



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Checking Tire Pressure Can Save Lives and Increase Fuel Efficiency

Underinflated Tires Are Responsible for 660 Fatalities and 33,000 Injuries Each Year;  
Pep Boys Helps Motorists Become Safer Drivers with Free Air Pressure Checks During National Tire Safety Week, April 20-26

**PHILADELPHIA** – April 16, 2008 – Recognizing that underinflated tires are a leading cause of dangerous tire blowouts, which can result in serious accidents, The Pep Boys – Manny, Moe & Jack (NYSE: “PBY”), the nation’s leading automotive aftermarket retail and service chain, will once again partner with the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA) to promote consumer tire safety education during National Tire Safety Week April 20-26. During this weeklong event, Pep Boys will aid motorists in ensuring their tires are in safe, proper condition; offer drivers **free tire air pressure checks**; and distribute tire safety materials.

“Although Pep Boys emphasizes tire safety year-round, participating in a week of awareness promotions that highlight the importance of proper pressure, alignment, rotation and tread allows us to remind our customers of our commitment to providing high-quality tire care, safety and maintenance services,” said Pep Boys’ Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Mike Odell. “The important point to remember is that checking tire air pressure only takes about five minutes, but those five minutes can be life-saving and economical. We are proud to have ASE-certified service experts available in our shops seven days and six nights a week to advise and help educate customers about tire safety practices related to the many lines of name-brand and house-brand tires our service centers carry.”

“Pep Boys continues to be a strong and active partner in tire safety education, which significantly advances our awareness efforts,” said Dan Zielinski, RMA senior vice president, public affairs. “With millions of drivers on the road and nearly 3 trillion vehicle miles traveled each year in America, tire safety information is a critical step in helping drivers prevent accidents and injuries, maintain their vehicles properly, conserve fuel and, in turn, help the environment.”

Caring for tires is extremely important and relatively easy. In fact, Pep Boys and the RMA recommend getting in the habit of taking **five minutes** every month to check your tires, including the spare. Here are some useful guidelines that motorists can follow to play their PART and Be Tire Smart.

### Pressure

Underinflation can lead to tire failure. It results in unnecessary tire stress, irregular wear and possible loss of vehicle control or accidents. A tire can lose up to half of its air pressure and still not appear to be flat. The best way to check tire pressure is with a properly working analog or digital tire gauge, available at Pep Boys. A bonus: The U.S. Department of Energy reports that properly inflated tires can **improve gas mileage** up to 3.3 percent.

### **Alignment**

A bad jolt from hitting a curb or pothole can throw your front end out of alignment and damage your tires. Have a tire dealer like Pep Boys check the alignment periodically to ensure that your car is properly aligned.

### **Rotation**

Regularly rotating your vehicle's tires will help you achieve more uniform wear. Unless your vehicle owner's manual has a specific recommendation, a good guideline for tire rotation is approximately every 6,000 to 8,000 miles.

### **Tread**

Advanced or unusual wear can reduce the ability of the tire to grip the road. Visually check your tires for uneven wear, looking for high and low areas or unusually smooth areas. Also check for signs of damage.

### *About the RMA*

The Rubber Manufacturers Association is the national trade association for the rubber products industry. Its members include more than 100 companies that manufacture various rubber products, including tires, hoses, belts, seals, molded goods, and other finished rubber products. RMA members employ over 120,000 workers and account for more than \$21 billion in annual sales.

### *About Pep Boys*

Pep Boys has over 560 stores and approximately 6,000 service bays in 35 states and Puerto Rico. Along with its vehicle repair and maintenance capabilities, the company also serves the commercial auto parts delivery market and is one of the leading sellers of replacement tires in the United States. Customers can find the nearest location by calling 1-800-PEP-BOYS or by visiting pepboys.com.

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Editor's Notes: Tire blowout information provided courtesy of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Rubber Manufacturers Association. Pep Boys tire experts are available to conduct live interviews and demonstrations.