

Here is a set of safeguards and precautions that you must take, to avoid accidents in case of breakdowns. A little cautiousness can go a long way.

Overview



Studies have shown, on an average, people spend at least twenty hours a week driving a vehicle. With spending that much time, behind the wheel, it is inevitable that your vehicle will break down while on the road. It is important to be prepared for such an event.

The following are things that you can do to reduce the risk during a vehicle break down and deal with a breakdown efficiently when it does happen.

Case Studies

Two killed, six injured as tempo hits stationary bus.

At New Delhi on 10th August 2017, a bus had a breakdown and was undergoing repair when the accident took place. A mechanic was called to repair the vehicle. Some drivers, helpers and others were assisting the mechanic with the work. While they were at their job, a tempo rammed over the bus and the people standing outside.



Prevention

Regularly maintaining your vehicle in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendation is ideal. Proper preventative maintenance will prevent breakdowns. Completing a visual inspection of your vehicle is also recommended. If you detect a problem, have it fixed ASAP.

Plan Ahead

It is also important to plan ahead and be prepared for a vehicle breakdown:



Read the vehicle's owner's manual to become more familiar with your vehicle.



Locate the spare tire and jack and become familiar with how to change it.



Have a list of emergency numbers in the glove compartment



Find out where the vehicle's fuse box is. Sometimes the problem is just a blown fuse.

Keep spare fuses in the vehicle and become familiar with how to change them.



Have a roadside assistance kit in your vehicle.

Precautionary things that will help during breakdown:

- A cell phone for calling for help.
- A first aid kit in case there are minor injuries due to the breakdown.
- A tire gauge for checking your tire pressure at regular intervals.
- A portable air compressor to air up a tire with a slow leak.
- Spare fuses to replace blown ones.
- Gloves and hand cleaner to protect your hands in case of repairs.
- A flashlight with extra batteries to help you see if you break down at night.
- Jumper cables to get a boost for a dead battery.
- Warning triangles or flares to put around your vehicle to warn others.
- A fire extinguisher in case you have to put out a fire.
- A blanket and bottles of drinking water.
- ₹ 2000 in small bills and change in case you need cash.



General Tips

What to do when a breakdown happens

The first thing to do is to get your vehicle safely off of the road and out of traffic. If your vehicle breaks down in the middle of traffic, stay in the vehicle. Turn on your emergency flashers and call road side assistance or the police to inform them of your situation. Next, call a tow truck to come and move your vehicle as soon as possible. Move your vehicle to the side of the road and do the following:

- Park as far off the side of the road as you can.
- Turn on the emergency flashers to warn others about your breakdown.
- If you are next to a busy highway, exit from the side of the vehicle away from traffic.
- Place the emergency triangles or flares around your vehicle.
- Leave the vehicle and move as far away as possible.
- Call for help like a tow truck or your roadside assistance company.
- If you decide to change a flat tire, make sure the car is on level.
- If it is safe to stay with your vehicle to wait for help, keep the doors locked.
- Be wary of any strangers who stop and seem to want to help.
- If you leave your vehicle, lock the doors and leave a note on the windshield.
- Also, if it is safe to do, raise the hood of your vehicle and tie a white cloth on the door handle. This makes it more visible to others so that they avoid crashing into your vehicle and lets everyone know that your vehicle has broken down.



To-do list

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- _____
- _____
- _____

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