



Summer Driving Safety Tips



According to the Canada Safety Council, more fatalities occur on Canadian roads during the summer months than at any other time of year. Alcohol, fatigue and aggressive driving are often implicated in these tragedies.

The BC Crime Prevention Association reminds all drivers of the following tips for ensuring safe summer driving;

Stay Alert

During summer months, travellers often drive long distances to get to their vacation destinations. This creates a temptation to keep driving for extended periods.

Fatigue is a form of impairment, do not give into the temptation to push on. If you feel fatigued, have a good sleep before you take the wheel. Rest stops are important. Stretch breaks help drivers maintain alertness.

Be sure your route is broken down into doable driving segments, both to and from your final destination.

Mechanical Fitness of Vehicle

- Before leaving on a road trip, have your vehicle inspected to make sure it is mechanically sound. Repair or replace worn parts. Check all tires, including the spare tire, for condition and pressure. Replace your windshield wiper blades if they are worn or cracked. Make sure all lights work.
- Pack plenty of water; keep a flashlight, flares and first aid kit in a place that can be easily reached in an emergency.
- When stopping for fuel, check your vehicle's fluid levels, tire inflation and lights.
- Program or adjust your GPS or any electronic devices before you leave. All provinces in Canada have some form of distracted driving law prohibiting the use of electronic devices, including GPS.
- Be aware of fuel levels and of road signs warning of where the next service station will be located. Often there can be hundreds of kilometres between service stations or towns in isolated areas. Be aware that cellular phone service may not be reliable in isolated and remote areas.

Share the Road

- Be cautious of cyclists, motorcyclists and pedestrians.
- Wild animals on roads can be hazardous – scan the road and ditches ahead for animals, especially when driving during dawn or dusk hours.
- Summer brings increased construction on roads and highways - be prepared to stop or slow down in construction zones.
- Many jurisdictions have laws requiring motorists to slow down and move over, for ALL vehicles (emergency or maintenance) stopped alongside the road, which have flashing red, blue or yellow lights.

Towing a trailer or Carrying a Heavy Load

- Before you tow a trailer or haul a load, make sure your vehicle is properly equipped. All vehicles have a maximum load/tow capacity. Check your owner's manual or if in doubt contact your vehicle dealer. Rooftop cargo carriers have limits to how much they can store, review the product literature to ensure you have properly secured the unit to the top of your vehicle and you follow the load limits.
- When towing a trailer, check your rear view mirrors to ensure a clear view of the road behind.
- When driving a heavily loaded car or towing a trailer vehicles need more space to stop or pass. Leave plenty of distance between yourself and the vehicle ahead. Keep your distance. If cars cut in front of you, drop back to keep your separation.
- When traveling slower than the flow of traffic, keep right except to pass.

Travelling with Children

- According to Transport Canada, every year about 10,000 children (from infants to 12-year olds) are hurt or killed on the roads. The best thing you can do to prevent this from happening is to make sure your children are buckled-up properly while in the car. The back seat is always the safest place for children. Visit www.tc.gc.ca/eng/motorvehiclesafety/safedrivers-childsafety-car-time-stages-1083.htm to learn more about child safety in vehicles.
- Pack drinks and snacks to enjoy on the road. Pack games and books to keep children entertained both in the vehicle and in restaurants or during rest stops.

Drive Defensively

- Drive according to the posted speed limit. Speeding increases the likelihood and severity of a crash.
- When encountering an aggressive driver, call 911, if the situation warranted. DO NOT reciprocate the high risk driving behavior.