

Rapid Lesson Sharing



Event Name: Type 4 Engine Tire Blowout

Date: July 2, 2012

Location: Interstate 90 – Four miles west of Butte, Mont.

1. What Happened?

While traveling at a speed of 62 mph, with three firefighters on board, the left front tire on this Type 4 Engine blows out.

The engine immediately pulled to the left. But the driver was able to safely negotiate the engine to the right shoulder of the road.

The engine crew displayed safety triangles and cleared debris from the blown-out tire off the roadway.



2. Successes

The engine operator did a good job of not overcorrecting the vehicle.

The engine crew did a good job of quickly establishing on-scene safety.



3. Challenges

During the months previous to this incident, numerous steps were taken to ensure the safe condition of the engine's tires (annual inspection of entire vehicle, monthly pm checks, inspection at tire shop). There were no apparent defects or problems with the tires.

The engine was travelling with a full 750-gallon tank. There is a question as to whether traveling with an empty tank would be safer. While the tires might receive less wear-and-tear, the brakes are designed to perform best when the vehicle is at its GVW.

4. Submitted By: Module/Crew Overhead

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