



News Release

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ROAD HAZARDS AHEAD: SAFETY TIPS FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY

Nearly 970,000 Virginia Motorists Will Travel About 50 Miles from Home This Holiday Weekend

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (July 3, 2013) – AAA's holiday travel forecast predicts almost one million Virginians will take to the roadways starting today to celebrate the Fourth of July weekend. Compounding the potential congestion, most local drivers will be hitting the road for their holiday getaways between 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, which is the deadliest time of day to drive, based on the most recent statistics reported by the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA).

With so many area residents, holiday visitors and tourists traveling the highways and byways of the Commonwealth this week, AAA Tidewater Virginia offers the following road safety tips:

Tips to keep you safer on the road:

- Keep your doors locked, safety belts buckled and children safe and secure in properly installed safety seats.
- Don't let your gas tank fall below 1/3 tank.
- Stay on main roads and highways – and don't forget your AAA mapping tools.
- Pack a flashlight, fully charged mobile phone and a roadside emergency kit.
- If you are going on a long trip, pack an emergency ration kit of water and nonperishable food items such as fruit or granola bars.
- When stopping for breaks, never let children go to the restroom alone. Always lock vehicle doors, even if you'll only be gone for a few minutes.
- Do not stop to help a disabled vehicle. Instead, proceed to a safe place where you can stop and call for help from your mobile phone.
- If stopping during nighttime travel, choose a well-lighted, populated facility. Park where your vehicle can be seen.
- If approached by someone while your vehicle is stopped, keep your doors locked and only roll your window down enough to hear what the person is saying.

Tips to keep you safe if your vehicle breaks down:

- Move your vehicle off the road safely away from traffic.
- Stay inside your vehicle and make sure all passengers stay inside, too. Keep doors locked and only roll down the window enough to ask any passersby to call police.
- If you can't move your vehicle off the road, ask all passengers to exit the vehicle when it is safe to do so, and stand away from traffic.
- If you must walk to a phone, keep your group together.
- Warn other drivers by raising the vehicle's hood, tying a white cloth to a door handle or using reflective triangles or flares. Warning devices should be placed far enough away from the vehicle to give oncoming traffic time to react. A good rule of thumb: three devices at 100, 50 and 25 yards from the vehicle – or 300, 200 or 100 feet.

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Almost 33,000 people – 635 per week – die on U.S. roadways each year and that's simply unacceptable, laments AAA. The auto club produces a variety of brochures and guides on highway safety, car care and what to do if you break down. Contact your [local AAA club](#) for copies of *What to Do When Your Vehicle Breaks Down*, *The AAA Guide to Trouble-Free Travel* and others.

As part of North America's largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit AAA.com and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA](https://twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA).

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