



News Release

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ARE YOUR TIRES NOT GETTING ENOUGH AIR?

RMA, AAA, and NHTSA Continue Effort to Educate Motorists about Proper Tire Care

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA, May 30, 2013 – AAA supports the annual National Tire Safety Week (June 2-8), an initiative of the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) *Be Tire Smart – Play Your PART* tire maintenance education program.

Motorists around the U.S are unaware of how to properly check tire pressure. By not having the proper air in the tires it can put themselves and others at risk and wastes fuel. Under-inflated tires pose a safety risk because they generate heat inside the tire, which can cause damage that leads to tire failure. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that properly inflated tires will improve vehicle fuel economy by 3.3 percent and save up to 12 cents per gallon at the pump.

NHTSA, the agency charged with creating and enforcing national highway safety standards for vehicles and tires, imposes stringent testing requirements for every tire sold in the U.S. to ensure the strongest consumer protection possible. However, the only way to ensure the continued safety performance of tires is for consumers to play their part with regular maintenance starting with inflation pressure. Without the right pressure, consumers are risking safety.

This summer, AAA anticipates it will come to the rescue of 1.2 million stranded motorists with tire-related issues. Many of these can be avoided by taking a few minutes once a month to ensure tires are properly inflated. “During AAA Car Care Month vehicle inspections, technicians found tire issues were the most frequently occurring problem as one out of five vehicles inspected had incorrect tire pressure levels. Improper pressure levels not only put driver’s safety at risk but also can cost them extra money in gasoline and tire replacement costs during a time when many are looking to save money,” explained Georjeane Blumling, Ph.D, spokesperson for AAA Tidewater Virginia.

Tires that are under inflated or bald will not grip the road properly and that increases the risk of crash. RMA urges all motorists to [Be Tire Smart](#) – Play Your PART. PART is an acronym for Pressure, Alignment, Rotation and Tread – the four key elements of tire care.

- **Pressure:** Check air pressure, under-inflation is the leading cause of wear and tear of tires
- **Alignment:** Misalignment of wheels in the front or rear can cause uneven and rapid tread-wear
- **Rotation:** Regularly rotating your vehicle's tires will help you achieve more uniform wear
- **Tread:** Advanced and unusual wear can reduce the ability of tread to grip the road in adverse conditions

As part of North America’s largest motoring and leisure travel organization, AAA Tidewater Virginia provides its more than 325,000 members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related services. Since its founding AAA Tidewater Virginia has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers. For more information, visit AAA.com and follow us on Twitter at [Twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA](https://twitter.com/AAATidewaterVA).

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