

Heavy hauling truck lost wheel off axle

Description:

A Super-B hauler truck completed unloading and proceeded to leave a location. The driver identified that it felt like the brakes were dragging on the front driver's side wheel. The driver stopped, adjusted the brakes and proceeded to back up. While backing up, the wheel detached from the axle.

Lessons Learned:

Although there was only a moderate degree of asset damage and no injuries, this event had high potential to cause a catastrophic event resulting in loss of life, permanent disabilities and/or total asset loss.

Preventative maintenance tasks must follow manufacturer, regulatory and company standards to ensure assets are safe and ready for use.

There is a legal requirement for commercial vehicles to undergo regular inspections. These must be documented and should be shared with maintenance personnel.



Picture of broken steering equipment

What did they learn? What were the recommendations:

- During the pre-trip inspection, the hub oil level was not identified as low. The hub is believed to have been run dry for a period and left un-repaired.
- The un-serviced bearing and hub were run unlubricated, which allowed the hub to fail catastrophically due to the excess friction between the bearing/hub and axle. The wheel bearing failed, causing the wheel hub to become disconnected from the axle.
- Asset users must ensure inspections (including the pre-trip) are thorough, documented and shared with the appropriate department. Recording and reporting inspections regularly ensures simple items, such as an oil leak, do not lead to a catastrophic failure that can cause serious damage to equipment and place users and members of the public or worksite at risk.
- Regular mechanical inspections, as per provincial and/or federal regulations, should be completed, documented and action items should be corrected.

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