



## Municipal Traffic Safety Initiatives What To Keep In Your Vehicle



Too often, vehicle owners have not taken necessary precautions to stay safe when faced with adversity. One simple thing we can all do to increase safety and mitigate catastrophe is keep certain crucial items in our vehicle. Below are some suggestions:

- **Emergency Medical Information:** On your “Emergency Medical Data Sheet,” write down any medical conditions, medical devices, medications, or allergies that you or any frequent occupants of your vehicle (i.e., family members) have. Laminate the card or store it in a water-resistant envelope. If you are incapacitated in a crash, you may not be able to communicate this critical information to emergency personnel yourself. Some people also keep copies of their living will and power of attorney for health care in their vehicle or phone. A copy of what you might want to put in your Emergency Medical Data sheet can be found here (for a shorter version, see the sample medical card on Page 3 of this document):

[https://911ready.org/documents/emergency\\_preparedness\\_docs/Emergency\\_Medical\\_Data\\_English.pdf](https://911ready.org/documents/emergency_preparedness_docs/Emergency_Medical_Data_English.pdf)

*Where to Stash:* **The glove compartment or a digital copy in your phone**

- **Emergency Contact Numbers:** Write down the phone numbers of those people that should be contacted if you are incapacitated so medical personnel can contact them. You can also put the word “ICE” (“in case of emergency”) next to such names in your cell phone. And always remember, if you have an emergency and are able, dial 9-1-1 immediately!

*Where to Stash:* **The glove compartment, in your wallet, or in the contacts of your phone**

- **Proof of Insurance and Driver’s License:** You will need these in the event of a crash. (Also, under Section 521.025(a)(1) of the Transportation Code, drivers are legally required to possess a physical driver’s license when operating a motor vehicle.) Keep a pen and paper handy in case you need to exchange insurance information with another motorist that you are in a collision with.

*Where to Stash:* **The glove compartment or center console**

- **First Aid Kit:** You never know when you might need first aid. The contents of a high-quality first aid kit can be vital when waiting for medical personnel or even in less serious medical situations.

*Where to Stash:* **Trunk**

- **Flashlight, Energy Snacks, Bottled Water, and a Blanket:** It may seem like overkill, but if your car breaks down in the middle of nowhere, you will be glad you have these items. Just be sure to periodically replace the consumable items.

*Where to Stash:* **Trunk**

- **Your Car's Owner's Manual**: How often does a symbol pop up on your dashboard and you have no idea what it means? The answer lies within the owner's manual! It also contains important information about your car's maintenance schedule that you should follow to keep your car safe.

*Where to Stash:* **The glove compartment or center console**

- **Chargers**: Keeping your devices charged will help you get where you need to be and give you the ability to call for help if needed. But remember: never let your phone distract you from the important job of driving.

*Where to Stash:* **The glove compartment or center console**

- **Napkins, Travel Wipes, Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, and Trash/Grocery Bags**: Because life happens. Sometimes you will need these things, especially if you travel with children or pets.

*Where to Stash:* **The glove compartment or center console**

- **Tools**: What kind of tools and how many tools depends in part on how much space you have available. A multi-tool such as a Swiss Army knife or Leatherman are a great idea. A small tool kit with essentials, such as a small hammer, a multi-bit screwdriver, a folding knife, an adjustable wrench, a pair of pliers with wire cutters, and some duct tape would get you through most small emergencies. Your tools should also include a tire gauge and a portable tire inflator that can be run off your car's 12-volt plug. Jumper cables are also useful. Finally, make sure that you have all the tools your car requires to change a tire, including any specialized lug nut removers.

*Where to Stash:* **The glove compartment and/or trunk.**

**Sample Medical Information Card**

*(adapted with permission from the Alabama Yellow Dot Program)*

**Personal Information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Case of Emergency, contact  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**Physician**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Recent Photograph of Yourself**

*See Reverse Side For Medical Information*

**Medical Information**

Medications Taken \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Blood Type \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical Conditions** (check all that apply)

- No Known Medical Conditions
- Angina
- Asthma
- Bleeding Disorder
- Cancer; Type \_\_\_\_\_
- Cardiac Dysrhythmia
- Clotting Disorder
- COPD/Emphysema
- Diabetes/Insulin Dependent
- Heart Attack
- Heart Valve Prosthesis
- Hepatitis
- High Blood Pressure
- HIV/AIDS
- Hypertension
- Internal Defibrillator
- Kidney Problems
- Leukemia
- Pacemaker
- Pregnant; Due Date \_\_\_\_\_
- Renal Failure
- Seizure Disorder
- Stroke
- Vision Impaired
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies** (check all that apply)

- No Known Allergies
- Aspirin
- Codeine
- Demerol
- Latex
- Morphine
- Penicillin
- Xylocaine
- Other \_\_\_\_\_