Field researchers must check vehicles for required items and overall vehicle travel readiness prior to departure to the field site.

**Required Items**

* Functioning Flashlight
* Jack
* Fully pressurized spare tire
* Tire-lever
* Two reflective safety vests
* Appropriate safety signage
* Field site kit

**Pre-Travel Check**

1. **Check the tires**

Inspect all four tires and, if you have one, the spare tire as well. Look for cuts, gouges, or sidewall bulges. Check tire pressure when the car has been idle and tires are cool. Inflate as needed to the vehicle manufacturer’s recommended pressure. You will find it listed in the owner’s manual and on the sticker of the driver side door jamb.

* + Are all tires within the manufacturer recommended PSI? ð Yes ð No
	+ Are all tires, including the spare, in good condition? ð Yes ð No

***If marked no, NO-GO. Do not proceed to field site until resolved to a yes.***

1. **Listen to and feel the brakes**

If you hear a grinding sound or feel a vibration when applying the brakes, take your vehicle to an auto repair shop for a brake inspection. A service professional will check the brake system for fluid leaks, and the pads, rotors, shoes, and drums.

* + Are the brakes in good condition? ð Yes ð No

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1. **Secure and test the battery**
Check the car battery to be sure cable connections are clean and tight, and the hold down hardware is secure. You can have a service professional do a battery check to determine remaining capacity.
	* Does the battery appear to be secured appropriately? ð Yes ð No
	* Does the battery have appropriate charge? ð Yes ð No

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1. **Check engine oil and other fluids**

Check the engine oil, coolant and brake, transmission and power steering fluids are at the correct levels for safe vehicle operation. When adding fluids, use products that meet the specifications listed in the owner’s manual or have a service professional add needed fluids.

* + Is the engine oil level within safe operating levels? ð Yes ð No
	+ Is the coolant within safe operating levels? Yes ð No
	+ Is the brake fluid level within safe operating levels? ð Yes ð No
	+ Is the transmission level within safe operating levels? ð Yes ð No
	+ Is the power steering level within safe operating levels? ð Yes ð No

***If marked no, NO-GO. Do not proceed to field site until resolved to a yes.***

1. **Replace wiper blades and replenish windshield cleaner**
Rubber wiper blades naturally deteriorate over time. If wipers streak or fail to clear the windshield thoroughly, replace the blades. Fill the windshield washer reservoir with fluid formulated to remove insects and other debris, and test to make sure the nozzles spray adequately.
	* Do the windshield wiper blades work appropriately (i.e., no streaks, they clear the windshield, pieces of rubber are not loose)? ð Yes ð No
	* Does the windshield washer fluid work appropriately? Yes ð No

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1. **Check belts and hoses**
Inspect rubber drive belts in the engine compartment and replace any that are cracked, glazed, or frayed. Generally, replace drive belts every 60,000 miles. Inspect and replace worn, brittle, bulging or excessively soft radiator hoses. Check for leaks around hose clamps and at the radiator and water pump.
	* Are drive belts in good condition? ð Yes ð No
	* Are radiator hoses in good condition? ð Yes ð No

***If marked no, NO-GO. Do not proceed to field site until resolved to a yes.***

1. **Check the Heat and/or Air Conditioner**
Take a test drive with the air conditioner running (or heat running or test them both). If you notice a decrease in cooling capacity or heating function, take the car to an auto repair shop for diagnosis.
	* Is the air conditioner working appropriately? ð Yes ð No
	* Is the heater working appropriately? ð Yes ð No

***If marked no, NO-GO. Do not proceed to field site until resolved to a yes.***

1. **Check the lights**Grab a buddy a check the headlights, taillights, reverse lights, turn signals and horn.
	* Do the taillights work appropriately? ð Yes ð No
	* Do the headlights work appropriately? ð Yes ð No
	* Do the reverse lights work appropriately? ð Yes ð No
	* Do the turn signals work appropriately? ð Yes ð No
	* Does the horn work appropriately? ð Yes ð No

***If marked no, NO-GO. Do not proceed to field site until resolved to a yes.***