

Getting "tired" of safety information?

Most Anderson parents and many Anderson students own cars and/or drive and often we may not think much about where the rubber meets the road. How recently have you checked your tires...and how OLD they are?

One Anderson parent recently saw an Internet video of a 20/20 news report (<http://abcnews.go.com/Video/playerIndex?id=4826897>), then immediately checked the tires on all of the family's cars and is replacing the tires on the daughter's car. They appear to be in good condition (enough tread) but are too old. As tires age, they dry out and become brittle, which can lead to catastrophic tire tread separations. When a tire tread separation occurs, it usually ends up in a serious auto accident because it causes the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

The above news report talks about tires which can sit in stores or trunks (as spares) for years before being used, with tragic and sometimes fatal results. Bottom line: follow the recommendations of a growing number of industry groups and do NOT buy tires that are at more than 6 years old, even if they are "new" (never used) and replace ALL tires, regardless of wear, no later than 10 years after manufacture (and maybe sooner - what effect does our hot Texas sun have on tires?).

How to know when a tire was manufactured? Look for the DOT information. The last group of numbers is the week and year of manufacture. If the tire was made before 2000, the last digit represents the year and the numbers before that are the week. For example, 469 means the tire was manufactured in the 46th week of 1999. Beginning in 2000, the last 2 digits are the year and the digits before that are the week. So 5001 means the tire was made in the 50th week of 2001 (over 6 years ago), and 606 means the tire was made in the 6th week of 2006.

Want more details? Get on the Internet and Google "aging tires". And check your tires to see if any should be "retired".