

# SAFETY SENSE

## Checking Tire Condition Vital To Personal Safety

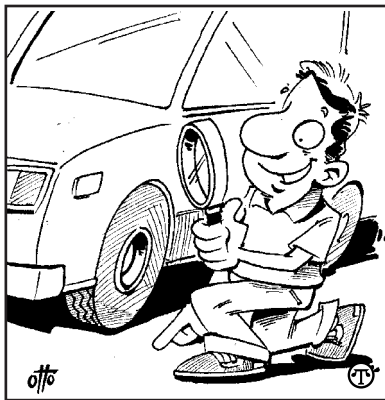
(NAPSA)—In the wake of recent major national tire recalls, people are beginning to realize the importance of tire safety and truly understanding the condition of their vehicles. Even with the enormous media exposure, still this issue hasn't reached everyone. Statistics show that more than two million people have yet to get their recalled tires replaced—a dangerous game to be playing.

According to Mitchell G. Leibovitz, chairman, CEO and president of Pep Boys, a leading automotive aftermarket retail and service chain, and one of the nation's largest tire retailers, "Families need to feel safe and protected when they get into their vehicles, so whether or not their tires are the subject of a recall, it's vital that everyone check the condition of their tires and keep them in top shape."

Pep Boys certified technicians say this can be done in a few simple steps either at home or by a trusted professional. The three things to look for are proper inflation, even tread wear and protruding objects or punctures.

**Proper Inflation**—When your tires are cold, use a tire pressure gauge to measure the pressure on all four tires. It should read the same as the correct PSI printed on the tire wall. If you don't know how to read that, ask a Pep Boys service technician to help. They'll also help inflate or deflate your tires to the correct pressure level.

**Tread Wear**—Look at both the inside and outside edges of each tire to check for uneven tread wear. If your tires are worn more on one side than the other, you should have an expert look to see if a tire alignment or possible rotation is needed. Also be sure to check the tread depth. When it has worn down to 1/16 of an inch, it's time for a new set of tires, because you'll soon be driving on smooth rubber, which is dangerous.



**Checking your tires regularly is an important part of automotive safety.**

**Protruding Objects or Punctures**—Glass, rocks or bits of metal can get caught between tire treads and eventually work their way deeper into the tire, potentially causing air loss. Anything puncturing the tire should be left in. Your vehicle should be taken to a specialist and you should have the tire repaired or replaced immediately to avoid additional tire damage.

If you need to purchase new tires, look for ones that come with road hazard warranties. Some of these warranties typically have coverage that extends to damage such as unrepairable tread punctures, damage from potholes, nails, glass and jagged metal, which causes cuts, snags, punctures, impact breaks, bruises and rim cuts. Coverage with a Road Hazard Warranty usually extends for the full period of the mileage of the tire. It's important to note that certain restrictions apply with most warranties.

"Good driving habits and preventive maintenance—proper air pressure, balance, alignment, and rotation—can add miles to your tires and provide better fuel economy and safety for you and your family," added Leibovitz.

For more information about tire care or to find the Pep Boys store nearest you, call 1-800-PEP-BOYS or visit [www.pepboys.com](http://www.pepboys.com).