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## News Release

December 11, 2018

### Holiday Safety Tips from CAA Saskatchewan

Planning to be at home, away visiting family or taking a winter getaway during the holidays? Protect yourself and your family with some safety tips from CAA Saskatchewan.

#### Home for the holidays safety tips:

- Ensure artificial Christmas trees are “fire resistant” and that live trees are always fresh and moist. Set up live and artificial trees away from fireplaces, heaters, and other heat sources.
- Inspect holiday lights for broken, frayed or loose connections and throw out damaged sets. Turn off all holiday lights when going to bed or leaving the house. Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into ground fault circuit interrupters.
- Keep decorations away from lights, candles, heaters, fireplaces, etc. Place candles in non-combustible containers and never leave burning candles unattended.
- As you buy your gifts, it’s a safe idea to keep packaging of high priced items out of sight. Don’t give burglars a shopping list of what they might find in your home.
- Keep matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children. Do not leave cooking or baking unattended.
- Have the chimney and furnace professionally cleaned and inspected. Ensure that smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. Hide your valuables when you are out. Keep watch for any suspicious behaviour in your neighbourhood and report any questionable observations to the proper authorities.

#### Away from home for the holidays safety tips:

- Suspend newspaper delivery. Arrange for someone to pick up your mail or contact the service to store it until your return.
- Show discretion on social media, never letting folks know you are away from home.
- Ensure all doors and windows are locked.
- Use timers for lights and possibly the TV or radio.
- Turn off your water supply or have someone enter the home and check on things daily to ensure the pipes are not frozen. (This is a requirement of most insurance policies during the winter months).
- Ask a neighbour to shovel snow around your driveway and sidewalks. Encourage neighbours to use your driveway so it looks like someone is coming and going on a regular basis.
- Leave blinds or curtains in normal position – don’t close them completely.
- Close and lock the garage door. Keep your vehicle locked, especially if it has an electric garage door opener.
- Make sure your home insurance is up to date and that it will provide coverage for your belongings. Advise your insurance broker of any changes required for major purchases or renovations.

CAA Insurance has developed a [Property Inventory Checklist](#) that can be used to create a list of personal belongings along with their replacement value. In the event of a claim, the checklist provides valuable information when settling your claim with an adjustor.

#### Jetting away for the holidays safety tips:

- Check your booked flights frequently. Flight cancellations and delays are likely during peak periods. Also check your flight status prior to driving to the airport.





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- Know your airline's cancellation policy. Some airlines may be waiving fees and issuing changes due to possible rebooking policies.
- Monitor weather conditions – both for the departure and destination cities.
- Don't forget your travel insurance.
- Make sure your passport is up to date and is valid for time required by the country or countries visited.
- Pack any medications in their original containers and store in your carry-on bags.
- Make photocopies of your passport, credit cards, etc. and leave a copy at home with family or friends and keep a photocopy with you along with the originals stored in a separate location.
- Keep your passport secured in a safe place.
- Weigh your packed luggage to avoid additional airline charges.
- Booked with [CAA Travel](#)? Stay connected with your local CAA Travel consultant for assistance.

### Travelling by road holidays safety tips:

- Check weather and road conditions before you travel. Allow extra time to reach your destination safely. Be prepared to reduce your speed and drive with caution.
- Remember, slow to 60 km/h on Saskatchewan highways for working tow truck operators and emergency responders.
- Check your vehicle's battery. Extreme weather weakens the battery and may require charging.
- Make sure the block heater cord is not frayed. Always plug in at minus 15 degrees Celsius.
- Remove ice and snow from your vehicle for clear visibility.
- A roadside safety kit is always a safe idea. Pack extra outdoor clothing, footwear, a mobile phone with charger (for emergency use only), non-perishable food, drinking water, a shovel, window ice scraper and brush, booster cable. Roadside assistance kits available at all CAA Stores or [online](#).
- Keep a full tank or at minimum a half tank of fuel. This helps reduce moisture in the gas tank plus it adds weight to your vehicle.
- Check the tire pressure regularly. The right pressure is important for traction and fuel efficiency. CAA recommends a good set of winter tires as the rubber compound in winter tires allows for better traction and control.

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*CAA Saskatchewan serves approximately 183,000 Members, offering benefits and services through its non-profit motor club, and through its travel and insurance agencies, as well as the CAA Car Care Centre at Regina Battery Depot. CAA advocates for motorists and travellers, provides consumer education, supports traffic safety programs and addresses related public policy issues.*

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