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What to do if your car breaks down

SALEM – What can you do to avoid the potential for disaster when your car stalls on the highway? Your first concern must be your safety and the safety of your passengers. Follow these tips when your car breaks down:

- Get the vehicle to a safe place before getting out. Never get out of the vehicle to make a repair or examine the damage on the spot, especially when traffic is present.
- If you can't drive the car, it may still be safer to stay in the car and wait for help or use a cell phone to summon help. Standing outside the vehicle in the flow of traffic, under most circumstances, is a bad idea.
- Carry flares or triangles to mark your location once you get to the side of the road. Marking your vehicle's location to give other drivers advance warning of your location can be critical. Remember to turn on your hazard lights.
- In the case of a blowout or a flat tire, move the vehicle to a safe place before attempting a repair — even if it means destroying the wheel getting there. The cost of a tire, rim or wheel is minor compared to a fatal injury.

Roadside tragedies remind us of the importance of having a safe place to pull off – that should be your first priority if your car breaks down.

And know before you go – visit www.TripCheck.com or call 511.

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