



New year, New Safety Officer! I am honored to hold this office for you!

A little about me, I was a police officer and traffic crash investigator for over nine years in Richmond and Henrico, Virginia in the 80s. In the 21st century, I worked for a major supermarket in Buffalo NY as a tractor trailer driver. I drove almost 100,000 miles annually. For 17 out of 20 years I worked there, I was one of several Safety officers. I have been riding motorcycle for nearly 50 years.

I'd like to talk about tires for my first Safety Brief.

This time of year with temperature variances as they are, it is imperative to keep watch on your bikes tire pressure! It's simple with these new bikes as the readout is right on the instrument cluster. But it's a little more difficult with an older unit. My 12 Ultra for instance, I had to raise it up, rotate the tire, locate the stem and pull it outwards a bit to put the gauge on it. Tires need to be properly inflated in order to minimize their footprint. An under inflated tire will have a larger footprint, thus having less weight per square inch in contact with the ground. This will lower your hydroplaning speed. It can also cause your tire to run hot. Have you ever noticed all the blown tires in the springtime on the interstate? Folks leave their campers and boat trailers sit all winter and get out on the road without ever checking air pressure. It is also important that the tire is not overinflated. An overinflated tire will wear in the center, and wear out faster as there is less tire or smaller footprint on the ground. Because it's hard, it may blow out if impacted by a pothole or other road hazard. Lastly, keep check of your tread depth. You can purchase a tread depth indicator (tdi) at any store that carries automotive products. You want to replace your tires by the time they reach 2/32 of tread or when the wear bars are level. By then, it is imperative and you shouldn't ride on those tires! Call me, you can borrow my trailer to bring your bike in for tires! Remember, you're on two, ok, maybe three tires. If a tire should fail, it's going to be worse than losing one out of four!

Please, ride safe! See and be seen!

Dave aka Cabbie