

## Are we there yet?

It's the weekend and time to visit family and friends. You have your iPod filling the car with music to try to drown out the repeated question from the kids in the back seat - "Are we there yet?" The more they ask, the more you look forward to saying yes, but you won't so lucky. You see, that engine belt that you put off changing finally broke in the cold weather, and you're stranded. What now?!?

Well thank goodness you took the advice of the **Be Car Care Aware** program and remembered to pack an emergency kit!

First things first – you grab your flashlight, pop the hood, and take a look. Whether you know what you're doing or not, this is not an easy fix and you know that you're going to have a long wait.

Ahhhh! You just got your finger caught on the hood and ripped off some skin! Looks like it's time to find the band aids in the first aid kit that you keep in the car.

In an effort to limit the amount of time that you're stranded in the cold, you immediately whip out your cell phone to call for help. Your battery is almost dead, but you know that you'll be able to complete the call before you have to dig out your extra charger and bring your phone back to life. Call made, you reflect that today is finally the day that you're glad you've been paying for the membership to your automobile club or that you took the time to pull together a list of towing companies.

Since you're all dressed in your best, you haul out your snow pants and your warm winter wear to fight off the cold because fancy dresses and dress shoes aren't practical for winter survival. Thank goodness you remembered to pack your warm winter boots!

Now that you've got the kids tucked in under a blanket and you're better dressed for the weather you hunker down to wait for the tow truck. And then you hear it...the unmistakable whine..."I'm hungry!" You know that you must heed the request, so you start rooting around in your emergency kit for the granola bars that you packed. This kit is sure proving to be useful!

As you play the game "I Spy" to help pass the time, you notice that it's started to snow pretty heavily and that your view is becoming obscured. Worried that the tow truck may not see you on the side of the road, you reach into your kit and pull out your flares. Having set them up, you're confident that you can't be missed. You also take the time to brush the snow off your car with the snow brush you brought along so that you can see and be seen.

Finally, after what seems like an eternity, help arrives. After sorting out all the paperwork, getting the car hooked up to be towed, and squeezing the whole family into the cab of the truck, you're ready to go. The kids chat excitedly with the tow truck driver about your adventure and he comments on how well you were prepared. You tell him that it's because you packed all the items on the emergency kit list that you found at [www.BeCarCareAware.ca](http://www.BeCarCareAware.ca).

Although you feel kind of silly that you didn't bring your vehicle in for an inspection in the fall to prevent things like breaking belts, at least you now have a great story for when you finally get to your destination.