

## MOTORHOME SAFETY TIPS & PROCEDURES

**A MOTORHOME IS NOT DIFFICULT TO DRIVE, but we require that you read through and sign-off on the following Safety Tips & Procedures that will help ensure your safety, as well as make your trip much more enjoyable!**

**\*Have a Plan** – If you want to enjoy your RV adventure and stay comfortable, it is important to reserve your RV sites in advance and have a travel plan and itinerary, including refueling stops.

**\*Hook-ups (electricity, fresh water, waste/sewage dumping) – WE DO NOT RECOMMEND OPERATING “OFF THE GRID” UNLESS YOU ARE A VERY EXPERIENCED RVer.** It is important to connect the RV to hook-ups at all overnight stops (electricity, water, sewer), otherwise you are considered to be operating “off-the-grid.” Unless you are extremely knowledgeable about managing battery power, generator functions and fresh/waste/gray water, this could turn your well-intentioned get-away into...well, a nightmare scenario. The tank sizes for fresh/gray/black water vary in different RVs, depending on the make, model & size. As you can imagine, with smaller tanks, you can run out of fresh water VERY quickly and your waste tank can fill up extremely fast. Then what happens? Unless you bring additional fresh water with you or you refill repeatedly at planned locations, you'll have no water for showers, cooking, washing hands, etc. And unless dumped periodically, the waste tank will begin to smell...it's not a good situation to get yourself into.

**\*Generator Use – There are different types of generators.** Be sure to ask the owner about how the generator functions and find out if it operates off the gas tank. If so, you must monitor your gas level if you choose to use the generator unless there is an automatic shut-off when the gas tank reaches a certain level.

**\*Miles Per Gallon & Tank Size** – Ask the owner how many average miles per gallon the RV gets as well as how many gallons the tank holds. Please be mindful of this information so you don't get stranded without fuel.

**\*Battery Information** – Many of the appliances can operate off the RV batteries, however, **DOING SO WILL DRAIN THE BATTERY.** This is why it's so important to PLUG IN/HOOK-UP to electricity whenever you plan to stop for a period of time.

**\*Propane Tanks** – Some appliances may operate off the propane tanks within the RV. Be sure to ask the owner specifically what is hooked up to the propane tanks and how the system works.

**\*Dumping the Black Water Tank (sewage/waste)** – The capacity of the waste tank will vary depending on the size of the RV. Waste water tanks don't take long to fill up, because it's sewage/waste as well as the water used to flush. In the summer heat, you'll want to empty the waste frequently if you are RVing for extended periods of time...if you don't, well, unpleasant odors may begin to infiltrate the RV.

**\*Emptying the Gray Water Tank (used for hand-washing, dish-washing, showers, etc.)** – The capacity of the gray water tank will vary depending on the size of the RV. If you're cooking, doing dishes, washing your hands frequently, etc., this tank does not take long to fill up. Be sure to empty the gray water tank if you are RVing for an extended period of time.

**\*Fresh Water Tank** – The fresh water tank size will vary depending on the size of the RV. You'll want to remember to top-off the fresh water tank at any stops you make if you are using fresh water throughout your journey.

**\*Seatbelts** – Always use the factory installed seat belt restraints while the vehicle is in motion.

**\*Child Safety Seats** – Every state requires that infants and children be transported in safety seats with safety belts and harnesses that meet specific standards. **Be sure you know your state laws and requirements.**

**\*Beds & Overheads Bunks** – These areas are NOT equipped with seatbelts or factory restraint systems and are not safe to occupy while the vehicle is in motion.

**\*Shut Off** – The furnace, water heater, refrigerator, stove, propane tanks and generator, as well as any other open flame systems MUST BE TURNED OFF while refueling gasoline, diesel or propane.

**\*Securing Objects** – All loose objects must be secured prior to movement of the vehicle.

**\*Doors** – Lock all doors when the motorhome is in motion.

**\*Exhaust Ports** – Exhaust ports for the furnace and water heater are extremely hot when in use. Contact with these ports will cause burn injury...USE CAUTION.

- \*Emergency Windows & Exits** – Emergency window exits are not to be opened except for an emergency. Danger of falling from the vehicle exists with the emergency exit open. Observe and warn all children of danger.
- \*Showers & Tubs** – Showers and tubs are slippery when wet and are not for utilization while the motorhome is in motion.
- \*Roof Tops** – Rooftops are very dangerous and extreme caution must be observed if an emergency occurs and accessing the roof becomes necessary.
- \*Tire Issues** – NEVER attempt to change a motorhome tire. ALWAYS contact a professional tire facility qualified for this operation...Always call for Roadside Assistance.
- \*Steps & Platforms** – **ALWAYS raise steps before moving the vehicle.** Open step areas and raised platforms can be potential hazards during night time darkness. Be aware of their location and at night use lighting if available. If you forget there are steps to exit the RV...OUCH!
- \*Awning** – Operating the awning can cause finger and hand injury. KNOW ALL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS and the operation of the awning before attempting use.
- \*Weather Warnings** – ALWAYS BE AWARE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS in the areas around you when you are using the awning. The awning should immediately be rolled in if there is any chance of winds, rainstorms or other weather that may cause damage to the awning. Awnings should be rolled in each night prior to retiring, in the event of unexpected weather while you are sleeping.
- \*Motorhome Size** - The motorhome is substantially wider, longer and heavier than an automobile. These differences do call for special driving procedures, so before you drive the motorhome, **be sure you know the height & width.**
- \*The driver sits higher in a motorhome.** This is a distinct advantage because you can see farther and react more quickly. It does take longer to accelerate and stop, therefore, make the necessary adjustments and do not follow too close in traffic.
- \*The driver is farther to the left of the center of the vehicle.** This causes most drivers to drive too far to the right side of the road. Be aware of this and make the necessary adjustments.
- \*MINIMUM height clearance is 11 feet on a motorhome. VERIFY THE HEIGHT OF THE MOTORHOME BEFORE YOU DEPART and always be aware of clearance signs and warnings.** Stay alert to avoid hitting overhanging tree branches, carport roofs, and low roofs over filling stations, motels, restaurants, etc. DO NOT go through the drive-thru of any restaurant, instead, park the motorhome and walk in. Keep in mind that the roof air conditioners are sometimes higher than the rooftop. Allow for plenty of clearance.
- \*Due to the length of the motorhome, it's turning radius is greater.** Also, when driving from a flat surface up an incline or vice versa, the rear end will drag. Be aware of this and make necessary adjustments.
- \*Be aware that a motorhome is buffeted by cross winds and air currents created by passing trucks.** Slow down driving speed. Anticipate these effects and compensate for them.
- \*When backing the vehicle use the side mirrors and have someone be a lookout, even if there is a rear monitor.** In close quarters, have someone give directions from the outside, while you view things through the side view mirrors.
- \*Mountain Driving** – Watch the engine temperature carefully. If the engine overheats, immediately pull off to the right side of the road and wait for the engine to cool. Check the engine for coolant. Use low gear on inclines where the transmission is repeatedly up-shifting and down-shifting. The proper way to descend is to put the transmission in low gear, thus avoiding the over use of the brakes. If at any time it appears that the brakes are fading, the coach should immediately be stopped and the brakes allowed to cool before proceeding.
- \*Gravel Roads** – Motorhomes operate reasonably well on dirt and gravel roads. However, on such roads, gravel thrown up by oncoming traffic can produce dents in the fiberglass or cause damage to the windshield.
- \*Slippery Roads** – Motorhomes are actually better at negotiating slippery road conditions than automobiles are. The fact that the higher percentage of weight of the coach is on the rear wheels means that the traction will be good. However, slow down and exercise extra caution when you encounter slippery conditions. Traction may be better due to weight, but if you start to slide, the extra weight will carry you further than a car.

**\*Back Country Roads** – Motorhomes are not suited for traveling on really rough roads. These roads frequently wind through woods which have not been cleared sufficiently to permit the huge bulk of a motorhome to pass. Also, due to the height of a motorhome, any unevenness in the road, especially side to side unevenness, may result in significant damages to the top, sides and under-carriage of the Motorhome.

**\*Highway Driving** – Frequently, long lines of cars collect behind a motorhome. When this happens, the driver should pull off the road to let the cars go by. If you do not do this, particularly daring drivers may take a dangerous risk to get by and the motorhome will be the focal point of a potential accident.

**\*Windy Conditions** – Motorhomes, by their very nature, are high profile vehicles. Like all such vehicles, they are adversely affected by windy conditions. If the wind is blowing, your best bet is to slow down. Speed and wind make for very dangerous situations. Turn on the radio and check for wind advisories. If the situation is dangerous (or you see other high-profile vehicles such as large trucks or other motorhomes and RVs pulled over to the side), pull over and wait for the winds to subside.

**\*Freezing Weather** – When temperatures drop, driving conditions change. In addition to watching for icy roads (including hard to see black ice), cold weather may cause freezing of the vehicle. If the temperature drops below freezing, the operations guide gives specific actions to take to prevent damage to the vehicle systems. In this situation, you would want to call the RV Owner or Manager.

**\*IF YOU ARE INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT** - Always place priority on checking to see if anyone is injured and call 911. Even if no one is hurt, you will still need a police report. Be sure to document the other driver's license information, their auto insurance information and take photos of everything (use your phone camera). You'll also want to get phone numbers for the other driver. It's a good idea to take clear photos of their documents instead of writing it all down, just make sure you can see the documents & all information clearly in the photos. You will be expected to provide your driver's license, your auto insurance ID card, and the insurance information for the towable (which is inside the RV Rental Guidelines binder).

**FAILURE TO FOLLOW THE ABOVE SAFETY INFORMATION MAY RESULT IN INJURY OR DEATH. READ ALL MANUFACTURER INFORMATION AND SAFETY TIPS. FOLLOW ALL LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL SPEED LAWS. PLAN YOUR ROUTE AND KNOW YOUR VEHICLE LIMITATIONS.**

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE INFORMATION AND HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED, AND UNDERSTAND, THE PROPER SAFETY OPERATION OF ALL APPLIANCES AND SYSTEMS CONTAINED WITHIN THE RENTAL VEHICLE.

**RENTER:**

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL DRIVER:**

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_