

57' Inner Flange Dislodged from Rim & Fell on Tyre Service Person

Incident

Whilst undertaking general cleaning of a rim on position 1 on a Komatsu 830E, during a vertical mount tyre change, the inner flange, which was still on the rim at the time, has dislodged, struck a tyre service person and pinned him to the ground across his pelvic region, causing multiple fractures.

Investigations into how the incident occurred, confirmed that whilst undertaking the cleaning of the rim, the tyre service person has moved the inner flange and or spun the rim, allowing the inner flange to walk towards the front of the rim.

Upon noticing the position of the inner flange on the rim (front section of the rim), the tyre service person has moved to the front of the rim and tried to push the inner flange on the left hand side around the 8 o'clock position. The tyre service person has then noticed that the right hand side of the inner flange was dislodging and he has taken a step to the right to try and push this side back however it was too late and the inner flange has struck the tyre service person and pinned him to the ground.

Two of the workers colleagues heard the cries for help and ran inside and removed the inner flange from the worker.

Mine Rescue were called and the injured worker was taken to hospital.



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Recommendations

1. During all vertical mounts (TSR and Topy Rims) the inner flange shall be removed utilising a safe removal process (tyre handler preferably) and set aside in a safe position (on a suitable stand) for inspection and cleaning.
2. Ensure during all vertical mounts that the inner flange is in a SAFE position on the rim after the tyre and front componentry has been removed. (*Refer to photo below of SAFE position*).
3. If the inner flange does move on the rim to an 'unsafe' position (after removal of the wheel assembly), use the tyre handler OR have 2 Tyre Service Persons push the inner flange back to the identified SAFE position.
4. NEVER spin the rim whilst the inner flange is on the rim.
5. NEVER put oneself in the 'line of fire' or 'crush zone' of falling componentry.



Recommendation 1

The SAFE position for the inner flange whilst on the rim would be no further forward than the position identified in this photo.

If the inner flange moves to the front half of the rim then put recommendation 2 into place.



Recommendation 4

When working with loose componentry such as inner flanges, lock rings etc. NEVER put oneself in the 'line of fire' or 'crush zone' if they dislodge and are falling. As identified by the picture to the left

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Tanya Hoyle

OHS & Compliance Advisor

Safety Alert 90 130306 Inner Flange Dislodged From Rim and Strikes TSP

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