

Driver Safety — Changing Automobile Tires

Staying safe while changing automobile tires: Whether changing tires is a person's regular job (such as an auto mechanic) or an infrequent event on your own vehicle, precautions must be taken to ensure the safety of the person changing the tire.

Safety hazards associated with the following can cause injury:

- Your visibility of other vehicles and traffic
- Putting the vehicle on a jack
- The handling of tires



Important things to do prior to changing the tires:

- **Read the vehicle owner's manual:** Also make sure to do pre-trip inspections to assure you and your vehicle are prepared.
- **Call into home or your office to alert someone of the issue:** Call the police if you need help.
- **Pull off of the road:** Pull off as far as you safely can in order to avoid traffic.
- **Turn off the engine and activate flashers (hazard lights):** Place flares or warning triangles to alert oncoming vehicles.
- **Make sure the vehicle doesn't move:** Set the emergency brake, and put the vehicle in first gear (if it's a manual transmission) or park. Assure the vehicle is on level and stable ground.
- **Put on your safety vest:** Assume that approaching vehicles cannot see you!
- **Ensure the vehicle doesn't roll:** Place wheel chocks (or large rock, log, etc. if you do not have a chock) behind and in front of the opposing wheel to prevent the vehicle from rolling.
- **Wear gloves to handle the tire:** Use caution when removing the spare tire from the trunk, storage compartment or if mounted under or on the rear of the vehicle. A vehicle tire can weigh over 50 pounds. Carefully lift the tire to keep from injuring yourself. Ensure the spare tire is properly inflated upon removal from the vehicle.



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Safe and efficient tire changing:

- **Slightly loosen the lug nuts before jacking up the vehicle:** Place one end of the tire iron over a lug nut. Turn the tire iron and loosen the lug nut. Remember “righty-tighty, lefty-loosey”. Loosen the lug nuts in a star pattern, loosening one a few turns, then loosening the one opposite.
- **Jack the vehicle up:** Follow the vehicle maintenance instructions. Check your owner's manual for the correct and safe place to put the jack. Jack the vehicle up a little higher than is necessary to remove the old tire so there is room to put the new, full tire on.
- **Remove the lug nuts all the way:** Carefully remove the old tire by lifting it slowly off the wheel studs.
- **Replace with the new tire:** Lift the new tire onto the studs. Again, use caution to ensure the vehicle does not slip off the jack. Ensure the wheel is flush over the studs prior to replacing lug nuts.
- **Replace the lug nuts:** Tighten the lug nuts the same way you loosened them, with the star pattern. Give each nut a few turns, first one, then the one opposite, working around the wheel in a star pattern.
- **Slowly lower the jack and remove it:** Ensure your feet are cleared from underneath the tire.
- **Tighten the lug nuts:** Make sure the lug nuts are as tight as possible.
- **Put everything away:** Carefully place flat tire and tools back in the vehicle.



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This form documents that the training specified above was presented to the listed participants. By signing below, each participant acknowledges receiving this training.

Organization: _____ Date: _____

Trainer: _____ Trainer's Signature: _____

Class Participants:

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

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