

Check To Protect

Driving Instructor Resources

More than 50 million vehicles on the road have open safety recalls¹. Some of these recalls can cause life-threatening injuries. Unfortunately, many vehicle owners are unaware of how serious recalls are or even that their vehicle may be affected. Additionally, many are unaware recalls are free to repair at an authorized local dealership. You can help by taking **five minutes** in your driver education classes to discuss how checking for recalls should be part of regularly scheduled maintenance. You can show new drivers how to check for recalls and to explain the importance of getting free repairs scheduled immediately.

LOOKING FOR RESOURCES?

- + **Download materials:** We provide social assets and other resources at <https://www.nsc.org/road/safety-topics/check-to-protect>
- + **Request custom materials or information:** Looking for additional information or resources, such as data specific to your state or for a template PowerPoint presentation for your students? Please reach out to ChecktoProtect@nsc.org.

CHECK TO PROTECT

- + Check To Protect® is a national public awareness campaign that encourages drivers to check the recall status of their vehicle and have open safety recalls fixed immediately.
- + Check To Protect® is led by the National Safety Council and founding coalition partner, Stellantis (Chrysler). Coalition members include Toyota, Ford, Volvo, BMW, and General Motors.

DETAILED TALKING POINTS

- + More than **50 million vehicles in the U.S.** have unrepaired, open recalls. That's roughly one in five vehicles on the road¹ ; yours could be one of them.
 - o This includes the Takata airbag recall which involves 19 vehicle manufacturers and approximately 67 million air bags in tens of millions of vehicles in the United States.²
 - o In a crash, recalled airbags can rupture and spray shrapnel into the vehicle, transforming from lifesaving devices into life threatening ones.²
 - o Automakers send notifications about safety recalls, but if you own an older or used vehicle, or regularly take your vehicle to a mechanic, your contact information may not be on file.
- + It is easy to check for vehicle recalls for **FREE**.
 - o You can insert your vehicle's VIN or license plate in [CheckToProtect.org](https://www.CheckToProtect.org).
 - Your VIN – or vehicle identification number – is a 17 character ID found on the driver's side dashboard, the inside of the driver's door, and on registration or insurance documents.
 - o If you have a safety recall, you will be directed to find your closest dealer and schedule a free repair.

- + All vehicle recalls are **FREE to repair** at your local authorized dealership.
 - Recalls are repaired for free, regardless of whether you purchased the vehicle from the dealership or take your vehicle there for service – all you need to do is schedule an appointment.
 - Many dealerships offer additional services for recall repair customers, such as alternate transportation. Some even will bring the recall repairs to you.

- + Checking for – and promptly fixing – safety recalls is as important as checking your oil and tire pressure. **It should be part of your vehicle maintenance routine.**
 - If left unrepaired, safety recalls may put the lives of drivers and their passengers at risk. Don't put yourself or your loved ones in danger when there's a free solution.
 - Recall repairs can also help you improve the longevity of your vehicle and avoid costly repairs or damages.
 - Set reminders to check for recalls or select key moments in the year, such as the beginning and the end of the school year, or when you change your clocks for daylight savings.

SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENT

- + Ask all driver education students to come to class with the VIN or license plate of the vehicle they drive most often. If they don't have access to a vehicle, suggest a friend's vehicle.
- + Take a moment in class for everyone to check the recall status of their vehicle. Ask students to send you a screen grab of the recall report (does not need to be shared with the class).
- + Ask any students with open recalls on their vehicles to find a dealership in the area and write down the phone number or email of their service center. Follow up in the next class about their appointment.

¹ “Carfax Free Vehicle Recall Check.” *CARFAX-Recall*, <https://www.carfax.com/recall/>.