

Is Your Vehicle Safe To Move ?

The Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) and the Niagara Section promote vehicle and driver safety at every opportunity. As do many community organizations, which also offer both point reduction and lower insurance rates through their programs.

A significant emphasis is placed on being an aware driver familiar with traffic rules, driving conditions, problem avoidance and how to navigate from point A to point B safely. The MBCA offers one of the few Defensive Driving opportunities where the driver actually operates a vehicle and becomes familiar with what the vehicle/driver combination is capable of achieving.

However, these types of programs do not place enough emphasis on what it makes sense to do before a car is even entered, started or moved? Some of us may be in the habit of doing sensible things either purposely or inadvertently before *taking off*. Ever notice coolant under the front of your car, or questioned yourself regarding the inflation of a tire? Do you notice these things every time you approach your car, or by chance? A few checklists may be helpful.

When Approaching Your Vehicle

- Observe the ground around the car for signs of fluid leaks.
- Profile of your tires all look the same?
- Tire tread look normal/even? – no nails or screws.
- Windshield and mirrors clear of dirt, ice and snow?

When Seated

- Are you are comfortable?
- Doors all closed?
- Make sure all head restraints are adjusted.
(newer Mercedes-Benz rear headrests must be lifted to proper position)
- All seat belts fastened?
- Adjust mirrors.
- Start vehicle and make sure there are no warning lights.
- Adjust climate control for driving conditions and comfort.
- Make Navigation System and vehicle sound adjustments prior to driving.

Frequently Check

- All lights.
- Washer fluid.
- Tire pressure.

Remember each time we operate a vehicle the conditions around us will be different.