contributing to air travel security. Together, airlines, airports, government officials, and the public can contribute to making air travel safe, secure, and efficient.

Place ID tags with your name, address and phone number on all your baggage. Use tags that are specifically designed for luggage, with a flap that covers your personal information from plain view.

Take all essential items you need, such as medicine, in your carry-on bag to last through possible flight delays and lost baggage. Make sure that all items conform to the new, more stringent TSA regulations.

By familiarizing yourself with the security process and following the TSA's tips and recommendations, you will be able to play an active role in ensuring your own safety and comfort. This information can be found at: <http://www.tsa.gov/public>

Taking The Kids?



Traveling with children, especially young children, puts special demands on the adults responsible for their well-being.

- Plan ahead: Ask yourself what supplies you will need to have on hand to take care of any normal or special needs for the child.
- Prepare for any possible emergencies. When traveling by plane, take all essential items for the children in carry-on luggage. Take enough food, diapers, medicine and other items to last through possible flight delays and lost baggage.
- Allow yourself and your family extra time—especially when traveling with younger children

Protect Your Home While Away

First, you must realize that most criminals who burglarize homes are looking for an easy hit. What could be easier than an empty house? To protect your home in your absence, you must create the illusion of occupancy.

- Buy electric timers that turn lights on and off at different times. Hook the television up to it also.
- Have your newspaper, mail and other deliveries suspended or picked up daily by a trusted neighbor.
- Think about having someone housesit, or ask a neighbor to park in your driveway each evening.
- Insert a lock through a hole in the inside track of your garage door.

- *Try not to look like an obvious tourist.*
- *Don't leave any valuables in your hotel room.*
- *Use travelers checks and one or two major credit cards instead of cash.*
- *Don't take anything that you would hate to lose.*
- *Leave a copy of your itinerary with a friend or family member at home.*