

SAFETYFIRST

INFORMATION DEDICATED TO DRIVER SAFETY



AHEAD OF
THE CURVE



Safety Management
Services Company, 2013

An affiliate of
Cottingham & Butler

Be Safe Out There



Cottingham & Butler
TRANSPORTATION GROUP

Focus on Inspections This Summer

Vehicle Safety Checklist: Complete a thorough PTI:

Tires — *air pressure, tread wear*

The best way to avoid a flat tire, or a blowout, is to check your vehicle's tire pressure, and if you have one, your spare. A tire doesn't have to be punctured to lose air. All tires naturally lose some air over time. In fact, under-inflation is the leading cause of tire failure. If your vehicle and/or its tires are older, you need to exercise special care with regard to tire inflation and tire condition (including worn out treads or obvious damage), particularly in warm weather.

Belts and Hoses — *condition and fittings*

Look under the hood and inspect all belts and hoses to make sure they are in good shape with no signs of blisters, cracks, or cuts in the rubber. High summer temperatures accelerate the rate at which rubber belts and hoses degrade, so it's best to replace them now if they show signs of obvious wear. While you're at it, check all hose connections to make sure they're secure.

Wiper Blades — *wear and tear on both sides*

After the heavy toll imposed by winter storms and spring rains, windshield wipers are likely to be ragged from use and ready to be replaced. Like rubber belts and hoses, wiper blades are susceptible to the summer heat. Examine your blades for signs of wear and tear. If they aren't in tip-top condition, replace them before you go.

Fluid Levels — *oil, brake, transmission, power steering, coolant, and windshield washer fluids.*

You'll want to check your vehicle's oil level daily. In addition, check the following fluid levels: brake, automatic transmission, power steering, windshield washer, and coolant. Make sure each reservoir is full and if you see any sign of fluid leakage, take your vehicle in to be serviced.

Lights — *headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, interior lights, and trailer lights.*

See and be seen! Make sure all the lights on your vehicle are in working order. Check your headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, and interior lights. Towing a trailer? Be sure to check your trailer lights including brake lights and turn signals too. Failure of trailer light connections is a common problem and a serious safety hazard.

Air Conditioning — *AC check*

Check AC performance before traveling. If you're traveling with someone sensitive to heat, you may also want to make sure your AC system is functioning properly. Lack of air conditioning on a hot summer day affects people who are in poor health or are sensitive to heat, such as children and seniors. If the air is not blowing cold, have the system repaired before you go because emergency on-the-road repairs can be more costly than those you plan in advance.

Before You Go

Regular maintenance goes a long way toward preventing breakdowns before they happen. If you notice any issues, report immediately to your maintenance facility and note it on your DVIR!