



AUTOMOTIVE INFORMATION MONTHLY



Enjoy this automotive special feature brought to you by the News-Register Advertising Department and local businesses

5 INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SPEEDING

Speeding is one of the main causes of car accidents in the United States. Here are some facts on this subject that should cause drivers to think twice before exceeding the speed limit.

1 If you speed, you won't arrive at your destination much faster. For example, cruising at 75 miles per hour in a 65-mile-per-hour zone for 50 miles only shaves off six minutes from your total driving time.

2 A car's braking distance is nearly three times longer at 60 miles per hour than at 30 miles per hour. And if you're driving a semi-truck, it's about twice as long as that. For example, the braking distance of a semi going 60 miles per hour is about 100 feet

3 In terms of force, a collision at 30 miles per hour is similar to a fall from four stories. A collision at 60 miles per hour is more like a fall from 14 stories.

4 The faster you drive, the more your brain is bombarded with visual information. This results in tunnel vision and a decrease in depth perception.

5 Studies suggest that if everyone drove just one mile per hour slower on urban streets, this would lead to a six percent decrease in traffic fatalities.

To sum up, there's really no good reason to speed. Always respect speed limits and encourage those around you to do the same.



DASHBOARD WARNING LIGHTS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Dashboard warning lights turn on when there's a problem with your car. If the light is red, the issue is urgent. If it's yellow, the problem is less pressing but should be remedied as soon as possible. Here are five dashboard warning lights that drivers should be familiar with.

1 Engine temperature warning light

This light indicates that the engine is too hot. Overheating is usually caused by low coolant levels or a coolant leak. If this light comes on when you're driving, pull over and turn off the car. If you have coolant on hand, add it to your vehicle once the engine cools. If you don't have any coolant, you may need to have your car towed.

2 Tire pressure warning light

This light tells you that there isn't enough air in one or more of your tires. Low tire pressure increases gas consumption and your risk of being in an accident. Pull into a gas station as soon as possible to put air in your tires.

3 Anti-lock brake warning light

This light indicates that the anti-lock braking system (ABS) isn't working properly. If it turns on, drive cautiously to avoid scenarios in which you'd need to rely on your ABS and make an appointment to have your brakes inspected as soon as possible.

4 Icy road warning light

When the temperature dips below 37 F, roads get icy. This warning light gives you a heads up that you may need to adjust your driving due to icy road conditions.

5 Traction control light

When this light flickers on, it's to tell you that your tires are spinning. Ease up on the gas to recover traction.

Consult the user's manual of your vehicle to learn the meaning of your other dashboard warning lights.

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