



Work Safety Alert

Struck to Death by a Burst Tyre

1. **Date of Accident :** February 2019
2. **Place of Accident :** A vehicle repairing workshop
3. **Summary :**

A worker while inflating a container truck tyre at a vehicle repairing workshop was blown aside and fell onto the ground when the tyre suddenly burst. The worker sustained serious head injury and passed away on the same day.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :**

To prevent any workers/ employees from being endangered by the sudden blowout of tyres in the course of inflation, the proprietor/ employer should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with the inflation of tyres, taking into account the working environment, ground conditions, limitation of the plant/ equipment used for the inflation work, possible trajectory of any flying wheel components and characteristics of tyres to be inflated (e.g. configuration of the rim components, pressure of tyres recommended by the manufacturers);
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for inflation of tyres with due regard to the results of the risk assessments, manufacturer's specifications/ instructions, with the consideration of the requirements of safety legislation and relevant safety guidelines;



- ensuring to check whether all wheel components are compatible, serviceable and correctly assembled prior to tyre inflation;
- providing and ensuring the proper use of suitable safety restraining devices such as safety cages and frames and ensuring that no worker is allowed to lean any part of his body on or against the restraining device during tyre inflation;
- where it is not reasonably practicable to fit a wheel into a restraining device, adopting the following safety precautions:
 - restraining the wheel securely (e.g. by suitable mechanical means) prior to the commencement of inflation;
 - safely containing the effects of any blowout and explosion of wheel components (e.g. by embankment or barriers) ; and
 - taking adequate and effective steps to keep all workers out of the trajectory danger zone (e.g. staying apart and using an air hose of sufficient length);
- ensuring that the inflating pressure of tyre is limited to the recommended pressure with reference to the manufacturer's manual;
- ensuring that the tyre is not re-inflated when there is obvious or suspected damage to the wheel components;
- ensuring that the pressure system (including pressure regulator, gauge, valve, etc) has been examined by a competent examiner before it is first used and at regular intervals thereafter to prevent over-inflation of tyres;
- providing all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and



- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Safety at Work for Demounting, Mounting and Inflation of Tyres of Heavy Mechanical Vehicles](#)¹

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

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