

Vehicle maintained:

Tires

Use this guide to help lead a discussion with employees to raise awareness about the importance of vehicle maintenance, specifically related to tires. Empower drivers to recognize possible issues and minimize their risk on the road—making it safer for everyone. Use the form on Page 2 to record meeting details.

Tires are easily checked on a vehicle inspection and one of the most inspected items by enforcement officers. Out of condition tires can cause accidents or make the ability to avoid an accident more difficult. Consistently inspecting tires prior to hitting the road can help increase the life of the tire and make operating the vehicle safer.

Ensuring proper tire maintenance

1 Tread depth and regulations:

- Steer tires: Minimum tread depth should exceed 4/32 inch.
- Driver and trailer tires: Minimum tread depth should exceed 2/32 inch.
- Using a tread depth indicator tool for accurate measurements, measure in major tread grooves—not in areas that contain wear indicators or stone ejectors.

2 Air pressure check:

- Regularly check the air pressure in the tires and compare readings to PSI indicator on the tire or door frame.
- Proper inflation extends tire life, improves fuel economy, and enhances road contact
- “Knocking” the tire with a hammer or other instrument only determines if the tire is flat and not whether the tire is at proper inflation.
- Use air pressure gauge to check the air pressure and listen for air leaks.

3 Sidewall inspection:

- Examine sidewalls for damage (cuts, bulges, dry rot, exposed ply/separation).
- Check inner side of dual wheel assemblies.
- Look for any debris stuck between sets of dual tires and ensure removal.

4 Weight load and speed ratings:

- Know the tire’s weight load rating and ensure axle weight does not exceed the tire’s capacity.
- Some vehicles may have speed ratings on tire sidewall—observe these and do not exceed listed speed.
- Verify suitability of tire for where you’ll be driving. Make sure tires do not say “not for highway use” if the vehicle is going to be used on road.

5 Avoid contact with vehicle parts:

- Prevent tires from touching any part of the vehicle.
- Overloading can cause contact when suspension allows frame or other components to hit the tire when encountering bumps.
- Steer tires are especially vulnerable if components are loose as the tire may rub against the steering rods or other parts of the steering mechanisms.

For additional information related to driver safety, visit MyNSightOnline.com/DriveThe5

For further guidance, refer to Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration 49 CFR Part 393 Subpart G (ecfr.gov/current/title-49/part-393/subpart-G).



For assistance with risk management services or safety resources, contact us at RMSolutions@nationwide.com or 1-800-260-1356.

Toolbox Talk

Date: ____/____/____

Vehicle maintained: Tires

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Discussion notes:
