

# CB radio a big part of summertime travel preparation

It's summertime again. For many of us, that means it's time for the family vacation. The time to pile the kids in the car and take off on the road in search of adventure.

Unfortunately, the family vacation too often turns out more like this: It's 95 degrees. Bobby and Sally are in the back seat complaining about the heat. You're driving along a state road on the way to the Grand Canyon. Then you see it. The smoke rolls out from under the hood, and stark realization hits: the car is overheating.

Or — you're driving through the most remote part of the Smoky Mountains with the car air conditioner going full blast and the car in low gear chugging up the winding roads. All of a sudden, the car dies. The warning lights on the dash light up. The car rolls to the side of the road, but won't turn over or make any sound when you try to start it. The electrical system has failed.

Or maybe you're one of the fortunate ones who arrive at their vacation paradise without any car trouble. You and the family are enjoying a nice, quiet hike through Yellowstone National Park when suddenly your foot slides on a rock, causing you to fall and twist your ankle.

Scenes like these have become all too familiar to many vacationers. But there are safety precautions you can take to avoid turning the family vacation into a circus.

The key to a trouble-free vacation begins with preparing your car for long-distance travel. It's wise to take your car to a diagnostic center and follow through with their suggested repairs. Although spending this money may seem unnecessary, it could save you a bundle later by sparing you serious car trouble.

You yourself can check the car's air filter, oil level, coolant for the air conditioner, and windshield washer fluid. You should also check your tires for wear, and make sure they have the correct air pressure before leaving town.

It's also a good idea to have several safety items handy in the glove compartment or trunk. You may want to have a flashlight and extra batteries, a jug of water and some high-protein food on hand. Even in the summer, sleeping bag or warm blanket could come in handy, as evening temperatures drop in mountainous areas. A small first aid kit is also a good item to have, just in case.

The most important item you'll need is some way to call for help in case of an emergency, such as a citizens band radio. Some CB radios today are designed specifically for use in emergency situations.

Once you have the car ready for travel, loaded down with supplies (and kids), you're ready to go. As you travel, be sure to make regular stops at filling stations to fill the gas tank and have the oil and water checked. Also check the air pressure in your tires during these stops. And don't forget to make regular rest stops, to keep from getting overtired.

## Atiyeh appoints George Rankins

Gov. Vic Atiyeh has reappointed George Rankins of Portland to the state Commission on Black Affairs.

Rankins' new term will begin July 1, 1985 and end June 30, 1988. He served on the commission since December, 1983.

The Commission on Black Affairs was created by executive order in September 1980 to monitor existing programs and laws designed to meet the needs of the Black population in areas such as education, employment and economic development. The commission also researches problem areas, recommends action and legislation to the governor and maintains a liaison between the Black community and governmental entities.

After days of driving and a few fights between the kids, you reach your destination. You're ready for the fun to begin. Whether it's camping or staying in a hotel, you'll probably enjoy some sort of outdoor activity while on vacation. Unfortunately, minor accidents during outdoor vacations are almost as common as having car trouble somewhere along the way.

There's not a lot you can do to prevent an accident when, for example, hiking or canoeing, except be careful and not take any unnecessary chances. This includes not going anywhere alone. The "buddy system" seems basic, but it's a MUST.

Whenever you're going to be away from your car for any length of time, you should carry a small backpack filled with items such as a compact first aid kit, compass or map of the area (usually available in most state parks), a canteen of water and a pocket flashlight with spare batteries.

A good rule of thumb is to also carry a portable CB radio (a "walkie-talkie") to call for help in case of an emergency. When shopping for a walkie-talkie, make sure it has ample power and sufficient channel access so

your signal can be heard. Look for the new CB models, many of which are designed with special convenience features, such as compact size, carrying cases and cases that can clip to your belt or pocket. Prices for the portable models range from \$80 to \$150.

Now you're aware of how to prepare your car and yourself for the family vacation. But what do you do in the event of a real emergency?

The most important thing to remember is to stay calm. You need to keep a clear head and think rationally. If the emergency is car trouble, pull

the car off the road and out of the line of traffic. Stay close to the car. Especially since it's summer, find a shady place nearby to void heat exhaustion. Try to conserve fuel by not running the car for air conditioning purposes. If you have a rescue-oriented CB radio, tune to Channel 9, the channel most monitored by police and highway patrol units. Many models on the market today have a switch that instantly accesses Channel 9. Once you're receiving Channel 9, make your call for help. With a CB, rescue is just moments away.

It's even more important to remain calm if there's an accident while you're hiking or fishing, because you're not as easily spotted. Stay where you are. If you're carrying a portable CB radio, use it to call for help. Memorize the landmarks and check your compass or map so you can give good directions to the rescue unit. Again, by using a CB, assistance will be on the way within a short time.

Family vacations provide some of the happiest memories that last a lifetime. Take the extra time and money necessary to prepare for your family's well-being. By planning ahead, you'll have a safe and exciting trip!



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