

OBJECTIVE 2.8 Identify elements of an acceptable law enforcement vehicle inspection.

INTRODUCTION

The student must realize the importance of a safe vehicle inspection. A properly inspected vehicle will ensure a greater degree of confidence, reliability, and functionality with respect to vehicle performance and condition. The inspection would include, but not limit itself to, the following categories:

1. Mechanical conditions under the hood
2. Interior conditions
3. Exterior conditions

CONTENT

AN INSPECTION CHECKLIST FOR EACH OF THE CATEGORIES:

1. Mechanical
 - (a) Fluid: brake, oil, transmission, radiator, battery, windshield wipers, power steering
 - (b) Belts and hoses
 - (c) Wires
 - (d) Loose, worn, or broken items
2. Interior
 - (a) Brakes and emergency brake
 - (b) Horn, P.A. system and siren(s)
 - (c) Gauges and warning devices
 - (d) Windshield wipers
 - (e) Fuel

- (f) Occupant protection systems
- (g) Mirrors
- (h) Seat adjustment and security
- (i) Door locks

3. Exterior

- (a) Tire, air pressure, tread/speed rating*
- (b) Locks
- (c) Mirrors, windows, lights
- (d) Headlights, tail lights, emergency lights, spotlight
- (e) Damage to the vehicle
- (f) Hood and door latches

SUMMARY

Vehicle inspections reduce the possibility of vehicle malfunction. The likelihood of a student conducting a vehicle inspection will be increased with awareness or knowledge of the benefits of preventive maintenance and the ability of a checklist.

VEHICLE INSPECTION SHEET	
<p>Tires</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Tire tread depth ! Inflation pressure ! Checks, cracks, cuts ! Speed Rating <p>Wheels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Rim damage ! Lug nuts <p>Driver Passenger Compartment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Brake operation ! Steering system ! Restraint system ! Two-way radio system ! Secure or remove loose objects 	<p>Engine Compartment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Oil Level ! Coolant level ! Brake Fluid ! Battery water level ! Accessory belts ! Power steering fluid level <p>Trunk Compartment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ! Spare tire and jack secure ! Special equipment secured on blowout and skid vehicle ! Air tanks filled ! Secure or remove loose objects <p>CHECK FUEL LEVEL</p>

SUGGESTED INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

LECTURE

Use the content outline to present the material to the class. Develop hand-outs based on the material.

SMALL GROUP

Divide the class into groups of 3-6 students. Have each group develop a list of why an inspection should be done and what can happen when an inspection is not performed. List the answers, thus allowing for group approval or reaction. Instructor summarizes.

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING

Compile checklists for the types of vehicles the students will be driving for their respective agencies. The instructor can offer suggestions for addition or deletion.

RANGE

Using their assigned law enforcement vehicle, a training vehicle, or personal vehicle, have the students perform pre-op inspections using their checklists. This can be done individually or in teams.

RESOURCES AND AIDS

1. Owner's vehicle manual
2. Driver education textbooks
3. Automobile-related magazines or booklets
4. "Taking Care of Your Car," a filmstrip and audiocassette by Safety Industries, Inc.

SUGGESTED EVALUATION METHODOLOGY**STUDENTS**

1. Written or verbal response to questions on vehicle inspections
2. Demonstration of a proper inspection by the student

COURSE

1. Observation of on-the-job performance of vehicle inspection

* See Appendix for speed rating chart with tire pressure chart.

Components of Safe Habits

Three Components of Driving

- **Awareness**
- **Recognition of changes**
- **Space Management**
 - **Planning ahead for the actual or intended path of travel**
- **Collision Avoidance**
 - **Quickly and efficiently placing the vehicle into an alternative path to minimize or avoid collisions**