

Emergency Preparedness

Vehicle Readiness Checklists

A well-prepared vehicle can make all the difference when severe weather or unexpected emergencies strike. In the Midlands of South Carolina, from sudden summer storms to the threat of hurricanes, having your car ready means having peace of mind on the road. Use these checklists to keep your vehicle in good shape, stocked with the essentials, and ready to help you and your family stay safe, whatever the season brings.

EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLIST

Water & Snacks:

Keep bottled water and non-perishable snacks on hand to stay hydrated and energized if you're stuck in traffic or waiting out a storm.

Flashlight & Batteries:

Pack a sturdy flashlight with extra batteries — essential for nighttime breakdowns or power outages during severe weather.

Blanket & Extra Clothing:

A warm blanket, poncho, or spare jacket can help you stay comfortable if you're stranded or need to wait for assistance.

Phone Charger:

Include a car charger or a portable power bank to keep your phone working when you need to call for help or check storm updates.

Fuel & Fluids:

Keep your gas tank at least half full during hurricane season and carry a small can of emergency fuel if it's safe and legal to do so.

Basic Tools & Duct Tape:

A multi-tool, duct tape, and a few basic hand tools can help with quick fixes or minor roadside repairs.

Reflective Triangle & Flares:

These make your vehicle visible to others if you break down in low visibility conditions.

Paper Maps:

Have printed maps of local routes in case cell service or GPS is unavailable during a storm or evacuation.

Toiletries & Personal Items:

Include wet wipes, toilet paper, tissues, hand sanitizer, and any personal hygiene essentials for comfort on the road.

Cash:

Keep a small amount of cash in small bills — helpful if card readers are down during a power outage.

Important Documents:

Store copies of insurance information, vehicle registration, and emergency contacts in a waterproof bag.

FIRST AID KIT CHECKLIST

Adhesive Bandages:

Pack a variety of bandage sizes for minor cuts and scrapes.

Antiseptic Wipes & Ointment:

Clean and protect small wounds to prevent infection.

Gauze Pads & Medical Tape:

Useful for covering larger injuries until you can get medical care.

Pain Relievers:

Include over-the-counter pain medicine for headaches or minor aches.

Allergy Medication:

Pack antihistamines in case of mild allergic reactions.

Personal Medications:

Keep a small supply of any daily prescriptions you or family members may need if you're delayed getting home.

Tweezers & Scissors:

Handy for removing splinters or cutting bandages.

Emergency Contact Info:

Include a list of important phone numbers and any medical information in case you're unable to communicate.

PREPAREDNESS TIPS CHECKLIST

Know Your Emergency Plan:

Familiarize yourself with local evacuation routes, shelter locations, and your family's communication plan before storms arrive.

Practice Basic Car Skills:

Learn how to change a tire, jump-start a battery, and use the tools and supplies in your emergency kit confidently.

Check Conditions Before You Go:

Always monitor weather updates, road closures, and emergency alerts, especially during hurricane season or severe storms.

Stay Connected:

Sign up for local emergency notifications and keep a battery-powered weather radio in your vehicle or kit if possible.

Review & Refresh:

Check your vehicle, kit, and first aid supplies every few months. Replace expired items and adjust contents for the season.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION SOURCES

During hurricanes or severe storms, tune in to multiple sources to get the most accurate, up-to-date information. Keep a battery-powered or hand-crank radio handy if power and cell service are disrupted.

Local Radio Stations:

WLTX News 19 Weather Radio:

Tune to NOAA Weather Radio frequency 162.400 MHz for continuous weather updates.

WIS News Radio (1320 AM, 100.1 FM):

Local news, weather alerts, and emergency announcements.

SC ETV Radio (90.1 FM):

Statewide emergency updates and news reports.

Television Stations:

WLTX News 19 (CBS Columbia):

Local weather and emergency coverage.

WIS News 10 (NBC Columbia):

Live storm tracking and local alerts.

ABC Columbia (WOLO 25):

Emergency broadcasts and community information.

Fox 57 Columbia (WACH):

Local news, weather, and emergency alerts.

The Weather Channel:

National and local storm tracking.

Websites:

South Carolina Emergency Management Division:

www.scemd.org

National Weather Service Columbia:

www.weather.gov/cae

SC Road Conditions & Closures:

www.511sc.org

AccuWeather:

www.accuweather.com — detailed forecasts and severe weather alerts.

Ready.gov (Federal preparedness tips):

www.ready.gov

Phone Numbers

Richland County Sheriff (Non-Emergency)

(803) 576-3000 — report non-urgent situations to the local sheriff's office.

Richland Cnty Emergency Services (EMS, Fire, HazMat)

(803) 576-3400 — county-wide coordination, medical response, and disaster management.

Hopkins Fire Dept (Columbia Fire Station 22 & 23)

(803) 545-3700 — local fire response and rescue.

TRAVEL SAFELY!

Staying prepared helps keep you and your loved ones safe, calm, and ready for whatever the weather brings. We encourage you to review these checklists regularly and share them with neighbors and the families you minister to. A little preparation today can offer peace of mind and protection when you need it most.