

# SAFE HOLIDAY TIPS

**The summer holiday period usually means an increase in road crashes. Busy and unfamiliar roads, fatigue and restless children can all contribute. Good planning can reduce the risk.**

## PLANNING

- Avoid peak travel times on main holiday routes and destinations.
- Make the trip part of your holiday - plan regular stops to get out of the car.

## SPEED

It's easy for your speed to creep up on a long trip without noticing – especially when you are tired. Follow speed advisory signs on unfamiliar roads.

## OTHER DRIVERS

Even if you know the road, remember there will be other drivers that don't. On unfamiliar roads, they may stop or turn suddenly, or be driving too fast or too slow for the conditions.

**Be Alert and Be Patient.**

## TRAVELLING WITH CHILDREN

- Be prepared for car sickness or roadside stops - bring sick bags, wet wipes and water.
- Plan stops at parks and playgrounds.
- Prepare packs of activities and small snacks. There are lots of free 'printable' travel games available on-line.

**Remember Not to Give Children Everything at Once.**

If you are a member of any of the Council libraries in Taranaki you can borrow childrens audio books for your trip. Just download the 'Borrow Box' App onto your device, enter your library name and card number and choose from the hundreds of books available.

## A SAFE CAR

Before your holiday is a good time to get your regular service. At the very least, check oil and water, brakes, tyre tread and pressure, wiper blades and water reservoir, and make sure your windows are clean.

Remove rubbish and unnecessary items from inside the car. Make sure heavy items are packed safely so they don't move in sudden stops. If you are travelling with pets, make sure they are properly restrained.

## IN THE BOOT

Check the jack, its handle and the wheel nut spanner are in the boot (and know how to use them). A torch, fire extinguisher, hi-vis vest, pen and paper, basic first aid kit and 'wet wipes' are also useful.

## TOWING A TRAILER OR CARAVAN?

- Check the tyre tread, pressure and the spare. That last bit of tread disappears quickly on a long trip.
- Check tail lights, brake lights and indicators are working.
- If the trailer has hydraulic brakes, check the fluid, and make sure WoF and Registration are current.
- Check your tow bar and safety chain for damage or rust.

**For more tips on safe holiday driving and the latest road and traffic information, go to the NZ Transport Agency Website – 'Driving in the Holidays' page.**

**HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY**



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