

SAFETY ALERT!!

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

TIRES

Check the dates on all of your departments Tires. Why? Last July Three firefighters were killed, two firefighters were seriously injured in two separate accidents one in Kansas and the other in Nevada. More recently a tanker/ tender in the state of Maryland rollover with two firefighters hurt (Photo #1).



In all three accidents the cause was listed as tire failure.

Checking the date on your tires: You must find the raised letters on the tire that depict DOT. However the label appears on only one side of tire. So if the tires are mounted as dual wheels and are mounted towards each other, it may be more difficult to find. The date appears on tires as pictured in (Photo #2) in the last oval of four numbers. In a quirk unique to the tire industry the first two numbers in the last oval represent the week that the tire was manufactured the second pair of numbers represent the year. With the tire pictured it was manufactured in the 42 week of 2008.



The N.F.P.A. Standard for tires is contained in N.F.P.A. 1911 The Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus. In the Standard it states in Section:

7.3.4 Tires shall be replaced at least every 7 years or more frequently when the tread wear exceeds state or federal standards as determined by measuring with a tread depth gauge.

6.3.1 (4) Tires have a tread depth of less than 4/32 inch (3.2 mm) on any steering axle or 2/32 inch (1.6 mm) on any non-steering axle at any two adjacent major tread grooves anywhere on the tire.

The tire pictured above needs to be replaced immediately as it is older than 7 years. It makes NO Difference if the tire has a like new tread or there are not many miles on the tire. The tire could have dry rot or cracks out of view and be prone to failure.

Any tires found with only three numbers in the last oval were manufactured before 2000 when the tire standard changed from the three number to the four number designation and needs to be replaced immediately.



In the last year Emergency Vehicle Response found that one out of three fire apparatus inspected during Fleet Evaluations had tires that needed to be taken out of service based on the standard.

Finally when you replace the tires send a driver operator that is engaged, has read and understood this Safety Alert. Three items need to be accomplished:

1. Make sure that the new tires you are purchasing are actually new and have not be laying around in a warehouse for two or three years. Remember it does not matter when you bought the tires in the eyes of the standard and a court of law but rather what the date of manufacturer is that is stamped on the tire.
2. Have the tires mounted so that the date of manufacturer is easily disenable and can be identified through a visual inspection.

3. Replace the tire with the exact same tire size, weight and speed rating that was originally supplied on the apparatus to match the axle and chassis Gross Weight Vehicle Ratings.