



What can you get done when a Freeway is closed?

This weekend, Saturday July 16th and Sunday July 17th, Southern California will have a major Freeway Closure (the 405 from the 101 to the 10). This is serious for a LOT of people in Southern California. The 405 Freeway is a major hub (myself included) for businesses, families, vistors and more.

Will this affect you? How will this affect you? If you are in Southern California, most likely you have already made your plans to stay home, travel earlier, or to commute by other means. If you are not in Southern California, will this affect you and how will it affect you? Freeways, highways and roads can close in other parts of the world too, so this can affect you.

So here are two tips to help with this question:
"What can you get done when a Freeway is closed?"

Photo Tip: **Preserving Memories**
Organizing Tip: **Get the Junk Out of the Trunk**

I truly hope you can use the great tips below to pass the time on your "Freeway Closure" weekend.

Enjoy and Thank you,

Christie Gelsomino
[Scrapbook Designer](#)
[Professional Organizer](#)

Scrapbook Designer

Preserving Memories

Attics, basements, and garages are prone to extreme heat fluctuations, moisture/humidity, rodents, and insects. Therefore, they may not be the proper places for your most prized possessions. Protect your family heirlooms, photos, and valuable memorabilia so they last a lifetime by following this advice.

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Vision to be Organized



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Photos should be stored in archival-quality albums and kept away from light and out of moist or hot spaces. Store videotapes in protective plastic boxes and on end (not lying flat on top of each other). Heirloom textiles and garments should be cleaned first and then wrapped in acid-free tissues and placed in acid-free storage boxes. Special books should also be placed in acid-free boxes. Memorabilia (when not being displayed) should be kept dust-free and in storage boxes as well. Then store these valuables in the main living quarters of your home - not in the garage, attic, or basement. Watch for rodents and insects, and deal with them promptly to avoid damage.

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Vision to be Organized

Get the Junk Out of the Trunk

In the "old days," people used their cars simply to get from Point A to Point B. But today, vehicles are used for much more than transportation, so it's no wonder they get messy. To get car clutter under control, starts by figuring out how you use your car. Do you drive your kids' soccer carpool? Do you work out of your SUV? Do you run daily errands? Evaluate how you use your car, and it will be easy to make -- and keep -- it tidy.

- Get papers under control by creating an on-the-go filing system. Whether you office out of your car, or just need to have lots of information at your fingertips, create a simple filing system. Your local office supply store has a variety of portable, lidded file boxes to choose from, or use a simple plastic crate. Label hanging file folders with broad categories, and slide important papers in the correct spots.

- If you work from your car, create a portable office. In addition to a portable filing system, include essential office supplies, such as pens, sticky notes, paper, envelopes, and stamps in a neat box.

- Take note. Brilliant ideas have a way of sneaking up on us. Make sure you don't forget them by stashing a small hard-cover notebook to catch those moments. Or, to keep your eyes on the road, tote a mini-recorder or call your voice mail and leave reminders there.

- Ward off the munchies. Keep healthy and easy-to-eat snacks easily accessible for yourself and hungry kids. Fill a small shoe box with granola bars, small bags of almonds or walnuts, dried fruit, juice boxes, and water.

- Run errands with ease. Put a crate in your trunk for clothing that needs to go the the tailor or dry cleaner. You can also add items that need to be returned to stores, library books and movies ready for return, and loaned items that need to find its rightful owners. Take a peek in the box each morning and see what you can get rid of that day.

- Consider some specialty car organizers. Discount stores offer a variety of them, such as back-of-the-seat organizers for kids, visor organizers for CDs, collapsible crates for groceries or

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Christie has recently joined the Association of Personal Photo Organizers.



Official launch in August

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sports equipment, and much more.

· Toss it out and tidy up. Keep a nylon or plastic garbage bag in the car so messes get cleaned up as you go. Take five minutes at the end of each day to empty the bag and tidy up the entire vehicle. This small investment of time will keep it neat and organized. To ensure it stays clean and crumb-free too, plan to vacuum and wipe down or dust the interior every week or two, or invest in occasional visits to your neighborhood car wash.

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Thank you for reading this July Newsletter!

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