

Tire Changing

A common problem on the trail is a flat or damaged tire that cannot be repaired. You need the means to raise the vehicle to change the tire and a tool to remove the lug nuts. Most members carry a front tire for a spare because it will fit on the front or rear. Some vehicles are different so check before you go on the trail.

1. Carry a jack and some type of support for under the jack in case you are in soft sand or if the jack will not go high enough. Some people use a tow strap to lift the side of the vehicle but in trees or on the side of a hill that don't work. I don't like the tow strap method because I think it could bend something or damage a ball joint when you lift the vehicle on its side. A jack is a lot safer.

2. Carry a lug wrench which has the correct size socket to fit your lug nuts. The most important thing about the wrench is it has to long enough to remove lug nuts. When on the trail, due to heat build up, the lug nuts and the rims get hot so they expand making the lugs hard to remove. I use a wrench that has a handle that extends to 21". The t-handle wrenches are just too short. If you have special lug nuts be sure you carry the special lug nut socket. It's a good idea to loosen the lug nuts while the wheel is still on the ground. (The extended handle comes with sockets to fit most lug nuts including your UTU trailer.)

3. Additional things to carry: A ground cloth or something to protect your knees and place your tools and the lug nuts on. Lug nuts get lost in the sand. I carry a cheap Harbor Freight tarp. Extra lug nuts. Gloves for the hot tires.

The most important thing is to try changing a tire before you go on a run. (Some Polaris rims look the same but will not fit the newer units.) You will see just how hard the lug nuts are to remove. Also some jacks are just not strong enough or do not go high enough.

When you get home be sure to torque the lug nuts to the proper setting.

Read Article on Air Compressors.

Howard