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Always Be Prepared for an RV Emergency

Posted by Misty Fauchaux on June 21, 2011 at 2:22 am

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In the previous part of this series, you learned about this [author's trials and tribulations](#) with owning a RV. It's inevitable that you also will run into the problem of breakdowns. You can, however, prepare for these problems ahead of time to lessen the impact of the breakdown and to get you back on the road as fast as possible.

Mechanical Issues

First, always have your RV inspected before you head out, and you cannot miss a thing with this [checklist](#). Many issues you can catch before you even leave your doorstep. RVs sit most of the year in your garage, meaning that you may not notice when something is wearing out or is broken. A mechanic, however, can. It's easier to deal with the issue **beforehand** than in the middle of nowhere.

Check all belts and hoses. Ensure that your tires are properly inflated, and verify that they have enough tread. You don't want to have a blowout. Check your brake lights, turn signal lights and headlights, and get new ones if any are burnt out.

Purchase some type of roadside assistance. Companies like Good Sam Club and AAA offer RV roadside assistance. RV emergency assistance is more expensive than traditional roadside assistance, but it's well worth the extra money. Towing a RV often costs more than yearly cost of the roadside assistance.

If you do need to be towed, verify the proper [towing techniques](#) for your RV. If your RV is towed incorrectly, you can do damage to the transmission, which is extremely expensive to repair.

Always carry a toolbox with you. Sometimes you can fix the problem with the correct wrench, nut or bolt. Carry fuel filters, belts, fuses and radiator hoses. Fluids of all types are necessary, especially motor oil, stop-leak, starter fluid and water. Even if you can't repair the issue yourself, these items may get your RV to drive just far enough to find a garage.

Out There on the Road

While everyone has one, always keep your cell phone charged and with you. You never know when you'll need it. Flares or triangles are also a necessity. If your battery dies, your emergency flashers won't work so nobody will ever see you. Flares or triangles let other drivers know that you are there so they can slow down.

Regardless, pull off the road as much as possible. You are a large vehicle, and it's already hard for others to pass you. If necessary, pull into the grass if the shoulder isn't very large.

Know how much [clearance](#) that you need, and do not go under an overpass that is too low. If you smell propane, **immediately** shut off all appliances, and turn off the propane. Propane leaks can cause fires. Immediately get your tank fixed.

Always remember to secure any steps or awnings. If not, you run the risk of having them torn off or damaged. Take down awnings in extremely bad weather, *especially* when it's windy.

Stay tuned for upcoming posts in this series, including more tips on what to do to keep you safe on the road.

2 Comments

- By: Cindy Thomas

Make sure to have your RV cover with you at all times in case there is bad weather conditions!

- By: Cindy Thomas @ tire covers

Regular maintenance is a must, especially if you are planning a road trip. thanks for sharing this.

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