GM Fleet and Commercial
IT ALL ADDS UP.℠

Technical Tip:
SAFE Driving with Cruise Control !

Although, **Cruise Control** systems have been around for many years, they have gone through many technological enhancements that improves driver comfort and convenience. In addition they have become a very common vehicle feature.

Therefore, after receiving several inquiries regarding the safe use of cruise controls we have decided to devote this month's technical tip newsletter to discuss this vehicle feature.

The primary purpose of cruise control when activated is that it enables you to maintain a minimum speed of approximately 25 mph (40km/h) or greater without keeping your foot on the accelerator. This can help reduce driver fatigue during long trips.

When not to use cruise control:

Cruise control can be dangerous where you cannot drive safely at a steady speed. Also, do not use your cruise control on winding roads or in heavy traffic. Cruise control may also be dangerous on slippery roads. On such roads, fast changes in tire traction can cause excessive wheel slip, and you could lose control.

How to use cruise control (reference your vehicle owners manual for more details) The cruise control buttons are located on left side of the steering wheel.

(On/Off): Press this button to turn the cruise control system on and off.

RES+ (Resume/Accelerate): Press this button to make the vehicle accelerate or resume a previously set speed.

SET- (Set/Coast): Press this button to set the speed or to decrease the set speed.

(Cancel): Press this button to cancel cruise control.

Caution: If you leave your cruise control on when you are not using cruise, you might hit a button and go into cruise when you do not want to. You could be startled and even lose control. Keep the cruise control switch off until you want to use cruise control.

Resuming a Set Speed:

Suppose you set your cruise control at a desired speed and then you apply the brake. This shuts off the cruise control. But you don't need to reset it.

Once you are driving about 25 mph (40 km/h) or more, press the RES+ button on your steering wheel. The vehicle will go back to your chosen speed and stay there.

Increasing Speed While Using Cruise Control:

There are two ways to go to a higher speed.

If the cruise control system is already engaged, press the RES+ symbol. Hold it there until you get up to the speed you want, and then release the button.

To increase your speed in very small amounts, press the RES+ symbol briefly and then release it. Each time you do this, your vehicle will go about 1 mph (1.6 km/h) faster.

Reducing Speed While Using Cruise Control:

Press and hold the set button on the steering wheel until you reach the lower speed you want, then release it.

To slow down in very small amounts, press the set button on the steering wheel briefly. Each time you do this, you'll go about 1 mph (1.6 km/h) slower.

Passing Another Vehicle While Using Cruise Control:

Use the accelerator pedal to increase your speed. When you take your foot off the pedal, your vehicle will slow down to the cruise speed you set earlier.

Using Cruise Control on Hills:

How well your cruise control will work on hills depends upon your speed, load and the steepness of the hills. When going up steep hills, you may have to step on the accelerator pedal to maintain your speed. When going downhill, you may have to brake or shift to a lower gear to keep your speed down. Of course, applying the brake takes you out of cruise control. Many drivers find this to be too much trouble and do not use cruise control on steep hills.

Ending Cruise Control:

Step lightly on the brake pedal; when cruise control disengages, the cruise symbol in the instrument panel cluster will go out.

Press the on/off button, this will turn off the cruise control system.

Press the cancel button. When cruise control disengages, the cruise symbol in the instrument panel cluster will go out.

Erasing Speed Memory

When you turn off the cruise control or the ignition, your cruise control set speed memory is erased.

Now for the monthly tech-tip question: (5th correct answer will win the prize)

True or False ? Your General Motors vehicle is equipped with Iridium or Platinum tipped spark plugs that are designed to operate under normal vehicle operating conditions for up to 100,000 miles (160,000 kilometers) without periodic maintenance.