



Safety Alert #70

Light & Medium Vehicle Tyre Changes

In the field of Heavy Vehicle or Earthmover Tyre Maintenance and Management, tyre service personnel are often called upon to work with Light & Medium Vehicle (L&MV) service work. The primary risks associated with general tyre service work are still apparent when dealing with smaller tyres.

Light & Medium Vehicle Tyre Changes have the potential to seriously injure personnel and damage equipment. Some tyre service personnel have been fatally injured when working with LV & MV tyres.

Recommendations

1. Do not attempt to change any tyre if you are not trained and authorized to change. ie Do you have the relevant competences to safely perform the tyre change? If you do not have the competences STOP, leave the tyre as it is and contact your supervisor.
2. When performing any kind of L&MV tyre change ensure that an approved SWP is in place for the task.
3. When using specialised Tyre Change Equipment, such as Tyre Changers, Tyre Spreaders, Balancers, ensure that an SWP is in place that has considered OEM specifications and that you are familiar with the requirements of that SWP. For non-standard tasks ensure that JHA is undertaken prior to commencement of the task.
4. Eliminate manual handling where ever possible. ie Is there a tool or piece of equipment that can eliminate the manual handling components of this task.
5. Prior to installation, consider the layout of tyre change equipment relative to each other, relative to benches, and relative to the surrounding ground level to minimise the risk of strain and sprain injury.
6. If you also need to fit the LV or MV assembly, consider all aspects of the job during the planning stage – ie how do I get the assembly to the job site? How do I move the assembly off the back of the ute if the fitment is to be performed in the field?
7. Consider mechanical tools and machines to assist with the LV or MV tyre change; consider a trolley to move the assembly/tyre; consider crane/fork lift/hiab for lifting or transporting longer distances.
8. Always use a certified inflation cage during inflation of LV and MV tyres.
9. Discourage the use of split-rims.
10. Encourage the use of re-torque protocol.



Eliminate All Unsafe Acts & Conditions.

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