

Fort Wayne District Employee Thanks Dad For Winter Preparedness



Fort Wayne District Media Relations Director Mary Foster had a caring and smart dad.

“Every year when I headed off to college, my dad would put a box in the trunk of my car,” said Foster. “The box contained a large bag of cat litter, a shovel, an empty water jug, granola bars, a sleeping bag, a coffee can, a candle, matches and a CB radio. He wanted me to be prepared in the event my car went off the road, or there was a mechanical problem with my car. My dad had two

plans, and he gave me instructions on how to implement both plans.”

Plan A — put cat litter down for tire traction and dig out with the shovel

Plan B —if Plan A did not work, or if there was a mechanical problem with the car

Plan B would keep Foster safe in the car until help arrived. The jug was to collect snow to melt for drinking water. Granola bars were ideal nonperishable food. The sleeping bag would provide warmth until she made a “furnace” — burning a candle inside the coffee can, producing enough heat inside the car to melt snow and also keep Foster alive. And the CB radio? She was supposed to use the trucker channel, “breaker 1-9,” to call for help. Her dad also installed a CB antenna on her car, so the connection between daughter and trucker could be made.

Foster says she thought her dad was insane ... at the time. Now Foster fondly remembers the things she carried.

AAA also recommends the following when preparing a survival kit:

- Ice scraper & brush
- Tools & flashlight with batteries
- Sand or cat litter for tire traction
- Shovel
- Jumper cables
- Boots, gloves, hat
- Food, water, blanket
- Coffee can furnace
- First-aid kit
- Cell phone
- Flares or reflective triangle
- Prescription medicines you take regularly