

	<b>CONSEQUENCES OF A TIRE BLOW-OUT</b>	Date:
	<b>TOOLBOX / TAILGATE TALK</b>	Presenter:

Truck tire blowouts are not simply flat tires. They are extremely dangerous events that jeopardize the safety of both truck drivers and those with whom they share the road. Not only can a tire blowout cause a big rig to careen out of control and crash into other vehicles, but the flying scraps of blown-out tires can also threaten the lives of other drivers, passengers, and pedestrians.

**When a truck tire blows out, it can cause immediate safety threats, such as:**

### **LOSS OF CONTROL**

The force of the explosion, combined with the trailer's instability when balancing on suddenly uneven tires, often causes truckers to swerve and lose control. This loss of control can cause the truck to collide with other vehicles or even tip over.

### **FLYING TIRE DEBRIS**

Tire blowouts are often accompanied by small chunks of rubber flying in every direction. This is caused by the force of the explosion ripping the tire apart, sending tire debris flying dangerously in the road. When other vehicles and pedestrians are in the path of the flying tire fragments, the results can be catastrophic, and even fatal.

### **LOOSE CARGO**

In the chaotic swerving that often follows a truck tire blowout, the rig's trailer may sway dangerously, disrupting the cargo inside. This can throw off the trailer's balance, leading to a possible rollover, or cause the back doors to open and release the cargo on the road, creating potentially fatal hazards for other vehicles.

### **DRIVER PANIC**

Truck tire blowouts are generally very loud and easily startle other drivers. When the driver of a passenger vehicle sees a large tractor-trailer veer out of control, he or she may panic and aggressively brake, swerve, or speed up, adding increased risk and chaos to the already dangerous situation.

**PREVENTION IS KEY! TRUCK MAINTENANCE – PRE-TRIP INSPECTIONS**

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