

SAFETY BULLETIN

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Sunday is the First Day of Summer and the Heat in On!

A very famous tire engineer once stated, "Heat is to tires as Kryptonite is to Superman"...in other words, its worst enemy.

Taken all together, hot summer temperatures, under inflated tires, heavy loads, and traveling at high speeds and you have a recipe for tire disaster....that is exactly why you see more alligators on the highway in the summer season. During the winter or spring months, a tire that was being run under inflated would have heat buildup that would dissipate into the atmosphere as the ambient temperature is cold. Now, when operating in temperatures in excess of 100 degrees the heat will increase significantly in an under inflated tire.

The effect that proper air pressure has on tires is endless.

When a radial truck tire has been inflated to its proper air pressure according to the weight it is carrying, the operating temperature should be around 150 degrees. Let us assume that 100psi is the fleet standard. The rule of thumb is that for every loss in air pressure of 2psi, the tire temperature will increase 5 degrees.

What can fleets do to minimize tire related issues during the summertime months?

- Tire pressure needs to be checked more frequently in the summer. Weekly is recommended.
- Review with drivers the proper tire inspection procedure during a

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What Do You Live For?

Celebrate and Participate in National Safety Month

Everyone has something they live to see or experience. No matter what your passion is, we engage in safe behaviors so we can live for what matters to us.

This June, the National Safety Council (NSC) is celebrating your passions with the theme of "What I Live For". By sharing your stories and providing you with resources such as posters, tip sheets, safety checklists and an infographic.

pre-trip inspection.

• Do not rely on the looks of the tire or striking the tire to determine inflation pressure. The only accurate way to access the pressure in a tire is to use a tire gauge. Keep in mind just 2 psi deficit in pressure increases the heat by 5 degrees.

 Plan your tire program around mounting new, deep tread depth tires prior to the winter season. When summer hits, the tires will

be worn down and generate less heat.

 Inspect tires for punctures and damage more frequently in the summer months. Tire punctures tend to increase during the summer because the tread rubber becomes hotter and "softer" and acts as a magnet to nails and road debris

Bottom line: Checking your tires on a regular basis for both air pressure and any signs of irregular wear is essential if a fleet wants to maximize mileage and increase fuel economy.

Beware - We are now in the busiest time of year for Road Construction

Drivers need to be especially cautious of construction zones this summer. States are making a concentrated effort to raise the awareness of the dangers in these zones. Here are some safety tips you can share with your drivers regarding construction zones:



- SLOW DOWN and be alert when approaching a "construction zone."
 Get into the correct lane well in advance. Where traffic is
 merging into a single lane, be cautious of other motorists racing
 to get ahead of slowing traffic.
- Get OFF of the phone.... even Hands Free phones are distracting your ability to safely operate your truck.
- PAY ATTENTION to what those orange and black warning signs are telling you to do.
- BE ALERT for the actions of other drivers.
- PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to construction equipment and workers. You never know their next move, so be prepared to stop.
- WATCH SPEED LIMITS and don't tailgate. Double your following distance. Rear-end collisions are the most common kind of construction zone accident.
- WATCH FOR CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES entering and exiting the road in or near the construction area, as they may enter and exit at a slower speed than other traffic.
- TURN YOUR HEADLIGHTS ON as you approach a work-zone, alerting both the construction workers and other traffic around you of your presence.
- GIVE CONSTRUCTION WORKERS A BRAKE.

This year, the NSC will be focusing on the important topics of prescription painkiller abuse, transportation safety, ergonomics, emergency preparedness and slips, trips and falls. Be on the lookout as we get closer to June for materials you can use to engage your employees, coworkers, family and friends in safety.

Visit the NSC Safety Month Website at: nsc.org/nsm.

Register Now for the 2015 Idealease/NPTC Safety Seminars!



Idealease, its members and the National Private Truck Council NPTC will again be hosting safety seminars in 2015. The one day seminars this year will focus on basic safety and compliance, regulation changes and CSA. The seminars and will be provided to all Idealease customers, potential customers



As a professional driver subject to the sun's rays constantly you need to make sure you are wearing the proper sunglasses to protect your eyes. In addition, proper sunglasses allow you as a driver to operate safely at an increased level of visibility.

Tips for Choosing the Right Sunglasses

<u>Sunglasses</u> aren't just a fashion accessory. They are an important protection for your eyes against the <u>damaging rays of the sun</u>. It's important for you to know what kind of light you need to protect your eyes from and what type of light is not necessarily harmful. Here are some tips for picking the right pair of nonprescription sunglasses.

Choose glasses that block 99 percent of ultraviolet (UV) rays. This is the most important feature of your sunglasses, and you should always choose sunglasses that provide this protection. Long-term exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation in sunlight is linked to eye disease, including cataracts. Some manufacturers' labels say UV absorption up to 400nm. This is the same thing as 100 percent UV absorption. Some glasses make additional claims for blocking infrared rays, but research has not shown a close connection between infrared rays and eye disease.

Don't rely on the price. Budget conscious? Many types of affordable sunglasses offer 99 to 100 percent UV protection, so you don't need to spend a lot of money on a pair of sunglasses.

Check the quality of the sunglasses. In addition to UV protection, you also want to check the optical quality of the lenses. You can easily test the quality of sunglasses by looking at something with a rectangular pattern, such as a floor tile. Hold the glasses at a comfortable distance and cover one eye. Move the glasses slowly from side to side, then up and down. If the lines stay straight, the lenses are fine. If the lines wiggle, especially in the center of the lens, try another pair.

Look for impact-resistant lenses. All sunglasses must meet impact standards set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for safety. No lens is truly unbreakable, but plastic lenses are less likely to shatter when hit by a ball or stone. Polycarbonate plastics, used in many sports sunglasses, are especially strong, but scratch easily. If you buy polycarbonate lenses, choose ones with a scratch-resistant coating.

Use protective eyewear instead of sunglasses for hazardous activities. If you are going to be engaged in outdoor activities like water or snow skiing that put your eye at risk for injury, don't count on your eyeglasses for protection. Protective eyewear is available with UV protection to shield your eyes from sunburn and glare.

Lens color tinting and polarization are personal preferences. There's no medical reason to recommend one tint of lens over another. Likewise, while polarized lenses work better at deflecting glare, they're not blocking any more harmful UV light than non-polarized

and NPTC members at no charge. The seminar provides important information applicable for both the novice and experienced transportation professionals.

To register for an upcoming seminar in 2015 CLICK HERE.

2015 Idealease Safety Seminar Schedule:

June 25 Santa Rosa, CA
October 13 Toledo, OH
October 14 Grand Rapids, MI
October 14 Charlotte, NC

October 20 Las Vegas, NV October 21 Los Angeles, CA October 22 San Martin, CA Once you have the right sunglasses, make sure you wear them, especially in the summer when UV levels are at least three times higher than in the winter. Also be sure to wear them when participating in winter sports, particularly at high elevations.

FMCSA approves HOS exemption for oversize/overweight loads

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) on June 18 announced its decision to grant the Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA) an exemption from the minimum 30-minute rest break provision of the Agency's hours-of-service (HOS) regulations for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers.

The exemption enables all specialized carriers and drivers responsible for the transportation of loads that exceed normal weight and dimensional limits - oversize/overweight (OS/OW) loads - and require a permit issued by a government authority, to be exempt from the 30-minute rest break provision in 49 CFR 395.3(a)(3)(ii). FMCSA has analyzed the exemption application and the public comments and has determined that the exemption, subject to the terms and conditions imposed, will achieve a level of safety that is equivalent to, or greater than, the level that would be achieved absent such exemption.

The exemption is effective June 18, 2015, and expires on June 18, 2017.

Terms of the exemption

- 1. Drivers of specialized loads moving in interstate commerce that exceed normal weight and dimensional limits oversize/overweight (OS/OW) loads and require a permit issued by a government authority, are exempt from the requirement for a 30-minute rest break in ?395.3(a)(3)(ii). Drivers of loads not moving in interstate commerce are not eligible for this exemption.
- Drivers must have a copy of this exemption document in their possession while operating under the terms of the exemption. The exemption document must be presented to law enforcement officials upon request.
- 3. All motor carriers operating under this exemption must have a 'Satisfactory' safety rating with FMCSA, or be 'unrated.' Motor carriers with 'Conditional' or 'Unsatisfactory' FMCSA safety ratings are prohibited from using this exemption.
- All motor carriers operating under this exemption must have Safety Measurement System (SMS) scores below FMCSA's intervention thresholds, as displayed at http://ai.fmcsa.dot.gov/sms/.

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