

Fatal 6 - A vehicle loses rear wheels whilst on-highway having recently had its brakes serviced - the incident has been caught on video

WHAT HAPPENED

- A vehicle was in the repair agent having new brake pads and discs fitted to one of the rear drive axles which involved the removal of the wheels.
- After refitting the wheels, the vendor's process is to torque the wheel nuts.
- There is a secondary process which requires a retorque after 30 minutes of the vehicle standing.
- Additionally, a local approved tyre vendor completed a final re-torque after the vehicle had travelled approximately 100 kilometres.
- Unfortunately, one or more of these processes were not completed to the required standard and when the vehicle was travelling along a dual carriageway in London, two of the nearside rear wheels detached from the same axle of the truck.
- It was very lucky that no serious injury or damage occurred as a result of the wheels detaching and rolling amongst other traffic on the road.
- This incident was captured on the vehicle's camera's and a PowerPoint presentation of the incident has been prepared that could be used as a toolbox talk on the importance of following the correct procedures when re-fitting wheels. The PowerPoint includes video of the incident and can be [viewed on this link](#)

In the image below you can see the two wheels rolling over the white markings in the road.



LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

This incident highlights the importance of vendors following the correct procedures regarding torquing and re-torquing wheel nuts after a wheel has been removed.

- **ALWAYS** ensure wheels are retorqued in accordance with the relevant guidance and only using approved / accredited vendors.
- **ALWAYS** complete your vehicle Walk Round Check at the start and end of shift and if work has been carried out on your vehicle, especially after wheels have been removed.
- **ALWAYS** check wheel nut indicators are in the correct position around the vehicle wheels.
- **PERIODICALLY** remove the Wheel Nut Indicators and check for visible signs of loose wheel nuts, visible rust around the studs or odd shaped stud holes on the drum.
- **ALWAYS** report any findings to your line manager before moving onto a public highway, don't risk your or anyone else's life.

LOCATION: ON-HIGHWAY
ACTIVITY: TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS / DELIVERY
SUB ACTIVITY: TYRES AND WHEELS

ALERT STATUS: Normal
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