

Kal Tire Cautions Drivers in Advance of Upcoming Pothole Season

VERNON, BC -- It's a constant battle every spring as drivers do their best to avoid the dreaded holes in the road that inevitably show up after a harsh Canadian winter. And they are bound to start showing up on a road near you soon. As temperatures start to fluctuate from the very cold of winter to the warmer temperature of spring, those cracks in the road are turning into potholes and are only going to get bigger and more dangerous.

Every year work crews are seen trying to fill in these annoying, and often dangerous road hazards, and every year drivers complain about them and do their best to avoid them. This year <u>Kal Tire</u> is cautioning drivers about the <u>dangers that potholes can do to your vehicle</u>.

"Obviously, avoiding them in the first place would be anyone's preference," says Sean Thompson, mechanical program manager, Kal Tire. "However, when the inevitable happens and you hit one of these potholes, there are a few things drivers can do to ensure their vehicle is still safe to drive."

Wheel balancing weights can often fall off due to the impact of your car hitting a pothole. If you start to feel a strange vibration from your car after hitting that pothole, it's possible the impact caused one of yours to fall off and may need to be rebalanced.

Wheel alignment issues are often signified by your vehicle pulling to one side or not driving straight, and can occur after the impact of hitting a pothole. Even the smallest alignment issue can cause some serious uneven tire wear, shortening the life of your tires.

Suspension can also be affected, especially your front-end components as they take the initial brunt of the impact. Poor suspension can greatly reduce your ability to control your vehicle, and can also cause your tires to wear unevenly.

Proper tire inflation is critical to help reduce the chance of injuring your vehicle's tires and wheels. Ensuring your tires are inflated to the recommended PSI could be the difference between a bent rim or damaged tire when you hit a pothole. An under-inflated tire could cause irreparable damage if you are unlucky enough to hit one of these craters in the road.

Often you may be able to see the actual damage caused to your vehicle by performing a close-up visual inspection. However, if you can't see any obvious damage and your car just doesn't feel right after hitting a pothole, be sure to bring it to your service center where the experts can take a closer look.

About Kal Tire

Kal Tire is Canada's largest independent tire dealer and North America's largest commercial tire dealer. Kal Tire Mining Tire Group is a global lead in mining tire service and supply, operating on more than 150 mine sites in 17 countries across five continents. The company has warehouse facilities strategically located across Canada servicing more than 250 Kal Tire retail and commercial stores. As the largest truck tire retreader in Canada, Kal Tire owns and operates 10 truck tire retread facilities plus an additional four earthmover retreading facilities are located in Canada, the United Kingdom and Ghana, West Africa. The company employs more than 5,400 team members. For more information on Kal Tire, please visit KalTire.com.

Bree Cawley Communications Specialist P: 250-558-3273 bree_cawley@kaltire.com