

# Vehicle Upkeep: Keeping it Safe

A commonly overlooked aspect of daily business is assuring safe vehicle working conditions. While we pay attention to safe practice in the workplace including use of safety gear, tools to be in good condition, getting the job done!, etc. etc., we don't stop to assure vehicles used to transport workforce, tools and materials are in the best condition to assure safe operation.

One of the most overlooked and or ignored issues is assuring tires in good condition, especially making sure proper tread, tire pressure and alignment of the vehicle track are up to par. Some other important and basic things to consider is a windshield without damage and that is kept clean on regular basis.

So beyond having a more comprehensive vehicle policy and performing repairs when needed, it is very important to assure some basics of vehicle use:

- Make sure the tread on tires are not worn out! Replace them when about 5/8 of tread is left over. Or if you can see Lincolns head on a Penny when placed upside down within the treads.
- Keep them inflated! Follow manufacturers recommendations on tire inflation measures and regularly check pressure.
- Good alignment will go a long way in assuring proper tracking of the vehicle and allow longer tire life. So, keep this in check.
- Make sure glare and or damage of windshield does not get in the way of your vision. Replace the windshield when cracks or chips appear and make sure to keep it clean.

Following these basic safety tips of vehicle use will allow you to better handle your vehicle in bad weather and difficult visibility conditions. These simple procedures will make a big difference in keeping workers safe, assuring they arrive to the job site and are able to get the job done!!

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