

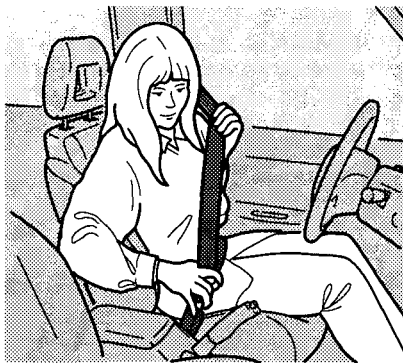
Off-Road Precautions

For your safety and the safety of your passengers, please follow these precautions:

Don't Modify Your Vehicle

We urge you not to install aftermarket "lift kits," oversize wheels and tires, or alter your vehicle in any other way that would change the vehicle's suspension or ride height. Such modifications can make handling difficult and unpredictable, and they could cause you to lose control, roll over and be seriously hurt or killed.

Wear Seat Belts



Seat belts are just as important off-road as on pavement. Seat belts can hold you in position on rough and bumpy trails and when driving on hills. If you don't wear your seat belt, you could bounce around and strike the interior of the vehicle, or even lose control and crash. Whenever you drive, make sure you and your

passengers always wear seat belts. If children or infants are along for the ride, see that they are properly secured, and never let a passenger ride in the cargo compartment. In a rollover crash, an unbelted person is more likely to die than a person wearing a seat belt.

Drive Smart

Off-road surfaces and conditions can change quickly and unexpectedly. It takes time to learn how to read the terrain and develop off-road driving skills. So always use good judgment. Don't drive faster than conditions warrant, and if you ever feel uncomfortable about a given situation, *don't do it*.

Getting Ready to Drive Off-Road

Don't Drink and Drive

Alcohol is a leading cause of death and injury off-road as well as on-road. Alcohol reduces your ability to think clearly and react quickly. Fatigue and drugs, legal or illegal, can have similar effects. If you aren't sober or in good physical and mental condition, don't drive.

Before leaving on a brief off-road excursion or an extended overnight trip, you need to make sure you and your vehicle are both prepared.

Planning a Trip



When making your plans, remember that it's best to travel with at least one other vehicle in

case you have trouble, and always let someone else know where you're going and when you expect to return.

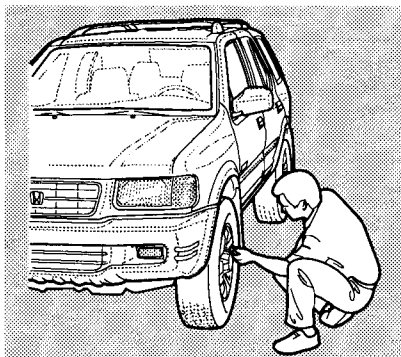
Whatever your destination, we recommend that you get maps of your route so you can study the terrain, talk with other drivers who are familiar with the location, and find out in advance if you need any special permits. Then, shortly before you leave, get the latest weather predictions for your destination, and check on any closures that could affect your plans.

There are many sources that can help you plan a trip. The U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, motor vehicle bureaus, and park and recreation departments can provide maps

and other useful information. Recreational vehicle clubs can put you in touch with other drivers, and off-road magazines publish first-hand descriptions of driving locations.

To help keep off-road driving areas open, stay on roads, trails and open areas approved for off-highway vehicles (OHVs). Please respect no trespassing signs, and don't drive on private property without permission.

Check Out Your Vehicle



Off-road driving can be hard on a vehicle, requiring extra attention to maintenance. Before driving off-road, be sure all scheduled maintenance and service has been done, and that you have also inspected your vehicle. Pay special attention to the condition of the tires and use a gauge to check the tire pressures.

Improperly inflated tires can be more easily damaged by rocks and other hard or sharp objects. Do not let air out of your tires unless you can reinflate them soon after returning to pavement, and remember to periodically inspect the tires for signs of damage, especially if you hit a large or sharp rock.

Carrying Cargo

You'll probably take a cooler, picnic supplies or other cargo on an off-road trip. Since some bouncing is almost inevitable when driving off-road, it's very important to store and secure cargo properly. Follow these guidelines and limits:

- The maximum load you can carry in and on your vehicle can be found on the chart opposite.

These figures include the weight of all occupants, cargo, accessories, and the tongue weight if you are towing a trailer (see next page).

- Distribute cargo evenly on the floor of the cargo area, placing the heaviest items on the bottom and as far forward as possible.

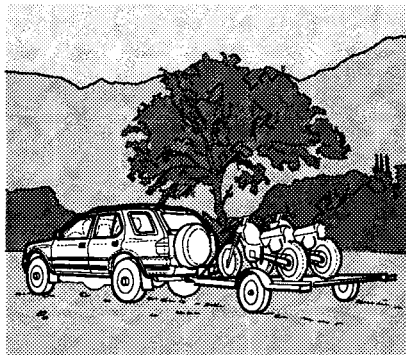
	LX 2WD	LX 4WD	EX
Manual Trans	895 lb (407 kg)	905 lb (410 kg)	930 lb (423 kg)
Automatic Trans	840 lb (382 kg)	850 lb (386 kg)	875 lb (398 kg)

- Secure all items so they cannot fly forward and injure you or your passengers if you brake hard, hit an obstacle, or are involved in a collision.



- If you want to put cargo on the roof, use a roof rack, secure all items, and make sure the cargo does not exceed 200 pounds.

Towing a Trailer



You may be able to safely tow a lightweight trailer (such as a motorcycle trailer or small tent trailer) off-road if you follow these guidelines:

- Do not exceed a trailer weight of 1,000 pounds (including cargo) or a tongue weight of 100 pounds. (Tongue weight

should be about 10% of the trailer weight.)

- Try to stay on smooth, level dirt roads, and avoid driving in hilly terrain.
- Allow extra room for starting, stopping, and turning.
- Slow down if you encounter bumps or other obstacles.

Extra Equipment and Supplies

We strongly recommend that you **DO NOT** carry extra fuel. Gasoline is highly flammable and explosive. It cannot be safely carried inside the vehicle or strapped to the top or rear. The best thing to do is fill up your tank before you leave pavement.

It's always wise to take along water, food, blankets, a flashlight, and matches. You may also want to take:

- A towing rope, strap or chain - in case you or someone you're with gets stuck.
- Wheel chocks - to help keep your vehicle from rolling when you park.
- First aid kit - a good idea whenever you travel far from medical support.
- Flag - to help others see you (except in forests or areas with tall bushes).
- Portable phone or citizens band (CB) radio - should you need to call for help.
- Shovel - in case you need to dig yourself out.

