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Report of the Week

Would it still stop on a dime?

2/1/08

Report Number: 08-008

Report Date: 01/03/2008 2037

Demographics

Department type: Paid Municipal

Job or rank: Fire Chief

Department shift: Other: 24on 24off X3 then 96 off

Age:

Years of fire service experience:

Region: FEMA Region IX

Event Information

Event type: Vehicle event: responding to, returning from, routine driving, etc.

Event date and time: 01/03/2008 0000

Hours into the shift:

Event participation: Told of event, but neither involved nor witnessed event

Do you think this will happen again?

What do you believe caused the event?

- Equipment
- Situational Awareness

What do you believe is the loss potential?

- Other
- Life threatening injury
- Property damage

Event Description

The attached photos [See Resources Page, Videos and Photos Section] are of [unit designation deleted] right rear tiller wheel which was red-tagged during routine service last night. If the crack traveled through the remaining two, the rim and tire would have left the vehicle. One can't help but imagine the consequences of the trailer skidding to a stop, let alone the several hundred pound wheel and tire's swath. Kudos for alerting the shop mechanic who is now working on fire apparatus with the regular fire mechanic. Brackets [] denote identifying remarks removed by the reviewer.

Lessons Learned

I must say that this didn't happen overnight. With thorough pre-trip inspections, this type of hazard should be caught early on. This is a reminder to be thorough and attentive to detail in your daily and weekly apparatus inspections.

Discussion Questions

A comprehensive maintenance program requires training, diligence, supervision, communication and cooperation between line personnel and the shop. The line and the shop

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are a partnership in service delivery to the public. Once you have reviewed this week's ROTW, consider the following:

1. Show the picture accompanying this report to your shop personnel. What is their opinion of the extent of the damage?
2. Is it possible that the crack in the wheel occurred from an acute event?
3. Would the crack have been noticed sooner if the wheel had been painted a different color?
4. If the shop is remote from your station, would you drive the truck to the shop or have the mechanic bring a replacement wheel to the station?
5. Given the possibility that the crack appeared over time, what inspection practices at the station level would you scrutinize or change?

Note: The questions posed by the reviewers are designed to generate discussion and thought in the name of promoting firefighter safety. They are not intended to pass judgment on the actions and performance of individuals in the reports.