

**15 December 2009**

## **IAM highlights the dangers of low sun and dirty windscreens**

Low winter sun and dirty windscreens mean there is more risk of dangerous dazzle at this time of year than any other, says the IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists).

Peter Rodger, IAM Chief Examiner, said: "Dirty windscreens make it even more difficult for drivers to see in the low winter sun we get every morning and late afternoon at this time of year. Your heater is often on demist, blowing traffic fumes, suspended oil and smoke onto the inside of the screen which quickly builds to a film of grime which is a major cause of glare.

"The wet roads mean more dirt on the other side of the screen, too, and a low sun highlights scratches and grime making it even more of a problem" added Mr Rodger.

"The best solution is to clean your screen inside and out, with water or glass cleaner at least once a week, drying with paper or leather."

More low sun advice from the IAM:

- Always keep a good pair of sunglasses in the car – they really help.
- If you can, try and look to the side of the sun rather than straight at it (this works for headlights too).
- If you can't see, do the obvious thing and slow down accordingly, keeping an eye on the vehicle behind, in case the following traffic doesn't see you against the sun.
- If the sun is behind you, it's in the eyes of drivers coming towards you – be aware they might not see you.
- Low sun behind can dazzle you through your mirrors so be ready to dip the mirror and check over your shoulder for vehicles in your blind spot.
- Keep your washer bottles topped up with a good quality screenwash.
- Change your windscreen wipers every year.

ENDS

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ENDS ALL

1. The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) directly influences the driving and riding of more than 100,000 full members in the UK and Ireland. Established in 1956, the IAM is today best known for the advanced driving test and the advanced driving course, which is available to car, motorcycle and commercial licence holders. The IAM has grown to become the UK's largest independent road safety charity, dedicated to raising driving standards, engaging with the road-using public and influencing road safety policy. The commercial division of the IAM operates through occupational driver training companies IAM Fleet UK and Drive & Survive.

2. A 2006 report by Brunel University, following an 18 month study, concluded that "advanced driver training produces safer drivers and lower accident involvement", with measurable improvements in knowledge, skills and attitude.

3. In January 2007, the IAM Motoring Trust was established as the Policy and Research Division to undertake research, promote practical policies, act as an advocate for safer roads, safer drivers and safer vehicles and encourage responsible motoring through education and training.

