

# *Be Car Care Aware*<sup>®</sup>

## **Dream Vacation Or Nightmare Road Trip? Pre-Trip Vehicle Check Can Make The Difference**

(NAPS)—Road trip car trouble can be a real nightmare but performing a pre-trip vehicle check can help you avoid a vacation breakdown disaster.

Before you hit the road, the Car Care Council recommends a vehicle check to help avoid the inconvenience, potential safety hazards and unplanned expense of breaking down miles away from home.

- **Check the tires including tire pressure and tread.** Under-inflated tires reduce a vehicle's fuel economy and uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots.

- **Check the hoses and belts** as they can become cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or show signs of excessive wear. These are critical to the proper functioning of the electrical system, air-conditioning, power steering and the cooling system.

- **Check filters and fluids** including engine oil, power steering and brake, and transmission, as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.

- **Check the wipers and lighting** so that you can see and be seen. Check that all interior and exterior lighting is working properly and inspect and replace worn wiper blades so you can see clearly when driving during precipitation.

- **Check the brakes and battery** to be sure the battery connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free and that the brakes are functioning properly.

"A pre-trip inspection gives



**Checking on a few things before your road trip can help keep you on the road to a good time.**

motorists peace of mind by reducing the chance of unplanned, costly car trouble and providing an opportunity to have any repairs performed by a trusted technician before hitting the road," explained Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council.

The Car Care Council also recommends that motorists restock their emergency kit, consider a pre-trip tune-up to help the engine deliver the best balance of power and fuel economy, and order a free copy of the Car Care Council's popular "Car Care Guide" for the glove box at [www.carcare.org/car-care-guide](http://www.carcare.org/car-care-guide).

The Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For more information, visit [www.carcare.org](http://www.carcare.org).