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WHAT MAKES A VEHICLE “SAFE”?

FYI — safety isn’t just about _____. Your car has tools that can help you make decisions to help keep you _____. Let’s break down how it all works.

SEAT BELTS: YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

Of course, _____ are the simplest and most effective safety feature in any vehicle. Buckle up _____ you start up!

SEAT BELTS:

- _____ you from flying forward in a crash.
- _____ your head, spine and organs.
- _____ airbags, not replace them.

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- Should be over your _____, across your _____, and low and snug across your _____.

AIRBAGS: THE BACKUP SYSTEM

_____ add protection by rapidly inflating on impact to cushion your body — but they only work correctly when you're _____ up.

- Adjust your seat so that you're _____ from your driver's side airbag for safety. This distance is measured from the _____ of the steering wheel to your breastbone.
- Sit _____ from the steering wheel or dashboard — DON'T LEAN FORWARD, and never put your _____ on the dash!

MIRRORS HELP YOU SEE MORE

No matter how good your _____ are, you can't react to what you can't see!

_____ mirror = what's behind you

- Adjust so you can see the entire _____ window from the driver's seat. You should only have to move your _____. Adjust your mirrors _____ you start driving.

_____ mirrors = what's next to you

- To adjust the _____ side-view mirror, place your head against the _____ side window and set the mirror so you can just barely see the side of the car on the mirror's _____ side.

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- To adjust the _____ side-view mirror, position your head so that it is just _____ the center console. Set the mirror so you can just barely see the side of the car on the _____ side of the mirror.
- DO NOT _____ items from your mirror or _____ up the view through the windshield with decals.
- REMEMBER, objects may be _____ than they appear in the mirror, and mirrors don't show objects in your _____ spots.

BLIND SPOTS = HIDDEN DANGER

_____ are areas next to or behind your car that aren't visible in your _____. Missing them could lead to a _____.

- Always check over your _____ before changing lanes — don't just trust your _____!
- Do not drive on either side or slightly _____ other vehicles.
- When passing another vehicle, do not stay in another driver's _____ spot.
- Never stay alongside a _____ such as a tractor-trailer or bus.
- Get out of the other driver's blind spot as soon as possible by _____ or _____.

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BACKING UP

It can be difficult to get a _____ view behind your vehicle.

When backing up, you should:

- Check behind your vehicle _____ you get in. Children or small objects cannot be seen from the _____ seat.
- Place your _____ arm over the back of the _____ seat and turn your body so you can look directly through the rear and side windows. Do not depend on your _____, as you cannot see directly behind your vehicle.
- Back _____. Your vehicle is harder to steer while you are backing.
- While some vehicles have backup _____, you should primarily rely on your own _____.

BRAKING SYSTEM

Having brakes in good _____ condition is really important in preventing crashes.

If you notice any of these brake problems, take your vehicle to a licensed _____

for an inspection:

- You hear a noise from _____ the vehicle when you press the brake pedal.
- You smell a bad _____ during heavy braking.
- The vehicle doesn't brake _____ when you press the brake pedal.

LIGHTS

Working _____ are also very important for your safety.

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Every once in a while, check your turn _____, brake _____,
_____ and _____.

_____ help you see at night and help others see you.

Here's how to use them:

- Use headlights on rainy, snowy or foggy days so others can _____ you.
Arkansas law requires drivers to turn on their headlights when _____ are needed.
- Turn on your headlights anytime you cannot see a person or object clearly within _____ feet.
- Use _____ headlights when following another vehicle closer than 200 feet.
- _____ headlights are twice as bright as low-beams. Only use them when there are no oncoming vehicles or vehicles in front of you.
- Some vehicles have _____ that may be better suited to use in fog, rain or snow.

TO HONK OR NOT TO HONK?

Your horn should only be used to alert other road users of potential _____.

USE YOUR HORN

- A person on _____ or on a bike appears to be moving into your path.
- You are _____ a driver who starts to move or turn into your lane.
- A driver isn't paying _____ and doesn't see you.

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- You are approaching a location where you cannot see what is _____, like a steep hill.
- You lose control of your vehicle and you are moving into oncoming _____ or in the direction of _____.

DON'T USE YOUR HORN

- To encourage other vehicles to _____.
- To inform other drivers of a _____.
- To greet a _____ on the road.
- Near _____ pedestrians.

HAZARD LIGHTS

Hazard lights, or emergency flashers, alert others that something's _____ so they can give you space.

- Turn them on if your car _____.
- Use them if you're pulled over and need to _____ other drivers.
- Don't use them while driving unless you're moving very _____ for a reason, like a flat tire.

WINDSHIELD AND WIPERS

The _____ of your car ensures your safety while driving. You should always keep your windshield _____.

- If you get a _____ in your windshield, you should replace or repair it as

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soon as possible. Damaged glass can break more easily in a minor collision or when an object _____ the windshield.

- Wiper blades should be replaced every _____ or as soon as you notice a difference in visibility.

TIRES

Keeping your tires in good shape is essential for your _____. Check your vehicle manual for specifics about your tires and follow these guidelines:

- Maintain proper tire _____.
- Don't carry more _____ in your vehicle than your tires can safely handle.
- Avoid road _____, like potholes.
- _____ tires for cuts, slashes and other irregularities.

CHECK TIRE TREADS

In general, tires are not safe and should be replaced when the tread is worn down to _____ of an inch.

A method for checking tread depth is to place a _____ in the tread with Lincoln's head upside down and facing you. If you can see the _____ of Lincoln's head, you are ready for new tires.

EXHAUST SYSTEM

Your vehicle's _____ system removes toxic gases, helps cool the hot gases and reduces noise from the running engine.

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NEVER allow the engine to _____ in your garage or another enclosed area. Fumes from a car exhaust can cause _____ in a very short time!

TALK WITH YOUR BLINKER

Other drivers can't read your mind! _____ or "blinkers" show what you're planning to do. You should warn other drivers you are going to change _____.

- Use _____ turning, merging into traffic or changing lanes.
- Signal early — if possible, you should signal your intentions to turn at least _____ before a turn.
- Turn them _____ after you're done. A false turn signal is unsafe.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE - STAY ROAD READY

A well-maintained car is a _____ car. Stay on top of regular _____, like oil changes, tire rotations and brake checks.

And those little _____ on your dashboard? They tell you something's up! Don't ignore them — get help from an adult or check your _____.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

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What part of vehicle safety do you think most people forget?
