

Department of Public Safety

Newsletter

Mott Community College

May 2005

WAYS TO SAVE DURING YOUR VACATION

“One of the easiest ways to match your travel interests is to work with a qualified travel counselor. A good travel agent can help you select routes, destinations and transportation to maximize fuel savings.

Here are some fuel-saving ideas for automobile vacations. These tips will increase driving safety as well as reduce hassles and complications.

- If you have a choice of vehicles, take the one that gets the best fuel economy. Renting a fuel-efficient model might make sense for some trips.
- Plan routes so you can travel at constant speeds and bypass congested areas. Unless you're taking a scenic drive, avoid two-lane roads with lots of stop signs and traffic signals.
- Start trips early in the day while traffic is light. Plan meal stops to coincide with likely periods of traffic congestion.
- To avoid extra weight, only take what you need. Keep luggage inside the vehicle, rather than strapped on the roof where it will create wind resistance.
- Choose a vacation spot where only minimal driving will be needed after you arrive.

Source: AAA of Michigan

Vacation Safety Tips

- Vacation is a time to relax in safe surroundings, but regardless of where you travel, crime never takes a vacation. Take a few minutes to review these tips and make sure your common sense doesn't take a holiday. The following safety tips will help you enjoy a safe, secure vacation.
1. For emergency aid of any kind, call 911 from any phone...in your hotel, dial 9-911.
 2. Stay alert. Trust your instincts. If you're uncomfortable about traveling to or through a particular neighborhood, inquire at your hotel front desk for safety pointers.
 3. Pay attention when walking through parking lots. Avoid suspicious characters or areas with no lights. Travel with a companion in the evening. In the unlikely event you are confronted by an assailant, don't resist if demands are made for valuables - - such actions create a greater danger.
 4. Always carry wallets, purses, room and car keys securely. Keep your room key in a safe place on your person when at the hotel pool, bar or dining room. Secure your purse; carry your wallet in an inside pocket. Avoid hanging such personal items on chairs or restroom hooks unless you are certain only you can remove them. Keep track of personal items such as travel tickets, cameras, etc.
 5. Carry a minimum amount of cash. Use travelers checks and credit cards. Record their numbers and keep in a separate, safe place. Keep extra cash and valuables - - jewelry, cash, cameras, travel documents -- locked in a hotel safety deposit box or room safe. Only take necessary valuables while traveling.
 6. Always lock your vehicle, when it's parked and when you're traveling in it. Keep valuables out of site at all times. Lock them in the trunk, glove box, or luggage compartment. CAUTION: The extreme heat of closed vehicles may damage electronic equipment and film.
 7. The sun can burn, even on overcast days. Be sure to apply a sun screen to your skin before you go outdoors - - especially if your skin is fair.
 8. Be observant. Report any suspicious activity to law enforcement, security officers or hotel/business managers.
 9. Safety belts are required for all front seat passengers, regardless of age. Children under the age of three are required to be in a safety seat; children aged four and five must be in a safety seat OR wear a seat belt.
 10. Turn on your headlights at dusk, in fog or in rain. Be especially careful while driving during or after rainfall - - slippery road conditions can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

OVER

Vacation Safety Tips (Continued)

11. If you plan to drink, take along a designated driver who will remain alcohol-free.
12. Never pick up strangers and don't advertise your plans to strangers. Be wary of solicitors.
13. Use a map to plan your route before you venture out. Stick to main roads. If you miss a turn or exit, proceed to the next corner or exit. Never back up. Always pull completely off the road if you must stop.
14. Upon your arrival, get your bearings. Note the locations of well-traveled, well-lit areas where you could get help, if necessary.
15. Locate fire exits, elevators and the nearest phone. Plan the best way to exit in an emergency.
16. Make sure your children know the name and address of where you are staying. Remind children of places they can go to get help if they become separated from you.
17. Always lock your front and/or patio doors and windows, both while you are in your room and when you leave. Use the safety chain for security. Never open your room door unless you know who is there. If you did not call for hotel service offered by the person at the door, call hotel security or front desk to see if they have sent someone to your room.

The American tourism industry is concerned about every traveler's safety. We're working with local security directors and area law enforcement agencies to ensure that your stay will be enjoyable and safe.

Remember, regardless of where you travel, crime never takes a vacation!

Source: Polk County Sheriff's Office

This newsletter is provided to Mott Community College campus by the Public Safety Department.

Director.. Chief Clydell Duncan
Editor..... Lt. Colin Perry
Secretary.. Officer Beverly Davis

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

All pay phone calls are FREE! Please report all crimes!

CAMPUS EMERGENCY

Dial.....762-5666
or from any campus pay phone DIAL #1

NON-EMERGENCY requests for service

Dial.....762-0222

WEATHER RELATED EMERGENCIES

Follow Evacuation Instructions posted in each classroom and office.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

Dial.....232-8989

NEED INFORMATION

Should you have a comment, concern or question regarding the operations of the Mott Community College Department of Public Safety, please feel free to call...

Chief Clydell Duncan at...762-5681

OR

Lt. Colin Perry at...762-0274