

STAYING SAFE ON THE ROAD

SENIOR SAFETY TIPS

WITH SERGEANT BOB



Retired Police Sergeant Bob Paterson works closely with The McLennan Group Insurance Inc. to develop and share practical safety tips for Canadians 50-plus.

"Don't gamble with your safety. The stakes are too high."

Snowbirds Who Drive South



Southbound drivers know the routine well, but a quick safety review can help to smooth the way:

- A reliable vehicle and proper maintenance will help minimize break downs, and the need for emergency plans.
- An in-vehicle GPS with the CORRECT route programming is economical and invaluable.
- When preparing to travel, look for books like *Along Interstate-75: The "Must Have" Guide for Your Drive to and from Florida*, as they are packed with useful information.
- Membership in an auto club with international services can be a bargain and help enhance safety.
- There's safety in numbers. Travel in a group of two or three vehicles if personal safety is a concern.
- Prepare an in-vehicle emergency kit with water, snacks, flash light, crank radio, blanket, etc.
- Along the route, avoid parking in "the back 40", and store valuables out of sight while dining or shopping.
- Store extra eye glasses in the glove box, and take two sets of car keys – carried by two different people.
- Keep fatigue and low light driving in mind. A slightly longer daylight journey may be best.



RECREATIONAL CANNABIS REMINDER

Canadian cannabis laws are not normally recognized in the U.S. and most countries worldwide. No matter your transportation method, traveling to or from international destinations with recreational cannabis material in your possession - *even if packed in luggage* - is **ILLEGAL**.

Even travelling with medical cannabis must be supported by the correct documentation / packaging / identification.



WINTER TIRE SAFETY REMINDER

You installed dedicated winter tires on your vehicle, but now you're driving south for a few weeks or months. Do you leave the winter tires on or switch to summer tires?

While winter tires will wear slightly on the journey south, winter road conditions in the north and central U.S. are often as bad as in Canada. It's best to leave dedicated winter tires on your vehicle until April, because of:

- 1) *The severity and frequency of extreme weather events in recent years. Remember the Atlanta ice storms?*
- 2) *The ability of local crews/equipment to respond in storms decreases, the further south you drive.*
- 3) *Southern drivers' lack of winter driving experience.*

So give yourself every possible advantage when driving in an over-stressed foul weather environment!

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Please visit online for additional safety tips and a list of seminars for Canadians 50-plus.

Find Sgt. Bob Online: www.seniorsafetytips.ca