

As 85.8 million drivers nationwide take to the roads for the holidays, AAA expects to be busy across the country helping motorists in trouble.

“Becoming stranded on the roadway is the last thing on anyone’s holiday wish list,” said Steve Popovich, Managing Director of AAA’s Automotive Services Department. “Many winter breakdowns can be avoided with a touch of preventive maintenance.” Before heading out for holiday travel, AAA recommends checking your vehicle’s antifreeze, windshield wipers and washer fluid, tires, belts and hoses and your vehicle’s battery, radiator and water pump.

AAA encourages motorists to update their emergency roadside kit for winter to include a mobile phone and car charger; blankets; a flashlight with extra batteries; a first-aid kit; drinking water; a small shovel; a sack of sand, cat litter or traction mats; windshield scraper and brush; battery booster cables; and emergency flares or reflectors.