



PRESS RELEASE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6<sup>TH</sup> 2010

## **AVOIDING BACK TO SCHOOL CAR BREAKDOWN** *ADVICE FOR PARENTS ON THE SCHOOL RUN TOMORROW*

As some schools still plan on opening their doors tomorrow morning, parents on the 'School Run' are being advised to take precautions on the nation's roads.

One of the Ireland's largest roadside assistance companies, Mondial Assistance, is expecting a hike in calls from parents stranded on their way to or from their child's school tomorrow.

The Sandyford-based company, which is a member of the Allianz Group, recorded its busiest day on record last Monday (January 4<sup>th</sup>), as thousands of office workers returned to work after the Christmas break. The company received 120% more calls for roadside assistance on that day alone, compared with a typical Monday.

Martin Lyons, Director General Manager at Mondial Assistance Ireland advised: "A considerable number of schools will still be opening their doors to students tomorrow, so that means more traffic on the roads. We're urging parents to take simple measures before they set out on the school run, to avoid becoming stranded. These measures include checking their car's anti-freeze and their tyre pressure."

Mondial Assistance provides roadside assistance services to manufacturers such as BMW, KIA, Lexus, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Peugeot, Suzuki, Toyota and Volvo.

### **BEFORE HEADING OUT ON THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL RUN, MONDIAL ASSISTANCE IRELAND RECOMMENDS THESE SIMPLE MEASURES:**

- Ensure your anti-freeze has been checked
- Check your windscreen wipers for damage and replace if necessary
- Ensure you have plenty of washer fluid in your windscreen washer bottle
- Check that the tread depths on all car tyres are legal (at least **1.6mm** across the central three-quarters of the breadth and in a continuous band around the entire circumference of the tyre). Also be aware that in wet weather, tyre performance drops considerably below 2mm of tread
- Checked your tyre pressure, over-inflated tyres are especially dangerous on icy roads
- Regularly clean your lights and mirrors
- Ensure you have sufficient breakdown cover (which may be included in your insurance policy)

## **MONDIAL ASSISTANCE IRELAND'S MOTORING EMERGENCY CHECKLIST**

Things to keep in your car this January:

- Torch, spare batteries and bulbs
- Screen scraper / de-icer
- Jump leads
- Warning triangle
- First-aid kit
- Fully charged 'hands free' mobile phone / phone card / cash
- Blankets and warm jacket (in case of breakdown)
- Shovel (to clear snow, if necessary)
- Fire extinguisher
- Rope (suitable for towing, if necessary)
- Road atlas or maps
- Breakdown assistance emergency number

**ENDS**

### **Notes to Editors**

ASCI, who trades as **Mondial Assistance Ireland**, is a leading provider of customer support services to the travel, motor industries, insurance companies and other blue chip organisations. As a member of the global Mondial Assistance Group, Mondial Assistance Ireland provides services to customers 24 hours a day, wherever they are all over the world. Mondial Assistance holds a license to provide travel insurance through its division Elvia Travel Insurance International, part of the Mondial Assistance Group, and is regulated by the Financial Regulator.

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