

SAFE DRIVING

Matters

**MONTLICK &
ASSOCIATES**
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Information and Tips to Protect You and Your Family

What To Do During a Tire Blowout



Knowing What To Do, and What Not To Do, Can Help Save Lives!

A tire blow out can happen at any time. This sudden loss of air pressure is always dangerous, but even more so when travelling at high speeds down Georgia's busy highways. Following these tips from the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) can help you safely regain control of your vehicle, and could help you avoid a serious— and potentially fatal— collision.

What Happens in a Tire Blowout?

During a blowout, a tire loses pressure extremely quickly, either due to a puncture, or some other catastrophic failure. Often, there is a loud noise, and the vehicle vibrates and begins to swerve. Because of the sudden loss of vehicle control, it's important to know exactly what to do, so that you can react properly; and avoid any panic or overreaction that could make the situation worse.

What Drivers Should NOT Do

According to the NHTSA, the most important thing to remember during a blowout, is what **NOT** to do:

Do NOT to step on the brake. As instinctive as it may be, it's the worst mistake you can make. That's because applying the brakes will cause an even greater imbalance on the vehicle's stability.

Do NOT abruptly release your foot from the accelerator. This is the second worst mistake you can make. Rapidly releasing the accelerator causes the vehicle to transfer more of its weight from the rear tires to the front tires. With a flat tire, this can lead to a complete loss of control of the vehicle.

Always remember, the goal in any blowout situation is to keep the vehicle balanced and controllable. Do not panic. Any over-reaction by the driver – including slamming on the brakes or abruptly removing your foot from the accelerator – can result in a further loss of vehicle control.

What Drivers Should Do

The NHTSA advises drivers to follow these three steps during a blowout: 1) Gradually release the accelerator. 2) Correct the steering as necessary to stabilize your vehicle and regain control. Look where you want the vehicle to go and steer in that direction. 3) Once your vehicle has stabilized, continue to slow down and pull off the road where and when you judge it's safe to do so.

Remember, no matter which tire blows out — front or back — the do's and don'ts for safely maintaining control of your vehicle are exactly the same. The only difference between a front and rear tire blowout is that you will feel the force of a front blowout more in the vehicle's steering, while you'll feel a rear blowout more in the seat or body of the vehicle.



Tires are the only contact your car has with the road, so be sure to maintain them properly—and on a regular basis!

Tips to Help Prevent a Blowout

We cannot overemphasize the importance of properly maintaining your tires! Tires that are underinflated, overinflated, overloaded, misaligned or unbalanced are more likely to fail.

These conditions cause friction and/or uneven wear; putting extra stress on your tires that can easily lead to a blowout. Checking your tires regularly will help you avoid such dangerous conditions — and will help ensure the safest ride possible for you and your family.

Source: NHTSA

These are just a few things you can do to protect your family in the event of a Tire Blowout. Please visit Montlick.com or HelpKeepKidsSafe.org and click on "Family Safety and Legal Tips," to see our latest safety videos and downloadable materials, and to register for Free Safety Alerts.

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