

ITS MID YEAR AND I'M JUST BACK FROM THE PORSCHE PARADE IN SPOKANE WA. LOTS OF FAST CARS AND DRIVERS IN THE AUTOCROSS.

A comment I have heard from drivers, mostly new ones but some experienced, but all driving late model cars is “I feel like I am over driving the car and it is pushing in the corners” slowing me down. In many of these cases the indications you are getting is not because of “overdriving” but instead because of a wonderful safety system in your car doing its job.

Late model Porsche models have a system called PORSCHE STABILITY MANAGEMENT (PSM for short) it is basically a traction control system designed to prevent the car from going out of control mostly on wet or slippery surfaces. When the system senses the rear end sliding it applies some rear brake to get the car back under control. This is great if you are on a slippery surface and the rear end is sliding, BUT the system will also activate when you are going into a corner on an autocross and putting lateral loads on the suspension. For this reason I suggest that you may want to run with PSM off BUT ONLY ON

AN AUTO X COURSE with safe runoffs. You will find that with the system off the car will rotate smoothly and if you are then overdriving or reaching the limit the rear end will slightly drift.

In fact if you go to the Porsche Sport Driving School one of the exercises is to drive a wet skid pad with PSM off so as to feel the dynamics of car handling.

Back to auto-crossing with PSM on. If you do this regularly you will find your rear brake pads are wearing faster than normal. Normally you will get more wear on the front pads as the majority of braking is done by the front wheels on most street cars, but if you are aggressively

maneuvering the vehicle with PSM on the rear brakes are activated automatically whenever a significant side load on the suspension is sensed.

So in summary the next time you run an autocross test this out by driving a moderate speed run with PSM off and see how much smoother you go through the turns. That said I strongly recommend you leave this system ON when on the highway or at the track as it may just save your life and prevent damage to your car should you unexpectedly experience loss of vehicle control due to overdriving for conditions.

Remember only test driving with PSM off under controlled conditions so if you do “lose the rear end” you have lots of space to recover. Drive safe and enjoy our Texas summer. LH