



be tire smart play your **PART**

PRESSURE • ALIGNMENT • ROTATION • TREAD

A consumer education program of the Rubber Manufacturers Association

Contact: Dan Zielinski
Rubber Manufacturers Association
202-682-4846
703-582-3387 - cell

NATIONAL TIRE SAFETY WEEK 2009 TIRE PRESSURE SURVEY FACT SHEET – NATIONAL

- More than 5,400 vehicle tire pressures measured in 13 U.S. cities.¹
 - Only 9% of vehicles had four properly inflated tires.
 - 49% of vehicles had at least one under inflated tire.
 - 19% of vehicles had at least one tire under inflated by 8 pounds per square inch (psi).
 - 26% of vehicles had at least one tire under inflated by 6 psi.
 - 38% if vehicles had at least one tire under inflated by 4 psi.
 - Tires may lose up to 1 psi per month.
- Many vehicles equipped with tire pressure monitoring systems would not issue a warning even after a drop in tire pressure of 8 psi. These systems issue a low pressure warning only after tire pressure drops 25%.
- Properly inflated tires can improve fuel efficiency by 3.3% and save \$.06 a gallon at the pump. Approximately 1.2 billion gallons of fuel are wasted each year by U.S. motorists driving on under inflated tires.
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that under inflated tires contribute to more than 600 fatalities and 33,000 injuries each year.

¹ Tire pressure data collected on 4,235 vehicles in the Boston, Providence, Jacksonville, Orlando, West Palm Beach, St. Louis, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Austin, Houston, Chicago, Detroit and Portland, OR areas. Tire retailers participating in the data collection were: Sullivan Tire and Auto (Boston, Providence); NTB (Chicago, Houston); Discount Tire Company (Albuquerque, Phoenix, Austin, Detroit); Auto Tire (St. Louis); Les Schwab Tire (Portland, OR); Tire Kingdom (Jacksonville, Orlando, West Palm Beach, FL). Data collected March – May 2009.