



Safety Alert

Zipper Failure

Incident An assembled tyre and rim (14.00R20) had just been inflated (100 psi) by a Tyre Serviceman when the tyre, without warning, suffered a zipper failure (sudden sidewall rupture). The assembly was still contained in a Safety Inflation Cage but the Tyre Serviceman suffered minor bruising to the knee when the airhose flew off. He was wearing correct PPE.

Actions

1. Before fitting a tyre, visually inspect the tyre for any damage or signs of deterioration – especially marks of having been ‘run flat’ or underinflation.
2. Size permitting, inflate all tyres in a tyre inflation cage.
3. As a minimum, Eye and Hearing Protection must be worn during inflation.
4. Use a remote inflation hose (minimum 3 m in length) with a quick dump valve during inflation.
5. Do not stand in front of the cage, during inflation.
6. Listen for popping/cracking noises while inflation is in progress – stop the inflation immediately and deflate if such noises are heard from the tyre.
7. After inflation has been completed, leave the tyre in the cage for a few more minutes before removal.

There is almost no way to determine whether a tyre will be subject to zipper failure, however strict adherence to the above steps will minimise the risk should such a failure occur.

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