



SAFER DRIVING: Inspector Rosemary Leech, Lawrence Reavy, regional chairman, NTDA and Ian Russell, NIAS launch National Tyre Safety Week
PICTURE: Simon Graham/Harrison Photography

Motorists urged to check tyres regularly

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MOTORISTS are being urged to check out their rubber on the road as part of National Tyre Safety Week which started on Monday.

Good, properly inflated tyres are vital as they are the only part of contact with the road, yet many drivers neglect them.

The National Tyre Distributors Association initiative aims to attempt to educate drivers with new advice on how to 'ACT' to ensure they comply with tyre safety regulations.

The new ACT incentive is aimed at encouraging all drivers to check their tyres every two weeks to help to save lives and to reduce the risk of penalties.

NTDA regional chairman Lawrence Reavy said: "There have been in the region of 4,700 road crashes and 77 fatalities this year in Northern Ireland alone.

"Poor tyre safety is all too often a

major contributing factor.

"We have introduced the new ACT promotion this year in an attempt to encourage drivers to remember the key keep-safe facts associated with tyre safety."

Mr Reavy explained ACT.

"The letter A stands for air pressure. An incorrect level of air can cause steering, accelerating and breaking difficulties.

"In addition, during this current economic climate, many drivers will be shocked to know that running on tyres 10psi below the recommended level adds a cost equivalent to an extra 3p on a litre of fuel.

"The letter C stands for condition of tyres. Tyres should be free of any stones etc, and fitted with a dirt-free valve cap.

"T stands for tread depth. By law, cars must have a minimum of 1.6mm of tread depth in a continuous band."

The tyre expert said: "Many motorists

won't be aware of any of these requirements and face a hefty fine and can even lose their licence."

John McPoland from the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service has experience of the repercussions of poor tyre safety daily.

He said: "The ambulance service is very much in support of this awareness-building initiative in an attempt to reduce the number of accidents on our roads. We are all too often the first on the scene of a road traffic accident. Many of our medics have experienced the tragedies firsthand."

PSNI Inspector Rosemary Leech said: "In too many instances motorists are unaware of the state of their tyres, this coupled with excessive speed and inattention or carelessness may contribute to collisions and fatalities as we enter the winter months."