

## **Keep A Roadside Emergency Kit In Your Car**

This has happened to many of us. The car starts sputtering or a tire blows out and you safely move to the shoulder of the road and pull over. Motorists stranded due to roadside emergencies can be injured by oncoming traffic due to limited visibility. You can't always prepare for roadside emergencies but having an emergency kit can help prevent an [Atlanta accident](#).

Getting your car serviced regularly, checking tires for low air pressure and wear and tear can help. Always have the owner's manual in the car and know where the hazard light is can also prevent accidents. Keeping a roadside emergency kit in the car can be critical to your safety. A roadside emergency kit should include:

- Road flares/ Reflector triangles
- Flashlight (extra batteries)
- Booster cables
- Safety vest
- Screw Driver
- Pliers
- Utility knife
- Fire extinguisher
- Duct Tape
- Whistle
- Cell phone
- First aid kit

Changing a flat tire or looking UNDER the car hood on the side of the road is never safe. Having a car emergency kit can keep you safe. Remember to keep a car emergency kit in your car today!

## **Atlanta Accident Attorney Tips On Jump-Starting a Dead Battery**

According to [Battery University](#), one of the leading causes of automobile breakdowns is due to a car battery. A car battery typically lasts from 3-5 years.

If the battery is three or more years old and is not working, it is probably a good idea to just replace the battery. If not then it is best to recharge the dead battery. Reasons for a dead car battery include:

- Exposure to extreme temperatures
- Car has not been driven in a long time
- Leaving internal or external lights on in the car

Keeping booster cables in the car was recommended in the first post on [creating a roadside emergency kit](#) for just this reason. What you will need to jump-start a car battery:

- A working car
- Jumper Cables

Park the running car next to the car with the dead battery so that the jumper cables can reach both batteries. It is important to remember that connecting the jumper cables in the wrong order or attaching the spring clamps in the wrong location can damage expensive electrical components and even cause an explosion. Always review the owner's manual, which typically has details on charging a dead battery for the specific car model.

### **How to Jump Start A Dead Battery**

- Both Automobiles should be shut off
- Locate the positive and negative side of each battery.
- The positive (+) battery is typically marked red. The negative (-) battery is usually marked in black.
- Attach the red cable to the positive side of the good battery. Attach the other end of the red cable to the positive side of the dead battery.
- Attach the black cable to negative side of the dead battery. Connect the clamp to the good vehicle. If the vehicles don't have remote terminals, connect the negative jumper clamp to an unpainted metal surface at least 18 in away from the battery.
- Make sure all clamps are secure and none of the cables are near any moving engine parts.
- Start the working vehicle and let it charge up the dead battery for at least 5 minutes.
- Then try to start the dead vehicle with the cables still in place.

If the car with the dead battery does not start then call a mechanic. If the car does start then let the two cars run for a while so the dead car battery is recharged. When it is time to remove the cables make sure to disconnect the jumper cables in the reverse order that they were connected. If you are not comfortable with jump-starting a car then call a towing service for assistance.

This is the 2nd part of a 5 part Series on tips for Car Trouble and Roadside Emergencies provided by [Atlanta accident attorney](#) Ken Nugent who represents all injuries in Georgia

## Car Stuck in the Mud? Tips from a Georgia Auto Accident Lawyer

This is the third blog in a series of five dedicated to car maintenance and avoiding auto accidents. Improperly maintained vehicles are likely to cause auto accidents because of mechanical issues, such as tire blowouts from dangerously worn tire treads. To minimize your chances of being involved in a Georgia car accident, plan ahead for the possibility of roadside emergencies and accidents by properly maintaining your car.

Knowing what to do in case of an emergency—such as driving on ice or getting stuck in the mud—can also help you and your family stay safe.

### What to do if your car gets stuck in the mud

If your car becomes stuck in the mud, you can take certain steps to help avoid being struck by other vehicles while safely freeing your car:

- **Call the police.** Call the highway patrol as soon as you verify that your car is actually stuck in the mud, especially if you are stuck in a dangerous position on a muddy road or shoulder off a busy highway.
- **Invest in roadside assistance.** In addition to maintaining your car, you can plan ahead for emergencies by investing in a roadside assistance from a company like AAA, your insurer, or GM's OnStar.
- **Rock out slowly.** Once you are sure your car is stuck, you can try to rock it out of the mud. According to [Consumer Reports](#), you should keep the wheels straight while very carefully switching between drive and reverse. Try to avoid spinning your tires because this can easily dig you deeper into the mud. If the car begins to move in either direction, continue in that direction until you are freed.
- **Traction.** If you cannot rock your car out, you can try to dig a path of firmer soil for each wheel. You can also create traction by spreading sand near your wheels, or by using your floor mats, trunk liner, or wood scraps. You may need to use a firmly placed jack to jack up the car and fill in tire depressions with hard wood, rocks, gravel, or car mats. Consider keeping a small shovel or commercial traction aid in an emergency kit in your car for this kind of emergency.

Remember to turn on your flashers or use flares to signal other drivers that you are stuck. In addition, never stand behind your car and attempt to physically push it out of the mud because your vehicle can easily slide backward and cause injury or even death.

## What Do My Warning Lights Mean?—Advice from a Georgia Car Accident Lawyer

[Federal Motor Safety Standards](#) require automobile controls and displays to be easily noticeable and accessible. The purpose of this is to warn drivers of any problems with their vehicles and to allow them to correct these problems and avoid an auto accident. In this fourth blog in a series of five on car maintenance, I will discuss the significance of the warning lights in your car and how they can help you avoid an accident.

### Types of warning lights

If a warning light illuminates in your car, the first step is to look in your owner's manual. Each car is different and any potential problems and solutions are explained in this manual.

According to the [Automobile Association \(AA\)](#), these are some of the most common warning lights you may see:

- **Oil pressure.** This light signals that your oil level may be low. If the oil level is not low, but the light is on, it is dangerous to start your car.
- **Battery.** If the battery warning light comes on while driving, there may be a problem caused by slack starters, a broken or loose alternator drive belt, or alternator failure. These must be fixed before driving or you may seriously damage your engine.
- **Brake system.** If this light comes on and your emergency brake is not set, your car may be dangerously low on brake fluid.
- **Engine.** If the check engine light comes on or flashes while driving, there is a problem with your engine. If the light does not come back on after restarting your car, it may be safe to drive, but [Consumer Reports](#) recommends consulting with a mechanic to pinpoint the problem.
- **ABS.** This warning light signifies that there is a problem with your anti-lock brakes that should be checked immediately.
- **Tire pressure.** A tire pressure gauge or warning light warns you that your tire pressure is dangerously low. If tire pressure is too low it can cause blowouts, hydroplaning, and roadside collisions. According to [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#), the recent installation of a tire pressure sensor in the tires of every new car will prevent 10,635 injuries and 79 deaths throughout the United States.

It is always a good idea to keep a close eye on the warning indicators in your vehicle. Doing so can help you protect your vehicle, your passengers, and yourself.

## Tips from an Atlanta Car Accident Lawyer on Changing a Tire

Changing a tire on the side of the road can be dangerous. The [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\)](#) estimates that about 70 percent of fatal crashes are run-off-road crashes where a moving vehicle leaves the road and strikes the shoulder, median, person, or vehicle on the roadside. This final installment in a series of five blogs about car maintenance explains how to efficiently [change a tire](#) and get safely back on the road.

### How to change a tire in 10 easy steps

Once you have a blowout or flat tire, pull as far off the road and out of the way of traffic as you can. Try to find a flat spot where you will be visible to passing cars

1. **Safety first.** Turn on your hazard lights and apply your parking brake. If you have flares, light and place them a safe distance behind your vehicle.
2. **Locate your tools.** You will need a jack, a lug wrench, and your spare tire.
3. **Use the jack.** Place the jack under the metal frame of the car near the flat tire. Your owner's manual will tell you exactly where. Raise the jack until it is supporting your car but not completely lifting it off the ground.
4. **Loosen the hubcap.** With your wheel on the ground, loosen the lug nuts on the hubcap, but do not fully remove them.
5. **Lift your car off the ground.** Use the jack to lift the tire about 6 inches off the ground. If the car seems even a little unstable, stop immediately and fix the problem.
6. **Replace the flat tire.** Completely remove the lug nuts and then the flat tire. Carefully place the spare tire on the hub.
7. **Align the tire.** Align the rim of the spare tire with the wheel bolts. Carefully replace the lug nuts one opposite nut at a time, but do not tighten them completely.
8. **Lower your car.** Lower the car slowly until it is fully on the ground.
9. **Replace your hubcap.** Carefully remove the jack, tighten the nuts completely, and replace the hubcap.
10. **Store your tools.** Once you have finished changing your tire, place the flat in your trunk and store your tools in case of the next flat.

Be sure to use extra caution when merging back on to the road to avoid a collision with other vehicles.