

Rapid Lesson Sharing

Event Type: Engine Mechanical/Safety Issue

Date: July 4, 2026

Location: Minidoka Ranger District, Sawtooth National Forest

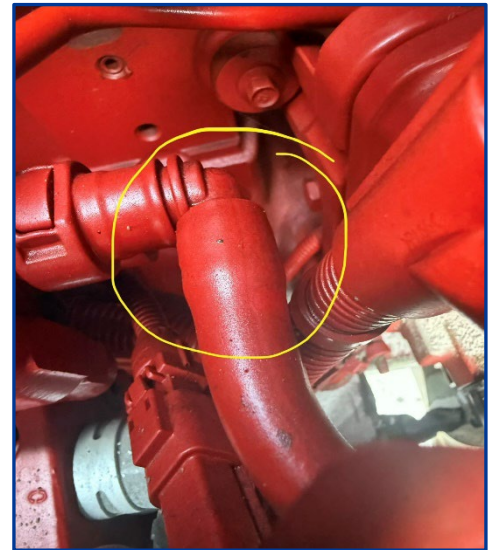
New Type 3 Engine Mechanical/Safety Issue

After operating on a dirt road within the Raft River Division on the Sawtooth National Forest, the Type 3 Heavy Engine (a 2023 Freightliner M2 CARB22 with approximately 1,718 miles and 98.6 engine hours), was driven on paved roads while returning to the office.

Approximately ½ mile from the office, while accelerating from a stop sign, the vehicle experienced a sudden loss of power and would not accelerate above a low speed.

The engine was driven approximately ¼ mile to a safe location to pull off the roadway. During this time, a strong diesel fuel odor was noted. Upon inspection, diesel fuel was observed spouting from the engine compartment

Further inspection determined that the fuel hose had separated from the connection fitting. The immediate repair consisted of reinstalling the hose and securing it with a hose clamp. It was also noted that the fuel line's connection was not originally equipped with hose clamps.



Another fuel line on the engine without a clamp showing what it looked like straight from the factory.

Lessons

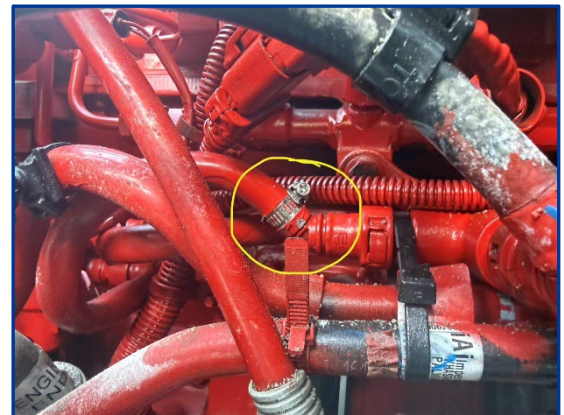
Hazard Assessment

Had this failure occurred during fire operations or while traveling in remote areas it could have resulted in:

- ❖ Loss of engine power in an unsafe location
- ❖ Significant diesel fuel release, creating a fire hazard
- ❖ Potential injury to personnel
- ❖ Possible total loss of the vehicle and equipment due to fire

Corrective Action

As a preventative measure, all fuel line connections on this vehicle will be inspected and secured with the appropriate hose clamps where necessary. Similar vehicles should also be inspected to verify that all fuel hose connections are properly secured.



The fuel hose that came loose—with the hose clamp applied.

This RLS was submitted by:
Jeffory Carney
Engine Captain

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(<https://lessons.wildfire.gov/submit-a-lesson>)

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