

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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July 14, 2014

“Five Ways to Know if You Should Still Be Driving Your Hail Damaged Vehicle”



Before June 3, if a person had plastic covering what was the back window of their vehicle, you thought they had been in a car accident. The baseball sized hail that fell that day, however, made broken out back windows and cracked windshields a common sight around Norfolk. City of Norfolk police officers have noted that many people are still driving these damaged vehicles six weeks after the hail storm.

“We’re seeing people around town with windshields cracked in such a way that make it very difficult for the driver to see oncoming traffic. There haven’t been any citations given to these people yet. Even so, it’s very dangerous for pedestrians, other vehicles and the driver if there isn’t a clear view through

the windshield or back window,” said City of Norfolk Police Chief Bill Mizner.

According to state law citizens are prohibited from driving a vehicle with damages to it that make driving it a hazard. Chief Mizner recommended that owners park their damaged vehicles that do not pass the check off list below and use an alternate form of transportation or carpool until the vehicle is repaired.

Five items to check before driving a hail damaged vehicle:

1. Is the vehicle’s windshield free of cracks and bug splats or dirt that make it difficult to see out of?
2. Are the windshield wipers in good working order?
3. Are headlamps free of cracks, scratched covers that prevent them from being effective?
4. Are both side mirrors free of cracks and dirt?
5. Can you see clearly out of the back window?