MAINTENANCE MATTERS

Hot tips for cold weather

It’s that time of year again. Summer’s gone, and it’s time to get coaches in trim for the winter season. An ounce of prevention now will certainly go a long way to avoiding out-of-service situations later on.

Here is a short list of the things you should be checking out extra carefully before winter.

- **Coolant strength and contamination:** This is a good time to verify additive level with a test strip.
- **Check, clean and load test batteries:** Verify and clean all major connections and grounds. Remember that, as the temperature drops, so does battery efficiency. This is winter’s number one emergency service call! Verify voltage setting at the regulator at this time.
- **Make sure windshield wiper and washer system is working properly:** Replace wiper blades.
- **CHANGE the air dryer desiccant cartridge and verify the air dryer heater function:** Remember to ice down base to get heater to come on. Check the purge valve operation; change if required and adjust your air pressure setting.
- **Pack ice onto your rearview mirrors to ensure that the mirror heaters are functional.**
- **Replace your suspension filter.**
- **Measure the tread depth of your tires:** If you are using winter tires, put them on now. Remember that the lower the air temperature, the lower the tire’s air pressure. Verify tire pressures and check more frequently over the winter season.
- **Replace or clean all the HVAC filters (don’t forget the driver’s):** Open auxiliary heater; clean the chamber, and replace the electrodes and fuel nozzle. Test-run system to full heat and verify function. Inspect function of HVAC damper doors.
- **Check all exterior lights:** Drivers should do this daily, but do it again while looking carefully at the light assemblies for sign of dirt entry or moisture. Fixing any problems now will be less costly than later, should road salts attack internal light parts.
- **Lastly, this is the time of the year to give your drivers a pep talk:** Above all, remind them to watch their speed and maintain a safe distance from the vehicle in front of them.

The FYI from MCI staff wishes you a safe and prosperous winter season.