



The days are growing shorter; do a safety check on your car

The beginning of school and the upcoming Labor Day holiday are signs that summer is rapidly drawing to a close. Sept. 23, the autumnal equinox, will make it official — summer will be over and the days of autumn will be growing shorter and shorter.

Late summer and early fall are good times to check out your vehicle to make sure it is safe to operate. You probably have not used your headlights and wiper blades very much lately. Are they still working well? How about the rest of the vehicle?

Here are some tips to get ready for shorter and perhaps wetter days as winter approaches. These tips are valuable for your personal vehicles, and they also apply to government vehicles:

- Make sure wiper blades are in good condition.
- Check all lights including brake lights.
- Check fluid levels: oil, coolant and windshield washer fluid. Use caution when checking coolant. It is best to just do a visual check of the expansion tank.
- Do a quick visual inspection of the engine compartment looking for leaks or obvious signs of wear on belts and hoses.
- Check tires for wear and proper inflation.
- Be ready for changing conditions. Make sure you are equipped for conditions you may encounter.

Should you have a problem or concern with a government vehicle, the Fleet Maintenance Shops encourage you to stop by and check with them. ♦