

# COMMON PROBLEMS/SOLUTIONS

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## RENTAL / PERSONEL VEHICLES

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### SELECTING A FOLLOW VEHICLE

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Be very careful when selecting a Follow Vehicle. Diesel engines are NOT allowed due to the fumes. Cars with air-cooled engines are to be avoided due the lack of cooling while traveling at 6mph. Large SUV's are also not recommended due to their size and fuel consumption. Stick to small fuel efficient mini vans.

### BASIC INFORMATION

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When you pick up your rental vehicles, make sure to get the instruction manual. All drivers should become familiar with the vehicle before driving the course. Find out where the spare tire and changing tools are located. If you will be using the power outlet, locate the fuse panel and have spare fuses.

### CREATURE COMFORT

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Be prepared for the swing in temperatures. Sun Screen, hat, sun glasses right along with Knit hat, warm sweater even gloves you will use all of this gear. Snacks are a must. You are in the Follow Vehicles for at least a few hours if not more.

### WIRING OF VEHICLE

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It is strongly suggested that you do NOT try to run everything off the power outlet. Have an experienced person run a heavy duty cable directly to the battery. The cable should have in-line fuses and battery clip ends. Tape the cable to the vehicle body with duct tape.

### LIGHTBARS, ROTATING LIGHTS, SIGNS, FLAGS.

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You will be escorted from the Vehicle Check-In point to the Vehicle Staging Area at 25 mph. Anything that you place on top of the vehicle must withstand high wind loads. You don't want to have to stop following your runner while you chase your equipment blowing across the desert.

Some teams have developed their equipment around removable luggage racks. (Suction cups and retaining straps.) Just make sure that any sign that you place on top does not block the light from your rotating beacon (or Strobe).

### FLAT TIRES

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AAA service for changing flats is NOT available. You will have to do it yourself. Be Prepared. It is strongly suggested that you bring your own star wrench rather than using the knuckle buster that comes with the vehicle.

- ❖ The jacks that are in the vehicle have a very small base. They are NOT intended to be used on the sandy shoulder to the desert. From past experience, when you try to jack the vehicle UP, it doesn't move, instead, the jack goes DOWN into the desert. A fix for this is to bring a small board to place under the jack. It should be about ¾ x 6 x 8 inches.

### TOW STRAPS

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Pick up an inexpensive tow strap at your local auto parts store and bring it with you. Each year, several dozen vehicles get stuck in the desert because concrete dwellers do not know how to drive off road. Don't make jackrabbit starts. Take it easy, don't spin your wheels.

### HELL BOX

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Teams that have done this race many times have a plastic carton which contains the many miscellaneous items that they have found need of in previous years IE: Knife, batteries, spare radio, tow tape, duct tape, flash light, flares, toilet paper, paper towels, hand cleaner/sanitizer, empty coffee can and lid. ETC ETC

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## **FRS RADIOS**

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The follow vehicle drivers must listen to the FRS radio at all times using ear buds. It is recommended that each driver be supplied with their own personal ear-buds for hygienic purposes. Each user should be capable of using the radio. They should know how to turn it on/off, set the frequency, set the PL adjust the volume and press the talk button. The radios should have a fresh set of batteries installed. Do NOT use a vehicle adapter cord or rechargeable batteries. Have a set of fresh batteries in the hell box. It wouldn't hurt to have a spare radio just in case.

## **AID TO THE RUNNER**

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**Water, water, cold water.** This is what you give the runner. Do not give them anything else unless they have used it in the past. The power drinks of today contain chemicals that thin the blood. If they need an IV later they will bleed like they were in a knife fight.

## **DEPENDABLE SUPPORT STAFF**

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Be very careful when selecting your support staff. The no-show factor can create a giant problem. The Follow Vehicle requires a full and dependable crew. NO COWBOYS. Follow vehicles will be on the course for 12 to 20 hours. Make plans to rotate your crew. Make sure that the fresh crew knows the rules. Most teams rotate their crew somewhere between Stage 10 and 12.

## **COWBOY ISSUE**

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This is the rookie out for fun, a wild card, a hot-shot, a show off, in short, an undependable person. Avoid this kind of person at all costs. They can earn your team a serious penalty.

## **ALCOHOL**

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*Drinking alcoholic beverages anywhere on the race course is strictly prohibited.*

*This includes any member of the team, support personnel & team visitors.*

By all means, runners should not partake PRIOR to running! Alcohol is a diuretic and reduces the hydration that the runners need.