



# be tire smart play your **PART**

PRESSURE • ALIGNMENT • ROTATION • TREAD

A consumer education program of the Rubber Manufacturers Association

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## NATIONAL TIRE SAFETY WEEK 2010 TIRE PRESSURE SURVEY FACT SHEET – NATIONAL

- More than 6,300 vehicle tire pressures measured in 31 U.S. cities.<sup>1</sup>
  - Only 17% of vehicles had four properly inflated tires.
  - 55% of vehicles had at least one under inflated tire.
  - 15% of vehicles had at least one tire under inflated by 8 pounds per square inch (psi).
  - 20% of vehicles had at least one tire under inflated by 6 psi.
  - 31% of 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 \$.09 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Tire pressure data collected on 6,320 vehicles in Atlanta, Augusta, ME, Austin, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Buffalo, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Denver, Detroit, Harrisburg, Hawaii, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City Metro, Orlando, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, OR, Portland, ME, Providence, Sacramento, San Antonio, San Diego, Seattle, Tampa, and Washington, D.C. areas. Tire retailers participating in the data collection were: Midas (Atlanta, Chicago, New Orleans, NYC Metro, Washington, D.C.); VIP Parts and Service (Portland, ME, Augusta, ME); Discount Tire Company (Austin, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Detroit, Phoenix, San Antonio, San Diego); Goodyear Tire Company (Hawaii, Sacramento); Just Tires (Los Angeles, Baltimore); Big 10 Tires (Birmingham); Sullivan Tire and Auto (Boston, Providence); NTB (Chicago); Les Schwab Tire Centers (Portland, OR, Seattle); Pep Boys (Philadelphia); Firestone Complete Auto Care (Charlotte, Nashville); Tire Kingdom (Orlando, Tampa); Dunn Tire (Buffalo), Peerless Tyre Company (Denver); Jack Williams Tire (Harrisburg); and Tire Works (Las Vegas). Data collected February – May 2010.