# Instrument Panel Lights

What do they all mean???

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# Instrument Panel Lights

- Instrument panel lights are used to alert the driver of important information about the vehicle.
- Can also be used for diagnostic purposes.
- Sometimes different manufacturers use different symbols to represent different information.
- Some must be standardized.

# Bulb Test Mode

- When key is first turned on, or when vehicle is first started, all lights will be on for a few seconds.
- This is to test the bulbs to ensure their proper operation
- All lights should go off within 5 seconds or less.
- Any bulb that does not go off within 5 seconds is indicating a problem with that system.

# Malfunction indicator lamp (MIL)

- Standardized light by OBDII that lets driver know that the vehicle powertrain system has detected a problem with the engine or transmission.
- If light is on, that means that there is a Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) stored in the computer to guide in the diagnosis of the problem.
- If this light is on, the vehicle automatically fails an emissions test.

# Maintenance Required Light

- This light lets driver know that the car is at the mileage that the manufacturer requires or suggests doing certain maintenance repairs.
- This does not mean there is a problem with the vehicle.
- Must be manually reset after maintenance is completed. Reset procedures can be found in the vehicle's owners manual.
- Some cars will list specific items such as an oil change.

# Anti-Lock Brake Light (ABS)

- This light alerts driver of an issue in the anti-lock brake system.
- Only detects problems that can be found electrically.
- When on, it disables the anti-lock brake system and defaults to the standard hydraulic brakes.

# Brake Light

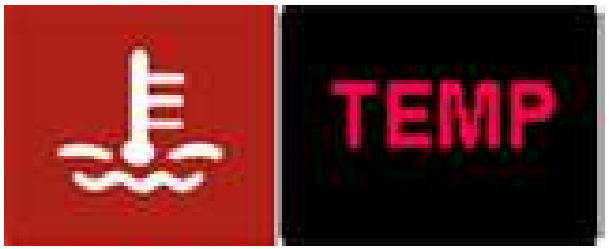
- This light is either red or orange.
- It alerts driver of a variety of brake conditions:
- Low or N[illegible]ure
- Low or No Brake Fluid
- Light with the “P” in the middle means Parking Brake Applied

# Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS)

- When this light is illuminated, it means that either a tire is below threshold pressure, or there is a problem with the TPMS monitoring system.
- Some cars will even display which tire is low.
- On a very cold day, light may be on for the first few minutes of driving, but then may turn off. This is a normal condition due to air contraction and expansion.

# Coolant Temperature Warning light

- This light alerts driver that engine coolant temperature is above normal and could begin doing damage to the engine.
- Vehicle should not be driven if this light is on.
- If this light is on, and car must be driven or left on, turn the heat on high.  By turning the



# Low Coolant Warning Light

- If this light is on, that means that the coolant level is below limit.
- If coolant is low, that means there is a leak.
- Will lead to overheating and eventually engine damage.

# Low Oil Pressure Light

- If this light is on, that means that there is either low or no oil pressure.
- This light will always be on during KOEO (Key On Engine Off). After starting engine, it should go off within 3 seconds.
- If light is on, car should not be driven until the

# Low Oil Level Light

- This light alerts driver that their oil level is low.
- Not all cars have this light.
- If it is on, oil must be added before driving.

# Battery Light

- This light indicates a problem with either the battery or charging system.
- When lit, the electrical system voltage is below charging threshold.
- Vehicle should be 13.5-14.7 volts when engine is running
- When the key is on but engine off, this light will

# Supplemental Inflatable Restraint (SRS)

- This light alerts driver of a problem with the SRS system (Airbags)
- When illuminated, the SRS computer disables the air bag system to prevent an accidental deployment or deployment at the wrong time.

# Traction Control System Light (TCS)

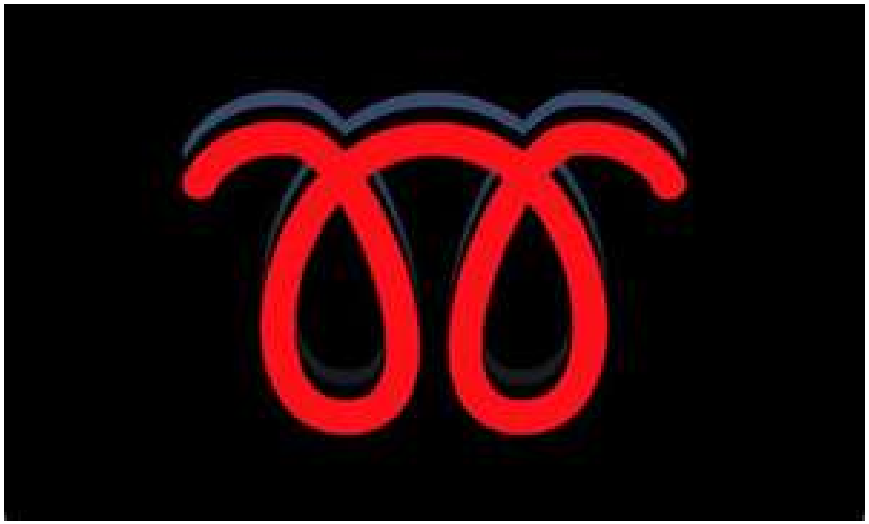
- This light alerts driver that there is an issue with the traction control system/stability system.
- Can also be on with an ABS light because both systems use common parts between them.
- Light can also mean that the driver has disabled the TCS

# Electronic Power Steering Failure

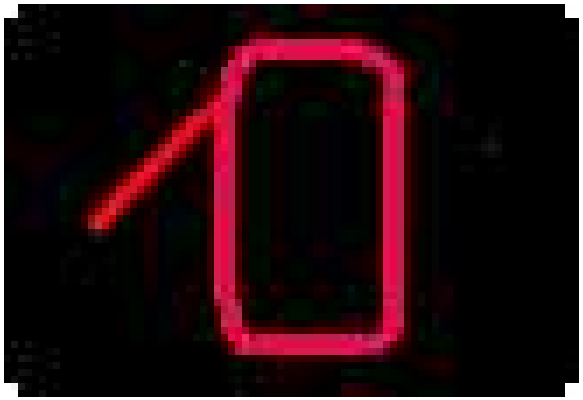
- This light informs driver that there is a problem with the electronic power steering system.
- When on, power steering effort may be increased and may have erratic steering assist.
- Car is still able to be steered, but caution should be exercised when driving with this

# Glow Plug Light

- This light will only be on Diesel vehicles.
- This is the glow plug warm up light.
- If this light is illuminated when keys is first turned on, you should not try to start the vehicle.
- When on, the glow plugs are heating up to be able to start the



# Door Ajar light



- This light informs driver that one or more doors is not closed, or not latched completely.
- It will stay lit until door is firmly latched closed.
- Some vehicles will have a more detailed light and will show which door is the one not latched.

# Low Fuel Light

- This light is used to indicate low fuel level.
- When this light is illuminated, your car is low on gas and should be refilled as soon as possible.
- Driving with this light on too often or for too long can cause fuel pump damage or reduce the life of the

# Lights On Indicator

- These lights are illuminated to indicate to the driver what exterior lights are illuminated.
- The blue indicator tells driver that they have their high beams (brights) on.
- The lights with the curved line going through it indicates that

# Hazard Lights

- This is illuminated on some vehicles when the hazard flashers are in use.
- When this is on, all 4 turn signals (front and rear) flash on and off to alert other drivers that you are a hazard on the road and to exercise caution while driving near you.