

News Release

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Extreme heat affects vehicles, too It's not just frigid winters that take a toll on a car's performance

Winnipeg – CAA Manitoba Emergency Road Services were up more than 35 per cent yesterday as Manitoba welcomed its first summer heat wave – and the auto club is expecting a continued jump in service calls over the next few days. While the sunshine and heat is welcomed by many, when the mercury hits 30 degrees, motorists need to take extra precautions to avoid car troubles.

“When the temperature spikes, CAA always sees a jump in our calls for help,” says Liz Peters, Public and Government Affairs Manager for CAA Manitoba, noting overheated motors, defective batteries and lock outs are the most common summer service calls. “With winter a distant memory and the summer in full swing, it’s easy to forget the heat takes a toll on your vehicle, too.”

Peters says while CAA members have peace of mind knowing that help is only a call away, prevention is key in ensuring that your summer plans go uninterrupted, and offered a few tips:

Don't let the engine overheat: Because a car's cooling system works harder in hot weather, it's important to check all the components: hoses, water pump, fan blades, radiator condition, etc. The level and quality of cooling fluid should be checked and fluid should be a mix of antifreeze and water, according to the manufacturer's instructions – normally half and half.

Check your battery life: While heat boosts the power of the battery, it reduces battery life by accelerating wear. It increases degradation of the battery grid and separators, as well as increasing the risk of overcharging, which can lead to premature aging of all battery parts. Get your battery tested at least once a year to ensure it can withstand the elements.

Peters also reminds motorists to not leave their cars running unattended.

“Just like warming up your car in the winter, people tend to leave their car running with the air conditioning on so it's cool when they get in,” Peters said. “Not only is it bad for the environment and your fuel consumption, but it's when the most lock outs happen, too.”

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