



## News Release

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### **AAA PROVIDES TIPS TO HELP VEHICLES SURVIVE EXTREME HEAT**

*Nation's largest motor club offers ways to prepare your vehicle for the dog days of summer and help avoid it leaving you stranded*

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, (July 18, 2013) – AAA Tidewater Virginia warns motorists that extreme heat can push a vehicle past its limits, and once again this year some drivers will find themselves stranded at the roadside because of it.

“While many drivers think about the importance of readying their vehicle for cold weather in winter, it’s important to not forget about the need to prepare for hot summer months,” said Georjeane Blumling, AAA Tidewater Virginia Vice President of Public Relations. “Many parts of the country are experiencing extreme heat, which can take its toll on vehicle components. However, a few preventive maintenance steps can help keep your vehicle running smoothly.”

#### **AAA warns motorists high heat can be an engine killer**

- High heat can cause auto parts to fail and leave motorists stranded
- High heat can be as hard, if not harder on cars and engines than cold weather, producing more requests for road service during hot months than cold ones
- Common heat related vehicle issues:
  - #1 Service Call: Dead batteries
  - Overheating and failure of any rubber components (especially belts, hoses and tires).
- Keep an eye on your vehicle’s temperature gauge. If the gauge starts to reaches the “hot” mark, turn the air conditioning off, roll down the windows and run the heater at full blast until the gauge returns to the “cool” end. If your gauge reaches the “hot” mark, pull over, and turn off your vehicle until it cools down completely.
- Make sure you have a strong battery by having your battery tested.
- Check your oil to make sure its level is at the “full” mark. Oil serves a both a lubricant and as a coolant for your vehicle’s engine.
- Check your vehicle’s coolant levels before leaving home. When adding coolant to your vehicle’s radiator, supply a 50-50 mix of water and anti-freeze.
- Make sure your tires are in good condition and **check all FIVE tires (many will forget to make sure they have a working spare)**. Hot pavement can test tires that are under-inflated or on the edge of wearing thin.

**Always have a back-up plan. Equip your vehicle with an emergency roadside kit containing the following items:**

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Warning devices such as flares or reflective triangles
- First aid kit
- Bottled water
- Fully charged cell phone

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**AAA Advises motorists what to do when your air conditioning takes a vacation**

- If you have noticed a decrease in your car’s cooling capacity, have it checked right away by an auto care technician.
  - Possible causes could be loose seals, worn belt, O-ring, hoses or leaks in the A/C system. Even worse it could be low or no refrigerant or perhaps a worn condenser or compressor.
  - Drivers that need their a/c system repaired or replaced could end up paying anywhere from \$250 to \$4000
- Replace your cabin filter every year or 15,000 miles. A dirty filter could restrict airflow, force the A/C to work harder.
- Temperatures in a car can escalate more than 25 degrees in 15 minutes or less
- Maintaining a comfortable driving environment also reduces fatigue which can play an important part in driver alertness and motorist safety

Many of the maintenance tasks to prepare a car for extreme summer heat are relatively simple. These tasks can be performed by the average driver, some are best left to a trained automotive technician. As a public service, AAA Tidewater Virginia offers a free “AAA Trip Check” where the vehicle basic systems are examined before a road trip. For more information or to set up an appointment, motorists can call 757-963-1222 or online at [AAA.com](http://AAA.com). AAA also assists motorists seeking other qualified auto repair facilities that they can trust to work on their vehicle. AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities must meet stringent professional standards and maintain an ongoing customer satisfaction rating of 90 percent or better. To locate a nearby AAA approved repair shop visit [AAA.com/Repair](http://AAA.com/Repair).

*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](http://AAA.com) and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA](https://twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA).*

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