

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Vehicle Emergency –
Tire Blow Out

Date: Oct. 11, 2014

Location: I-25 Southbound near
Castle Rock, Colorado



NARRATIVE

Saturday (Oct. 11) was our departure day after spending more than one week working a fuels reduction project at Rocky Mountain National Park. The Module woke up and cleaned our barracks for checkout. After cleanup, daily vehicle checks were completed. We were released and departed Rocky Mountain at 0900.

At approximately 1100, Bravo Truck, traveling 75 mph in the center lane of three-lane Interstate 25, experienced a left front tire blow out. The vehicle pulled sharply to the right, then veered to the left—toward the median. At this point, the driver regained some control of the vehicle, slowing and taking the opportunity to merge into the center median, bringing the vehicle to a full stop and activating the emergency lights.

Due to the narrow shoulder of the median and the high speed traffic, the occupants remained inside the vehicle.

The occupants alerted the Colorado Highway Patrol of their location and situation. They were told that a trooper would respond. At this point, Alpha Truck pulled on scene behind Bravo Truck and activated their emergency lights. Due to the location of the vehicle and volume of traffic, a tow truck was called to get the vehicle off the Interstate.



The State Trooper arrived and activated his vehicle's emergency lights—greatly reducing the speed of approaching traffic.

The Trooper said he would stay until the tow truck arrived, then provide an escort off the Interstate (to slow traffic). Within 30 minutes, the tow truck arrived. All occupants exited Bravo on the driver's side and rode with the tow truck or Alpha to the nearest exit.

LESSONS

- ✓ This incident reinforced the importance of reviewing emergency procedures while in travel status.
- ✓ After an incident such as this, effectively evaluate scene safety.
- ✓ Be prepared for a situation which is not "ideal"

(no room to exit vehicle safely, no access to vehicle tool bin).

- ✓ Continue to store reflective vests under seat in cab of vehicle.
- ✓ Contact 911 or local Law Enforcement dispatch sooner rather than later. (Once on scene, their presence added a greater level of safety to the situation.)

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