

CHAPTER 8

VEHICLE PREPARATION

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No matter what types of vehicles you and your family drives, the most important preparation that you make will be to make sure your vehicle is in top running order prior to the middle of October. A breakdown under normal circumstances would normally be an irritation, but you would eventually make it to your destination. If you have a breakdown on your way to escape the coming earthquakes, it could mean life or death for you and your family. If the freeways are packed with frightened people, they're not going to stop to assist you, and there may be no service stations or public roadside assistance to come to your aid. It's that serious.

The first thing I would suggest would be to have all of your vehicles that you plan to take with you—and even those you might not think you would—have at least a minor tune-up. Have them pay particular attention to your fan belts and tires. If your tires are worn, buy new ones, or at least used tires with better tread. The authorities might have to open up the shoulder lanes if the freeways become really packed. The shoulders tend to collect nails, screws, and other objects that can puncture your tires. You do not want to be on the side of the road trying to change a tire with a bunch of crazy people that could run over you.

Worn fan belts can break, especially in slow traffic that you might be in for hours. And even though you might think everyone will go in the same vehicle, you could be split up in different parts of the city, and then you need to at least have them all in working order to meet you along the road somewhere.

Consider buying a satellite radio for each of your vehicles. If the earthquakes, liquefaction, and tsunamis take down all the radio and TV towers, there will be no communication if you're blocked on a freeway or even stuck at your house with no electricity. By having a satellite radio, you can hear and pass around to the other people nearby on the freeway news and instructions.

Now each car needs at least a basic Emergency Kit. Below are some of the most important items to keep in your car AT ALL TIMES starting when you read this, but certainly no later than the first of October.

- 1. Flashlight and batteries. Whether you begin your trip in the middle of daytime or the middle of the night, this is indispensable;**
- 2. A cell phone that you carry with you every time you get in your car, plus a cord to connect it to the cigarette lighter/electrical outlet in your vehicle. If you do not own a cell phone, you can purchase one that is just for emergency use very inexpensively;**

3. **Jumper Cables, or even better, one of the newer battery chargers that you can plug into the electrical outlet in your car. It's going to be extremely difficult to get anyone to stop to give you a jump-start, so I highly recommend the in-car battery chargers. I found a couple with an internet search: Black & Decker BB7B Simple Start Battery Booster, \$54.95 and Wagan Self Charge Auto Jumper EL2045, \$47.94. ;**
4. **A mini-compressor that will allow you to fill up a low tire with enough air to make it to a service station. These can be found for under \$30 and will literally be a lifesaver if you have to use it. I also found a couple of combination jump-start and mini-compressors in my internet search, so buy according to what your needs are;**
5. **A roll of duck tape. How many times have you seen someone on the side of the road with a blown radiator hose or a muffler and tail pipe lying on the pavement? It will allow you to make it to a service facility that hopefully can handle the problem. It has many other uses, so make sure you have a roll in your car;**
6. **Socket-style screwdriver kit with multiple heads or "bits." Choose one that can also work on those Torx (star-shaped head) screws that are commonly used as fasteners for trim pieces, in case you have to take one off your vehicle;**
7. **Pry bar. If you're in a fender-bender caused by some crazy on the road, you may need to pull a fender out from on top of a tire;**
8. **Two pairs of medium-size vise-grip pliers. These can be used to remove damaged items on your vehicle, or even hold up an exhaust until you reach a service facility;**
9. **A pair of good, sturdy work gloves. For all of the above reasons;**
10. **A small pen magnet. If you're trying to do a roadside repair, you might just drop a screw in a place that your hands can't reach. This pen magnet will allow you to retrieve it.**
11. **Food. At least enough for each person in your family to have meals for three days. To save space, buy MRE's or other dried food;**
12. **Water. At least one gallon bottle per family member, per day for three days;**
13. **Knapsack(s) to store the food and water in;**
14. **First aid kit and manual. They are available everywhere;**
15. **Moist towelettes and Toilet paper. Multiple uses.**
16. **Whistle. Will help you call attention to yourself on the side of the road.**

There are one, two-person and four-person EMERGENCY CAR KITS that you can buy by simply searching online. As an example, the prices I found at just one website--www.quakekare.com-- range from \$69 to \$84 for the four-person, \$54 to \$69 for the two-person, and \$25 to \$48 for the one-person kits, which come in backpack carriers. You can even buy kits for your pets for \$50 to \$60. Don't forget about them! Search online and compare prices and what the kits include. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THESE kits as they combine several of the above listed

items and are designed to last for three days. Make an investment in your family. The lives you save will be yours!

These are the items that are imperative to have in your car at all times, at least by the first of October. I will add more items to this list to carry with you before you leave your house, but you need to buy these items NOW—TODAY! Even if these catastrophic earthquakes do not transpire, this emergency kit would save you much time and trouble if you ever find yourself on the side of a highway in the middle of the night, or even during a busy driving period.

I do want to caution you here that the best thing to do is to leave your city BEFORE the earthquakes. These car kits are only designed for three days. The government agencies are going to be so overwhelmed that help may not reach anyone for a week to two weeks or more! If you don't follow my advice and leave early, you may find yourself stuck on a highway with hundreds or even thousands of other cars blocked by fallen bridges and giant fissures in the roads that make them impassible. Do the math.

Let's say you're on a major highway out of Los Angeles, San Diego, or San Francisco, and there are even just 20,000 cars blocked in front of you with an average of 3 people in each car. That means someone is going to have to rescue 60,000 people before they reach you. How long do you think that will take? And that's just the highway you're on. Don't forget about all the other highways in exactly the same situation!

You cannot sit and wait for help. You're going to have to WALK OUT to a point where you can find disaster relief agencies that can assist you. If you stay, you will be in danger of people attacking you for your food and water as they become desperate. And even if they didn't, you'll run out of food and water in three days and then what will you do? You'll join those who are already starving and perish just a little later. By leaving immediately, there may still be water and food along the highway for at least a day or so before they run out. You won't have to use your supplies at first. Take every bit of food you have with you. That's where the knapsacks are worth their weight in gold. You can always buy clothes, but you need food and water to survive!

As I said above, your best option is to leave early. But no matter what you plan to do, assemble your Emergency Car Kit TODAY!

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