



# CONSUMER NEWS

## Auto Expert Teams with Safety Advocate to Create Travel Season Checklist

### ***Rental Car Safety Checklist Tackles Travel Industry's "Untamed Wilderness"***

***[For Immediate Release]*** Nationally known automotive expert Pat Goss has added his expertise to a first-of-its kind Safety Checklist for rental car consumers. Goss and rental car safety advocate Frank Whyte teamed to finish the checklist in time for the summer vacation season, when millions of tourists will travel via a largely unregulated mode of transportation.

"I'm overjoyed to work with an expert of Pat Goss' caliber in promoting public safety," said rental car safety advocate Frank Whyte.

"Pat has helped a lot of consumers over the years, and this vacation season, his insights could save lives."

Goss contributed to the Rental Car Safety Checklist, a consumer resource that Goss and Whyte hope to expose to vacation travelers before the 2003 tourism season begins.

"Believe it or not, rental car maintenance standards aren't regulated," Whyte said.

"Rental cars remain the untamed wilderness of the tourism industry, and consumers are absolutely on their own to ensure their families' safety."

A frequent business traveler who fell victim to a defective rental car last year, Whyte now is spearheading a campaign to increase vigilance over the rental car industry.

In November of 2002, a Texas rental car company supplied Whyte with a car with a defective tire—and no jack. Unaware of the dangers hidden in that rental car, Whyte drove it through New Mexico's desolate, snow-covered Sacramento Mountains at night.

Whyte's Advantage Rent-a-Car encounter compelled him to work toward rental car safety and regulatory vigilance.

"Both consumers and their elected officials need to consider the fact that rental cars aren't regulated from a safety standpoint, and in some cases, they're not safe," Whyte said.

The Rental Car Safety Checklist includes items that renters wouldn't normally check, such as the availability of an Owners Manual.

"If you review enough rental car complaints, some interesting patterns emerge," Whyte said.

"I never would have guessed at how many issues arise regarding windshield wipers and washer fluid. And I was shocked to learn that rental car companies routinely remove tools from cars to prevent consumers from repairing flat tires."

"We hope the Rental Car Safety Checklist will help consumers spot problems before they strap their families into an unsafe car," Whyte said.

Whyte requested the assistance of Pat Goss in developing the Checklist to ensure validity.

"If you're looking for automotive expertise, the name at the top of the list is 'Pat Goss,'" Whyte said.

In addition to writing a newspaper column and hosting radio and television shows in the Washington DC area, Pat Goss serves as MOTORWEEK TV's resident master technician. He also owns and operates an automotive repair shop.

An electronic version of the Rental Car Safety Checklist is available online at [www.tsod.com/rentalcar](http://www.tsod.com/rentalcar).

***Electronic Version (.pdf) of the Rental Car Checklist: [www.tsod.com/rentalcar](http://www.tsod.com/rentalcar)***

#### **Note:**

Neither Frank Whyte nor his company (Training Services On Demand, Inc.) has a financial interest in rental car safety: This issue is brought forward by Dr. Whyte solely to enhance public safety.