



Handling Emergencies While Driving Personal Vehicles for Student Organization Activities

Alternator light

Your car's alternator supplies power to keep the battery charged and run all the electric accessories. If there's a problem in the charging system while you're driving, the alternator light should begin to glow.

Checking the engine light

When the 'check engine' or 'service engine soon' light begins glowing while you're driving, there may not be an emergency. Often the light will come on for a short time and then go out.

I have a flat tire

The best way to keep from getting into an emergency situation when you get a flat is to make sure you have a good spare and working jack in your car. It's also a good idea to periodically inspect your tires visually for visual signs of excessive wear or damage.

Out of fuel

Running out of gas can be frustrating and sometimes even dangerous. The best way to prevent it from happening is to be prepared. Try to keep your gas tank at least half-full at all times. If you run out of gasoline pull off the road, highway, or freeway as far to the right as possible. Call for help or call AAA for help if you're a member.

Overheating

If your car overheats it's most likely a problem with the cooling system. Low fluid in the radiator, a broken hose, or defective thermostat can all lead to a breakdown.

Starting problems

There can be many reasons why your car may fail to start. The most common cause of starting problems usually has to do with the battery, the starter, or a combination of both.

The oil light

Failure of the lubrication system in your car could lead to a breakdown or a blown engine, so it's important to pay attention to any warning signs. Usually the first sign of trouble with the system is glowing oil light or an extreme drop in pressure on the gauge.

Types of emergencies

An emergency situation could occur at any time while you're driving, so it's best to be prepared before anything happens. Good maintenance habits and preventative measures can help keep you from getting stranded.

What to do when you're locked out

One of the most annoying and frustrating emergencies is getting locked out of your car. If the car's running or a child is trapped inside, it could become a very big problem.

Tired or sleepy

If you are getting sleepy pull over in a safe area and get some rest. The golden rule is not to overdo it, safety comes first and you don't want to endanger yourself or others just because you want to arrive at your destination at record time. Take a break from driving at least every two hours, but don't try and overdo it.

If you encounter automotive problems when traveling to an event/program or returning to Whittier the owner of the vehicle is responsible for all repairs. For notification purpose only, please alert Whittier College Campus Safety (562-907-4211) of your car trouble and the impact it will have for your return to campus.