Roadside Safety Tips

- If your car stops running properly and if you can, move your vehicle to the right-hand side of the roadway as soon as possible. Avoid stopping your car in an active traffic lane.

- Immediately turn on your emergency flashers.

- Once stopped, use flares or hazard triangles to alert other motorists of a problem and place the flare or triangle approximately 50 feet behind your car to give other motorists adequate notice.

- Use the door on the opposite side of the roadway to exit and enter your vehicle. If you can’t, leave enough space to open your door without stepping near, or in the way of, moving cars.

- Carry items such as flashlights, flares or hazard triangles, a first aid kit and blankets in your car. And don’t forget to have a working cell phone in your possession at all times, in case of an emergency.

- Carry tools such as a jack, wrenches, screwdrivers and a spare tire in your car. Be sure to know how to use the tools – and how to make basic repairs – in case of a roadside breakdown.

- If you have a flat tire or a tire blowout, pull onto a flat area if possible so you can safely and properly use the car jack.

- Turn your steering wheel in the opposite direction of the road so your vehicle doesn’t accidentally roll into traffic.

- Raise your car hood or tie a white cloth to your door handle to signal police help or assistance from passersby.

- If you’re waiting for help, stay inside the vehicle with your doors locked and your seatbelt fastened.

- Exercise caution when accepting help from strangers. If you are suspicious, don’t open your door. Instead, lower your window enough to talk and let them know help is on the way, or to ask them to make a phone call for you.