

TPMS Can Save Lives

Most people ignore their tires, yet tires are undoubtedly a critical safety component on a vehicle. Where the rubber meets the road affects traction, handling, steering, stability and braking. Because of this, a sudden tire failure can have serious consequences, especially if it occurs when operating at high speeds.

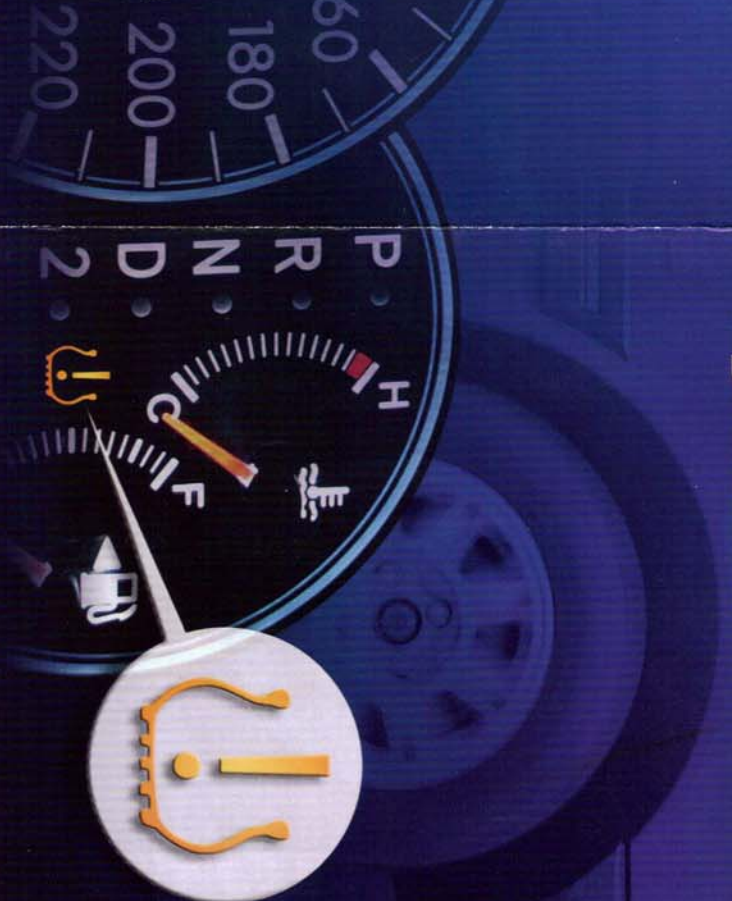
- Nearly 250,000 accidents occur in the United States per year due to low tire pressure.
- About 75 % of roadside flats are preceded by a slow leak or under inflation.
- According to a recent survey, America could reduce its fuel consumption by 10 % and save a collective \$2 billion a year by keeping tires properly inflated.
- NHTSA estimates that tire pressure monitoring systems could prevent as many as 79 deaths and 10,365 injuries each year in the United States.

When Was The Last Time You Had Your Tires Checked for Proper Inflation?



Does Your Vehicle Have A Tire Pressure Monitoring System?

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Why Are Newer Vehicles Equipped with a Tire Pressure Monitoring System?

In 2000, Congress passed the Tread Act in direct response to nation-wide tire recalls. The Tread Act spelled out a number of provisions related to tire safety, the most significant of which is the requirement that all new vehicles less than 10,000 GVW come equipped with a tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS). This system warns the driver when one or more tires are significantly under inflated.

How Does It Work?

Each tire has a sensor mounted to the rim that detects air pressure in the tire and relays it to the vehicle's on board computer. Early systems had a light on the dash that would alert the driver when one or more tires were under inflated by at least 25% or more. Newer systems display individual tire pressures by a gauge located on the dash.



Can You Tell Which Tire is Underinflated?



100% Inflated



70% Inflated

What is the Effect of Under Inflation?

20% under inflation

Reduces tire life by 20% (Michelin).

Reduces fuel economy by 10% (Goodyear).

25% under inflation

Reduces tire's load carrying capacity by 20%.

40% under inflation

Reduces braking distance by 10%. (Michelin).

Under inflated tires is the leading cause of tire failure

Under inflation is involved in 20% of flat tire/blowout cases that result in a crash

An estimated 23,000 accidents and 535 fatal accidents annually involve blowouts or flat tires. Maintaining proper tire air pressure is not only a major safety concern, but can also affect the handling and performance of your vehicle.

Why Is It More Expensive and Time Consuming to Have My Tires Serviced Rather Than Just Rotated?

Technicians use special diagnostic tools to test and recalibrate sensors any time a tire is moved from one location on the vehicle to another. A sensor must be tested to make sure it is functioning correctly and also must be reprogrammed whenever tires are moved from one position to another during rotation. OEMs recommend a sensor service kit be installed every time a tire is serviced. These kits include replacement parts to properly service the sensor. Sensors are powered by a battery that usually has a life of 6 to 8 years. The sensor has to be replaced when the battery fails because the batteries are not replaceable.



Why Sensors Fail

- The battery goes dead
- Electronics fail
- Damaged
- Tire stop leak (the use of tire stop leak products will clog the sensor making it unable to detect the pressure)