

Summer road-trippers should brush up on their safe driving tips now

With summer just around the corner, Canadian families will soon take to the open road.

Now is a good time for summer road-trippers to brush up on the important tips that can contribute to safe driving as they explore the great Canadian outdoors or enjoy an urban adventure.

Michelin Canada encourages drivers to minimize the risk of on-road emergencies simply by preparing ahead of time, conducting proper safety checks and adhering to safe driving tips.

Check Your Tires: After all, your tires are the only part of your car that touches the road.

- Check your tires for wear— Using the 'Penny Test,' put the edge of the coin into the tread with the Queen

going in headfirst. If the top of the Queen's head is covered by tread, that's good. If the top of her head is entirely visible, it's time to replace the tire.

- Check the air pressure— Tires have been known to lose up to 1 psi (pounds per square inch) of pressure every month. Use a proper pressure gauge to check pressure when tires are 'cold' (before driving or three hours after driving). Make sure your tires are inflated to the psi on the sticker inside the driver's door of your car. DO NOT compare to the psi on your tire's sidewall.

- Don't mix tires— If you're replacing only two new tires instead of four, be sure they are the same size and type as the current ones. Always install the new tires on the rear axle

of your vehicle, which will reduce the risk of fishtailing and loss of stability in wet conditions.

Wet Driving: Wet road conditions present dangers of less grip and longer stopping distance.

- Slow down. Slowing down dramatically decreases the risk of accidents in rain.

- Always drive with two hands on the steering wheel

- Slow down before turning and maintain a consistent speed throughout the turn.

- While turning, don't make sudden steering wheel movements.

- Only brake in a straight line before the turn and do so gradually. Do not brake during the turn.

- Increase your following distance from other cars to allow for more

stopping range.

- If hydroplaning, do not accelerate or brake suddenly. Keep your foot lightly on the gas and steer the car forward until your tires regain traction.

Blowouts: This can be one of the most frightening moments on the road.

- As prevention, always drive with both hands on the wheel.

- If you have a tire blowout, don't panic. The loud noise will startle you, but follow these rules, and you'll quickly and safely regain control. First, keep your foot on the gas, grip the wheel firmly and stay in your lane, then, slow down gradually and carefully steer toward the shoulder of the road.

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*Lease offer for 2013 Nissan Altima (T4TG13 NV10) is plus paint charge (if applicable) HST and Lic fees. Residual is \$12,279.20 plus HST. Lease rate is 1.9%. Total lease obligation is \$21,300 plus HST and lic. Excess km charge is 10 cents per km.

†Lease offer for 2013 Nissan Sentra (C4LG13 8E00) is plus paint charge (if applicable) HST and Lic fees. Residual is \$7,194.68 plus HST. Lease rate is 0.9% Total lease obligation is \$12,900 plus HST and lic. Excess km charge is 10 cents per km.