



“DON’T DRIP & DRIVE” PROGRAM HELPS LOCAL DRIVERS AND PUGET SOUND

Free Inspections and Discounted Solutions Encourage Drivers to “Fix That Leak” in April

April 4, 2013 [Seattle, Wash.] Vehicle leaks can cause havoc for drivers and the environment, but a new program called “Don’t Drip & Drive” puts Western Washington residents in the driver’s seat for finding an affordable fix, including drivers in the Seattle metropolitan area. The program is organized by the Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM) consortium. During the month of April, drivers can take their vehicle to a participating repair shop for a free and easy visual inspection (a service valued at up to \$80). The free inspection is especially recommended for vehicles that are 2005 models or earlier.

If there is a problem, the driver will receive a coupon for 10 percent off service (up to \$50) to fix the problem, for a total savings of up to \$130 between inspection and service. All participating technicians are members of the Automotive Service Association (ASA) to ensure they meet ASA’s standards of quality.

STORM representative Stef Frenzl highlighted a few reasons why this service offers real value to the average driver in Western Washington. “A leaky car isn’t a reliable car. As you think ahead to this summer’s road trip with your family or just your daily commute to work, you definitely don’t want the inconvenience and cost of calling a tow truck and a taxi if you get stranded! A little car maintenance could save you a lot of hassle and money later.”

On vehicle leaks’ cost to drivers, Frenzl added that it’s important to consider extended car life. “If you want to stretch your budget, fixing vehicle leaks is a great way to keep your car on the road longer. You’ll have more years before you need to finance buying a new one.”

Protecting Puget Sound is also a key part of “Don’t Drip & Drive.” Frenzl noted that, “Here in Washington State, our cars release 7 million quarts* of motor oil into the Puget Sound basin annually.”

To find a participating ASA repair shop near you, visit www.fixcarleaks.org. There are locations all around the region. Some leading employers, such as The Boeing Company, are also signing on to offer free onsite testing for their employees.

*Sources for statistics in this release are available at: www.fixcarleaks.org

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About STORM and the Don't Drip & Drive Program

The Stormwater Outreach for Regional Municipalities (STORM) consortium has taken the lead on communicating 'fixing vehicle leaks' as a best practice, via a targeted regional education and behavior change campaign program called "Don't Drip & Drive." This is a response to the fact that, every year, hundreds of tons of oil and other petroleum-related products make their way to our lakes, rivers, streams and the Puget Sound; most of this toxic pollution comes from small oil motor drips from our cars and trucks. The overall goal of the program is to build awareness and educate people throughout the Puget Sound region that it is important to check for vehicle leaks and to inspect their vehicles regularly, whether on their own or through a repair shop.

"Don't Drip & Drive" is made possible by a grant offering from the Washington Department of Ecology. King County was awarded the grant on behalf of the STORM consortium, which includes members from 80+ local jurisdictions, with supporting efforts by another 400 agencies and organizations through the ECO Net network. The grant is leveraged with another Ecology grant awarded to Seattle Public Utilities, with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. STORM spokesperson Stef Frenzl is based at the Snohomish County Department of Public Works.

In addition to "Don't Drip & Drive," STORM also wants drivers to know that they can learn more at free auto leak detection and maintenance workshops offered at high schools and colleges in Auburn, Renton, Seattle and Shoreline through June 2014. The classes are hosted by community college automotive program instructors. Participants receive a free car inspection and leave with a free vehicle maintenance kit. The classes – a \$125 value – are appropriate for all drivers, whether they take their car to a repair shop or work on it themselves. To sign up for a workshop or learn more about the "Don't Drip & Drive" program, visit www.fixcarleaks.org. To learn more about the STORM consortium, visit www.pugetsoundstartshere.org.