

PRACTICAL RV BASICS

RV EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - Plan ahead and keep essential equipment accessible

Prepare Before an Emergency

RV: _____ Primary driver: _____ Updated: _____

CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

- ☐ Record emergency contacts and share the trip route and expected return date with a trusted person.
- ☐ Carry registration, insurance, roadside-assistance and health information in an accessible location.
- ☐ Save insurer, roadside-assistance, RV dealer and preferred repair-facility phone numbers offline.
- ☐ Record the RV year, make, model, VIN, licence plate and major component information.
- ☐ Carry paper maps or downloaded offline maps for areas with unreliable mobile service.
- ☐ Know local emergency numbers and campground office or host information.

FIRE AND ALARM SAFETY

- ☐ Test smoke, carbon-monoxide and propane alarms; verify service-life and battery dates.
- ☐ Inspect each fire extinguisher and keep it visible and readily accessible.
- ☐ Show every traveller the main door, emergency exits and how to operate them.
- ☐ Keep escape routes clear and never block an emergency exit with stored items.
- ☐ Know how to shut off propane, 12-volt power, shore power and the generator when safe to do so.
- ☐ Establish an outdoor meeting place away from the RV.

FIRST AID AND PERSONAL NEEDS

- ☐ Carry a stocked first-aid kit and ensure travellers know where it is stored.
- ☐ Check medications, prescriptions and medical supplies before each trip.
- ☐ Pack drinking water, non-perishable food and supplies for unexpected delays.
- ☐ Include weather-appropriate clothing, blankets, sturdy footwear and rain protection.
- ☐ Pack supplies for children, pets and anyone with mobility or medical needs.
- ☐ Carry sunscreen, insect protection and personal hygiene supplies.

ROADSIDE EQUIPMENT

- ☐ Carry reflective warning devices, high-visibility clothing and reliable flashlights.
- ☐ Carry an inflated, serviceable spare tire when the RV is designed to use one.
- ☐ Carry the correct jack, lug tools and torque information only if owner tire changing is approved.
- ☐ Pack wheel chocks, work gloves, basic tools and spare fuses of the correct ratings.
- ☐ Carry a charged phone, charging cables and a power bank.
- ☐ Keep emergency equipment accessible without unloading the RV beside traffic.

CALL EMERGENCY SERVICES FIRST

- Protect people before property. Move to a safe location and call emergency services for fire, injury, collision or immediate danger.
- Never re-enter a burning or smoke-filled RV and never search for a propane leak with a flame.

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Respond Safely When Something Goes Wrong

Emergency contact: _____ Roadside assistance: _____

BREAKDOWN OR TIRE FAILURE

- ☐ Reduce speed smoothly, signal and move as far from traffic as safely possible.
- ☐ Turn on hazard lights, set the parking brake and assess traffic before anyone exits.
- ☐ Place warning devices only when it is safe and legal to do so.
- ☐ Keep passengers away from traffic and behind a barrier when a safer location is available.
- ☐ Call roadside assistance if the surface, traffic, equipment or RV weight makes roadside work unsafe.
- ☐ Do not crawl beneath an RV supported only by a jack, stabilizer or levelling system.

FIRE, PROPANE OR CARBON MONOXIDE

- ☐ Evacuate everyone immediately if an alarm sounds, propane is smelled, or smoke or fire is seen.
- ☐ Move well away from the RV and call emergency services from a safe location.
- ☐ Shut off energy sources only if this can be done without approaching danger.
- ☐ Do not operate switches, create sparks or start an engine when propane may be present.
- ☐ Do not silence an alarm and remain inside; investigate only after reaching fresh air and safety.
- ☐ Have the RV inspected before reuse after a fire, gas event or carbon-monoxide alarm.

COLLISION PROCEDURE

- ☐ Stop, check for injuries and call emergency services when required.
- ☐ Move to safety if directed and if the vehicles can be moved safely and legally.
- ☐ Exchange driver, vehicle and insurance information without admitting fault.
- ☐ Photograph the scene, vehicles, damage, road conditions and identifying information when safe.
- ☐ Record witness information and the responding agency or report number.
- ☐ Contact the insurer and arrange qualified inspection before towing or using damaged equipment.

SEVERE WEATHER AND EVACUATION

- ☐ Monitor official forecasts, warnings and campground instructions throughout the trip.
- ☐ Identify sturdy shelter before severe weather arrives; an RV is not a safe tornado shelter.
- ☐ Know at least two exits from the campground and keep the tow vehicle or motorhome ready if appropriate.
- ☐ Leave early when authorities issue evacuation instructions; do not delay to pack non-essential items.
- ☐ Avoid flooded roads, wildfire smoke zones, unstable ground and downed power lines.
- ☐ Tell the trusted contact when plans change and when everyone reaches safety.

AFTER THE IMMEDIATE DANGER

- Document damage and protect the RV from further loss only when authorities say the area is safe.
- Arrange qualified inspection for structural, electrical, propane, brake, hitch or significant water damage.