



# Safety Alert

## **Complete Wheel Stud Removal causes Planetary Drive Disassembly and Oil Spill**

### **Incident:**

Caterpillar truck position 3 and 6 wheel assemblies were removed by tyre servicemen to allow for subsequent work by the maintenance team. After removal, none of the wheel studs holding position 3 and 6 were replaced.

It then became necessary to relocate the vehicle with only Position 4 & 5 tyres in place. As the planetary drive cover was not secured by the outside position wheel studs, it came loose causing the loss of planetary gear oil and resultant environmental contamination.

This incident not only resulted in environmental contamination but also had the potential to cause considerable damage to the planetary drives of the equipment.

### **Actions:**

- 1. When a number of work teams work on the same vehicle, ensure there is clear communication and a common understanding of the job and its impacts before a job is commenced, i.e. a task carried out by one party must not create an adverse situation for the other party.*
- 2. Before a truck can be relocated with Pos 3 and 6 assemblies removed, ensure that at least 20 wheel studs are fitted evenly around the hub to the outside positions – this action is to be adopted for all CAT 785, 789, 793 & 797 trucks.*
- 3. Check relevant SWPs and OEM documentation if this precaution also applies to other trucks and type of equipment.*

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