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Safety tip: circle checks

The police are encouraging people to drive safely, to wear their seatbelts and obey the rules of the road. Traffic safety is an important issue, but what happens when you're faced with a hazard you didn't expect?

Recently in the GTA, a pedestrian was killed by a flying truck tire. Last month, a local trucker was charged when a tire from his vehicle came off.

Once again, officers have responded to a call of a loose truck wheel. An investigation has revealed that the wheel came off as a result of fastener failure, something that should be caught by a driver on a circle check. A loose truck tire weighs several hundred kilograms, and can cause catastrophic injuries and damage if it strikes another vehicle.

It is a daily duty of truck operators to make sure their rig is mechanically sound. A pre-trip inspection is key to ensuring all the equipment is present and in good working order. In most cases, a pre-trip inspection will catch a mechanical deficiency before it becomes a hazard.

If you are a trucker, we remind you to do your pre-trip inspection as required.

As a car driver, take a walk around your car. Are all the lights and signals operating? Do your wipers need replacing? Check your tires and their pressure. With winter approaching, consider installing snow tires.

Have a safety kit in your truck to assist you in an emergency.

The mechanical safety of your car is your responsibility. A quick check will ensure a safe and secure drive, no matter the size of your vehicle.