

# CAR CARE CORNER

#### **Check Your Tires Before Your Trip**

(NAPSI)-Keeping your car on the road to safety and savings can start with something as simple as well-maintained tires.

According to the Rubber Manufacturers Association, about 11 percent of vehicles on the road have at least one bald tire, and 55 percent of vehicles have at least one underinflated tire.

Ongoing preventive maintenance which can take less than 10 minutes—at least every month or before long trips is the best method to maximize tire performance, say the experts at Cooper Tire. Before hitting the road, drivers should conduct do-it-yourself maintenance checks, age or excessive wear and tear.

a vehicle to touch the road is the tires, than 2/32 of an inch deep all around the

Insert the edge of the coin into the tread; if the top of his head is visible at any location on the tire, the tire is worn out and should be replaced.

• Wearing well. While examining the <u>www.twitter.com/coopertire</u>.



examining tires for proper inflation, dam- tread, also look for signs of uneven wear or damage such as cuts, cracks, splits, punctures and bulges. These conditions shorten the life of tires and, if not cor-• Treading firmly. The only piece of rected, may do further damage to the tire, or air loss may occur.

• Putting the pressure on. Tire pressure also plays a critical role in the overall making tire tread—a key factor in han- performance of tires as underinflation creates excessive stress on the tire, while dling, cornering, accelerating and brak- overinflation can cause uneven wear in addition to handling and braking issues. A ing—a vital part of overall tire mainte- common myth is that the tire pressure listed on the sidewall is the optimal presnance. Tire tread depth should be more sure, while in reality it is the maximum pressure.

Drivers should follow the guidelines found in the vehicle owner's manual or tire, and drivers can check this by using a tire placard (or sticker) attached to the vehicle door edge, doorpost, glove box door, trunk or fuel door.

• Professional help. Should any of these checks reveal the need for required tread with Lincoln going in head first. If maintenance—or when in doubt about the condition of their tires—drivers should the top of Lincoln's head is covered by take vehicles to a tire dealer for a professional inspection, suggests Chuck tread, there's an acceptable amount of Yurkovich, vice president of global technology for Cooper Tire.

#### Learn More

To obtain more information on proper tire maintenance, visit www.coopertire.com, or follow Cooper on www.facebook.com/coopertire or



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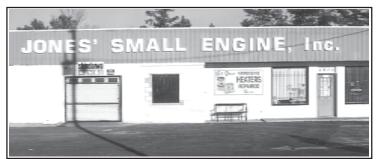
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