

More tips on preparing vehicles for winter weather conditions

From page 17
said Donna Wagner, president of the Car Care Council.

A quick battery load test by an automotive technician can measure the condition of the battery and alert a vehicle owner to buying a new battery or having their old battery recharged, she added. Either option will insure a battery at full power and may avoid car trouble this winter.

When it comes to malfunctioning batteries, there are other reasons it may be failing to charge. The clamps must be in good condition and the terminals must be tightly connected and free of corrosion.

The Car Care Council encourages motorists to have

their vehicles evaluated every fall. The most recent results show that 26 percent of batteries failed inspections.

Check your tires, belts, and hoses before winter

No motorist relishes the inconvenience and hazard of being stranded on the road. Yet, year after year, the nation's motoring clubs echo the same service call reports.

These organizations respond to more than 50 million annual customer calls, and they estimate one-fifth could be avoided if car owners inspected their vehicle's tires, belts, and hoses, and had them replaced before they failed unexpectedly.



To help motorists avoid car problems this winter, simple, preventive maintenance procedures should be done in the fall.

Look for belt cracks. The serpentine or V-ribbed engine belt drives the water pump, power steering pump, air conditioner compressor, alternator and fan (if it's not electric). When the belt on a serpentine drive breaks, it's the equivalent of as many as three regular V-belts breaking at the same time. Without it, the accessory drives won't work.

Serpentine belts should be replaced every four years, regardless of appearance. They should be inspected at 60,000

miles.

If more than three cracks per inch are evident on the grooved underside of the belt, more than 80 percent of its service life is gone and replacement should be considered.

Serpentine belts usually are tensioned by a spring-loaded idler mechanism that contacts the smooth backside of the belt. Although the tensioner is designed to last for the life of a vehicle, it can fail for several reasons, including misalignment, loss of damping, pulley bearing failure, and internal spring wear. It can be replaced at the same time the belt is changed.

Feel for hose degradation. Until recently, the most common method of checking an engine coolant hose was to visually inspect its outside cover for signs of wear, or "ballooning." However, the primary cause of coolant hose failure is an electrochemical attack on the tube compound of the hose, according to research by an industry leader.

The phenomenon, known as electrochemical degradation, or

ECD, produces fine cracks, or striations, in the tube wall. These cracks extend from the inside to the outside of the hose tube, near one or both ends of the hose. The coolant seeps through these cracks and attacks the hose reinforcement as it wicks along the length of the hose. The condition eventually results in failure with either a pinhole leak or a burst hose.

The best way to check coolant hose for the effects of ECD is to squeeze the hose near the clamps or connectors. If the ends are soft and feel mushy, chances are, the hose is under attack by ECD.

A replacement interval of four years for all coolant carrying hoses – especially the upper radiator, bypass, and heater hoses – can help prevent unexpected failure from ECD.

Winter Survival Kit

- Three-pound coffee can
- Candle stubs and matches
- Metal cup
- Red bandanna and plastic whistle to alert rescuers
- Pencil and paper
- Change for phone calls
- First-aid kit, including any essential medications
- Plastic flashlight with spare batteries
- Bottled water and snack foods for energy, such as candy bars
- Extra winter clothing: snowmobile suit, gloves or mittens, and winter boots
- Blankets or sleeping bag
- Jumper cables
- Basic tools
- Shovel
- Bag of sand or grit
- Tow cable or chain
- Road flares or reflectors

Be Prepared

- Keep your gas tank full.
- Turn on your headlights.
- Inform someone of your starting time, destination, and expected arrival time.
- Pay attention to weather forecasts.
- Never leave your vehicle. If you are stranded, your chances of survival greatly increase if you stay with your vehicle.
- Carry a cellular phone for use during emergencies. Because driving requires your full attention, find a safe place to pull off the road when you need to use the phone.

INVESTING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

A New Investment Team Seminar for Planning Your Retirement

Come learn how our Investment Team can help you with your investment and financial planning needs. Bring along your friends and family who may be interested in our investment services. Refreshments will be provided. Seating is limited, so RSVP more than a week in advance. Call Tanda Murders at 800-773-3236, ext. 3118 and reserve your place today!

Date:	Time:	Location:
Thursday, Dec. 1, 2005	6-7pm	Clatskanie Branch
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2005	6-7pm	Astoria Branch
Thursday, Dec. 8, 2005	6-7pm	Clatskanie Branch
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2005	6-7pm	Astoria Branch

MODERN DESIGN

Your Painting & Interior Specialist

Vernonia, Oregon 503-830-6057 CCB# 159353

VERNONIA INN

Enjoy a quiet weekend with us.

FULL SIZE, IN ROOM HOT TUBS

Queen Beds • Private Bath • Separate Entrance
Cable TV • Phones • Handicapped Access

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL
1-800-354-9494 / 503-429-4006

Gift Certificates Available

900 MADISON AVE., VERNONIA, OR 97064
Just one block off scenic Nehalem River Hwy. (Oregon 47)

Wauna Federal Credit Union
Your hometown financial solution

800-773-3236 • www.waunafcu.org

Astoria	Clatskanie	St. Helens	Vernonia	Warrenton
503-325-1044	503-728-4321	503-366-1334	503-429-8031	503-861-7526

Securities offered exclusively through Duerr Financial Corporation member NASD/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer. Investments are not NCUA insured and can lose value, including principal. Not Credit Union Guaranteed.