

Safety Alert

TYRE & WHEEL INCIDENTS



A number of incidents have occurred recently involving blow-outs on LGV tyres. The first is pictured above where a cement tanker driver was walking past the middle back trailer axle on a customer site when the tyre blew, projecting the driver approx. 20 feet across the yard causing serious bruising to his lower body – and nearly taking his trousers off! Two further similar incidents happened on the cement own fleet and one on a contractor tipper, but luckily these subsequent incidents did not incur injuries. Investigation into all the incidents showed different causes, from running the tyre under-inflated for a period of time to tyre damage and manufacturing faults. These incidents follow the tragic fatality in the industry last year when a contractor driver was killed by an exploding tyre when he was thought to have been removing sugar stone stuck between twin tyres.

We have also had a couple of incidents where serious consequences were narrowly avoided when wheel hubs have come off their axles. Investigation into these incidents confirmed that the repair agents did not follow good practice and fit new bolts when removing split hubs to change brake linings.

Learning Points

- **As The Vehicle Operator:-**
 - **Tyres under-inflated by 5-10 psi are not easy to spot by their appearance, particularly on an inner tyre** – Are you aware of the correct tyre pressure for the vehicle/s you operate? Are you aware of the consequences of driving with tyres that are under or over inflated? Do you have tyre pressures checked by competent personnel at regular intervals i.e. service or tyre audits?
 - **Vehicle Repairs** – Are you confident that you are having your vehicle repaired by a reputable agent? Are they aware of any special requirements for your vehicle? Do you have your wheel studs re-torqued in line with your vehicle / company handbook?
- **As The Vehicle Driver:-**
 - **Damaged Tyres** – Do you know what to look for when checking tyres on your vehicle? Do you know what the legal tread depth is for your vehicle? Do you have defect reporting procedures in place if you find a damaged tyre?