

Professional Heavy Vehicle Driver

Tech Talk – Tyre Blowouts



A sudden tyre blowout can happen anywhere, anytime. Tyre blowouts can occur because of overloading, under inflation, etc.

A tyre blowout can pull the truck to one side because it creates a side force on the truck.

Keeping calm and maintaining control of the truck are the two key steps to recovering safely from a tyre blowout.

The worst thing you can do is panic braking, the second worst thing you can do is to lift your foot off the accelerator. The first thing you should do is to step on the accelerator. This will increase the forward force on the heavy vehicle (truck).

What should you do if you have a tyre blowout?

- Don't hit the brakes - Slamming on the brakes will only make matters worse.
- Grip the steering wheel with two hands - To avoid losing control maintain a firm grasp on the steering wheel.
- Accelerate slightly - It may sound strange, but slight acceleration will help you maintain control. When you first realize you have a blowout, keep driving straight ahead.
- Ease off the Accelerator - The goal is to gradually slow down as opposed to suddenly braking.
- As your truck slows, gently apply the brakes and stop in a "Safe position".

As with most things prevention is better than cure, when doing your pre-start always check tyre pressure and condition.

As a Professional Heavy Vehicle Driver you need to focus on what you can control.

- Always complete prestart checks including checking your tyres.
- As far as practical, drive with two hands on the steering wheel so that you are ready to handle something unexpected like a tyre blowout.

Remember "Everyone depends on the way you drive".