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The Automotive Industry and Green Awareness

When a person is driving down the road they see a lot of things that can be, will be or may already be problems caused by progress: oil stains on the road, brown haze over the city, and pieces of tires beside the road. Due to the lack of green awareness the automotive industry has created some of these serious environmental problems worldwide.

The first devastating problem created by the automotive industry is air pollution. Vehicles emit what are called “greenhouse” gases like carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. In addition to these “greenhouse” gases many vehicles emit solid particulates into the air we breathe. The gaseous and solid particulate emissions from vehicles have been proven to cause health problems for humans. These emissions are also known to cause physical reactions in people that do not spend a lot of time in the city. These reactions include burning and itching eyes, asthmatic reactions, and allergic reactions. Clearly, the automotive industry needs to take steps to alleviate these problems before more damage can be done.

The next problem to look at is the oil stains on the roads and streets of the world. While these oil stains may seem insignificant, they can be dangerous in many ways. The most obvious danger is when there is oil on the road and it rains. The oil will rise to the top of the water and create a very slick condition. This situation causes an increase in automobile accidents and serious injury or death. Another problem with oil on the pavement or on the ground is that as it penetrates the ground it can end up in the water supply. In automotive oils and fuels there are

compounds that are known to cause cancer. The oil leak problem caused by the automotive industry now has to be dealt with by the owner of the vehicle and government.

The last problem addressed by this paper is the pieces of tires on the roadways. The pieces of rubber and sometimes pieces of the steel belts in the tires are unsightly and can be dangerous. When a person does not see a piece of a tire in time and makes a sudden move to avoid the hazard, the driver could swerve into another lane and hit another vehicle. If this happens during a busy holiday weekend the result at times has been a massive chain reaction accident. Tire manufacturers should be looking at better materials and methods of manufacturing their products to help alleviate this problem.

In conclusion, the lack of green awareness in the automotive industry has had a negative impact on the environment and our safety. The automotive industry is taking steps in the right direction to ease some of these problems. Furthermore, these problems are the responsibility of everyone, not just the manufacturers. There is no excuse. With the resources available to them, the automotive industry needs to consider ways to correct some of the problems vehicles have created worldwide.