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Five Emissions Test Preparation Tips from Georgia's Clean Air Force

ATLANTA (March 28, 2017) – Emissions testing plays a vital part in promoting cleaner air in metro Atlanta. Since its inception in 1996, [Georgia's Clean Air Force \(GCAF\)](#), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), has removed more than 1.6 million tons of harmful pollutants from the air that we breathe.

GCAF offers five key tips for motorists to help them ace their next emissions test.

Proper vehicle maintenance is the most effective preventative measure that motorists can take prior to an emissions test, according to Pamela T. Earl, Mobile & Area Source Program Manager, EPD.

“Routine tune-ups and regular maintenance can often uncover even the most minor issues that can cause a failing emissions test,” said Earl. “It is helpful to keep these five helpful tips in mind when preparing your car to be tested.”

- **Prepare in Advance.** You should arrange for your emissions test four to six weeks prior to your vehicle's registration renewal date (the vehicle owner's birthday) to allow ample time for any needed repairs and retests. This also allows you to take advantage of one free retest before your tag expires. If you fail your emissions test, you may receive a free retest at your original testing station within 30 days.
- **Follow the Vehicle Maintenance Schedule.** Lack of vehicle maintenance is a fairly common reason for emissions test failure. This is why it is important to follow the manufacturer's suggested maintenance schedule. Well-maintained vehicles usually pass the first time unless there's an unrepaired component failure or manufacturer's defect.
- **Don't Ignore the “Check Engine” Light.** When the “Check Engine” light comes on, many drivers put off having the vehicle inspected by a local mechanic, which can be a big mistake, as continued driving could further damage the vehicle. If you manually clear the “Check Engine” light, be sure to drive the vehicle for two weeks (city and highway driving). This will help ensure that your car is functioning properly and is ready for the emissions test.

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- **Tighten Your Gas Cap.** Make sure to fully tighten the gas cap after every fill up. On 1996 and newer model year vehicles, the “Check Engine” light may illuminate as a result of a loose fuel cap. If the “Check Engine” light appears, try tightening the fuel cap until it clicks, then drive the vehicle until the light resets.
- **Communication is Key.** If your car’s computer is not properly communicating with the emissions station’s testing equipment, the fix could be as simple as replacing a malfunctioning fuse. Always bring your vehicle to a professional automotive care professional to diagnose any issues.

For additional information or to download an infographic with emissions test preparation tips and stats, visit the Georgia’s Clean Air Force website at www.cleanairforce.com. The website also features a [RepairWatch Public Report](#), which lists repair shops with a proven track record of emissions-related repairs. Motorists can view the report to find quality repair shops in their local area.

About Georgia’s Clean Air Force

Georgia's Clean Air Force (GCAF), in partnership with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), is responsible for the management of the Enhanced Vehicle Emission Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program throughout Atlanta's 13 metro counties. Since 1996, the Georgia EPD has worked to reduce harmful vehicle emissions. Georgia's Inspection and Maintenance Program has prevented tons of ozone-forming pollutants from entering the air we breathe, by identifying and repairing more than three million heavy-polluting vehicles. For more information, visit www.cleanairforce.com.

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