

SAFETY CORNER

Rental Cars

If you are visiting out-of-town family this holiday season, you may rent a car. Take this safety advice to ensure your holidays are memorable for happy reasons:

Research the rental cars' safety ratings at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety at iihs.org or National Highway Traffic Safety Administration at nhtsa.gov.

Check your personal auto policy to make sure you are covered for rental cars. If not, consider purchasing optional rental insurance.

Request the specific make and model according to your research results.

Select the appropriate vehicle size for your family and luggage so everyone has a seat with a seatbelt. **Tip:** Make sure luggage doesn't block your rear view.

Inspect your car before driving it. Check brakes, tires (don't forget pressure), seat belts, climate control, fluid levels and windshield wiper condition.

Ensure the vehicle is equipped with important safety features, such as front airbags, electronic stability control, safety belts and LATCH child safety seat system (if necessary).

Educate yourself about how the vehicle operates before you drive off, especially if it's a type that is unfamiliar to you.

