Winter is approaching, bringing with it special demands on both drivers and vehicles. But for preventative maintenance and other needed repairs, there's no time like the present, according to State Motor Vehicles Commissioner Patricia B. Adduci. “October is Car Care Month in New York State. It gives us an ideal opportunity to prepare our vehicles for the cooler weather and hazardous driving conditions ahead,” noted Commissioner Adduci. Engines tune-ups, oil changes, windshield wiper replacements, and a check of the vehicle’s lights, belts, hoses, filters, and anti-freeze and other fluid levels are important for proper vehicle maintenance. They help reduce traffic accidents, improve vehicle performance and improve air quality. State law requires an annual safety inspection for over ten million registered vehicles across the state. In addition, in the New York metropolitan nine-county area, the required exhaust emissions inspection contributes significantly to cleaner, healthier air.

The change in season makes it more important than ever to check over the exhaust system carefully and completely. Failure to repair holes and leaks in the exhaust system means increased danger of carbon monoxide poisoning during the long idling periods, which often occur in winter. Failure to properly maintain your motor vehicle is penny wise and pound foolish,” said Commissioner Adduci. “Inadequate maintenance leads to improper performance, poor fuel economy, higher repair costs, and perhaps even accidents.” Commissioner Adduci also reminded motorists that Motor Vehicles provides assistance to motorists all year long by accepting and investigating complaints that motorists cannot resolve themselves with repair shops, inspection stations and dealers. The Department of Motor Vehicles Automotive Hotline numbers are (518) 474-8943 in the Albany calling area, and 1-800-342-3823 toll free in all other areas in the state.

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