Road Trip Safety

Before you drive your vehicle any long distance, perform a pre-trip tune up and inspection.

The following is a partial list of items to check once per day before use:
- Emergency Flashers
- Tire Tread & Air Pressure
- Front & Back Turn Signals
- Headlights
- Radiator & Crankcase Levels
- Leaking Fluids
- Fuel Tank Cap
- Exhaust System
- Vehicle Damage All Around
- License Plates
- Brake/All Exterior Lights
- Hoses & Electrical Connections
- Belts
- Steering Wheel Freeplay
- Safety Belts
- 4-Way Flashers
- Windows
- Mirrors
- Horn
- Windshield Wipers

Pack an emergency kit

Things to include in your emergency kit:
- Water
- Warm Blankets
- Flashlight
- Jumper Cables
- Flares/Reflectors
- Tools to Change a Tire
- Fully Charged Cell Phone
- First-Aid Kit

Other General Travel Tips

- Go for a tune-up and make sure your car is in good working order.
- Get a good night’s sleep to avoid drowsy driving.
- Be sure your car seat or booster seat are installed correctly.
- Consider subscribing to a roadside assistance plan.
- Pack sunblock, sunglasses, hats and a sunshade for your back seat.
- Be sure child safety locks are activated on windows and doors.
- Remove poisonous substances, choking hazards, and potential projectiles from the back seat.
- Tie down heavy items such as suitcases and strollers.

Plan Your Route

- Always plan your route before hitting the road and check things like the weather and road conditions. Severe weather or bad road conditions may delay your trip and cause unsafe traveling situations. Additionally, let someone know your planned route and your expected date/time of arrival.

Check out our course list online for a variety of safety trainings provided across the state at www.ndsc.org

The North Dakota Safety Council is a private non-profit organization supported through grants, donations, memberships and training.