

VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Driving a company/department vehicle may be different than operating your own vehicle. More rules certainly apply. Before you drive a company/department vehicle, make sure it is safe by conducting a vehicle safety inspection. Check the vehicle to be sure:

- The vehicle does not have any visible damage that affects its safe operation.
- The tires are properly inflated (use the vehicle manufacturer's recommendations that are typically noted on a sticker inside the door, glove box, or trunk -- the pressures stamped on the tire are not specific to the vehicle). Check the pressure when the tires are cold.
- Tires have sufficient tread depth (tread depth should be at least 1/16 inch).
- The vehicle's fluid levels are correct (oil, brake, transmission, battery, and wiper fluids).
- Belts and hoses are free of blisters, cracks, and cuts.
- The vehicle has plenty of fuel.
- The windshield wipers are in good condition and are functional.
- You are familiar with the location and operation of all the vehicle's controls; and the seat, steering wheel, and mirrors are properly adjusted.
- Headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, and interior lights are working.
- The seat belt is properly adjusted, and it's in good condition.
- The vehicle is equipped with an emergency kit.
- Loose objects are secured so they won't shift to cause injury during a sudden stop or turn.

A safety inspection is only helpful if you report defects or unsafe conditions right away. Don't risk driving an unsafe vehicle.

Content Source: NDDOT State Fleet (Users of Safety Talk are advised to determine the suitability of the information as it applies to local situations and work practices and its conformance with applicable laws and regulations).

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