

Three-nation tests to probe auto fuel waste

Three year project planned to study engine condition effect on emissions also

A test program to determine how engine condition relates to fuel economy and emissions has been launched by Champion Spark Plug Company.

Tests will be run in 30 U.S., Canadian and Mexican cities during the next three years.

The new series of tests is the most comprehensive look at motorist maintenance habits and their effect on gasoline consumption and excessive emissions ever undertaken by a non-governmental source.

Data gathered in these cities will be compared to results from earlier studies that have proven helpful in formulating maintenance recommendations. Results also will be made available to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Federal Energy Administration for their use in formulating clean air and fuel economy standards.

According to David L. Walker, Champion's Automotive Technical Services Director, "United States test locations were selected primarily because they were

Everything but your gloves

To solve the "it's never there when you need it" problem, here's a list of items every motorist should keep in his glove compartment.

A flashlight, first aid kit, white cloth to use for emergency signalling, pa-

per towel, "soap-and-towel" packets.

Also, coins taped inside the door for an emergency phone call in case of car trouble.

If you drive an older car, it's increasingly important to check the alignment of your headlights. As cars get older, they develop sagging springs which can affect aim of the lights.

listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as areas with serious air pollution problems. In fact, the EPA recently recommended that these areas introduce mandatory inspection programs for vehicle emissions."

He continued, "Maintenance neglect that produces gasoline waste also causes excessive emissions, and vice versa."

Previous tests

Mr. Walker noted that Champion previously conducted nationwide tests on the effects of tune-up on fuel economy and emissions. Those tests showed that an engine in need of tune-up wastes 8.2 per cent of its fuel, equal to between one and two gallons of gasoline per tankful based on a 20-gallon tank capacity. An estimated 300,000 barrels of fuel daily, costing motorists more than \$2 billion a year, are being wasted through engine neglect.

Emissions tests conducted by Champion revealed nearly a 50 per cent reduction in harmful pollutants at hot idle after-tune-up.

Some of the causes

Conditions causing fuel waste and excess carbon monoxide emissions include faulty carburetor, sticking choke, wrong idle setting, dirty air cleaner and related problems.

Common causes of high hydrocarbon emissions and poor gas mileage include a weak ignition system, worn out or fouled spark plugs, improper timing, malfunctioning distributor components, worn or damaged wiring or poor compression.

All these conditions other than poor compression due to engine wear are correctable by tune-up.

save our fuel resources. It would be counterproductive if the car manufacturers improved fuel economy only to have their efforts offset through motorists' neglect of car maintenance.

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