November Tip: Be Ready On the Go!

As the holiday season begins, you may be making plans to travel. Whether near or far, in country or out, it pays to be prepared for any unexpected emergencies that may occur where you are going and along the way. Travel delays, natural disasters, and other emergencies tend to put a damper on holiday vacations if unprepared to handle them. Be Ready.

Tip #1: Be informed of hazards to which your destination may be prone.

Tip #2: Check the forecast for weather conditions at your destination for the duration of your trip as well as along the entire route if driving.

Tip #3: Pack a travel-sized emergency supply kit with water, non-perishable snacks, a flashlight, extra batteries, a small battery operated radio, maps, a first aid kit, copies of all important documents (identification, passports, credit cards, reservations) and an emergency contact card with all your important contact numbers.

Tip #4: Take extra supplies of critical items like medications and things specific to individual family members like diapers or formula for an infant.

Tip #5: Designate an out-of-area emergency contact everyone can call if separated, and send that contact a copy of your itinerary with cell and lodging numbers where they can reach you.

Tip #6: Keep your vehicle’s fuel tank above half full in case power outages or weather prevent you from refilling.

Tip #7: If traveling internationally, register with the U.S. Department of State through a free online service at https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/. The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) allows travelers to enter information about upcoming trips abroad so that the Department of State can better assist them in an emergency.

For more information on different types of hazards you could face away from home and how to plan and prepare view the Ready Coast Guard website resources at http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/ready.asp.

Be/stay informed, make a plan, build a kit and pass it on, so all are prepared.

Semper Paratus!