



Safety Tips

A five minute training Series for PCOs.



Flat Tires

Handling A Flat Tire Safely

- Always check your spare tire, at least twice a week to make sure you still have one and it is in good enough condition to use in an emergency.
- If you have a flat tire while driving, DO NOT slam on your brakes.
- Let off of the gas pedal, and come to a stop gradually. Brake softly, if possible.
- Turn on your flashers immediately to warn others of your hazard.
- Pull off of the road into a parking lot as soon as you can do so safely.
- If a parking lot or similar location is not available, pull off on a shoulder wide enough to accommodate your vehicle.
- If the flat is a left tire, pull off of the road on a left shoulder if possible. Pull off on the right side of the road if you have a right tire flat. When changing a tire, you are better off working on the side away from a traffic lane.
- Do not leave your vehicle running while attempting to change a tire.
- Place a cone, reflector triangle or similar warning device far enough back to warn approaching traffic of your vehicle hazard.
- Chock your tires before jacking up the vehicle. Use at least two chocks, one in front of a tire and one to the rear to prevent the vehicle from rolling either way.
- Loosen the lug nuts before jacking your vehicle all the way off of the ground. This will help hold the tire until the lugs nuts are loose. Breaking the lug nuts loose while the vehicle is jacked up can cause the vehicle to move off of the jack.
- Regardless of the kind of jack your vehicle has, you should carry a block big enough to hold the axle up when the jack is let down slightly. This will help prevent the vehicle from sliding off of the jack, especially on a slope or on soft ground. Put the block under the jacked up axle and then lower the jack enough to allow at least some of the vehicle's weight to be on the block. This will lessen the possibility of the vehicle sliding off of the jack.
- If possible notify someone where you are and that you are changing a flat tire. If they are not notified soon that you are ok and back on the road, they will know to send help.
- Wear gloves. Often flat tires have the steel belt wiring sticking out which can cut and infect your hands.

