A FleetWatch Initiative

Brake & Tyre Watch CAMPAIGN

FleetWatch magazine, along with its traditional partners in this project stage the highly successful _Brake & Tyre Watch_ road safety initiative on a quarterly basis nationwide.

Brake & Tyre Watch Background

This initiative is designed to raise transport operators' awareness around the subject of efficient braking and tyre checking and is linked to preventative maintenance on trucks, including all safety critical items such as lighting, reflectives, etc.

The project is also intended to empower traffic officials with specialised knowledge, enabling them to perform better in their profession and intervene more frequently in taking unroadworthy heavy vehicles off our roads.

DATE	LOCATION	INSPECTED	FAILED	%
Feb 2006	Gauteng-City Deep	24	21	88%
Feb 2007	Middelburg	35	24	69%
May 2007	Centurion	41	17	42%
March 2008	Midway KZN	26	10	38%
June 2008	Kroonstad	8	7	92%
Feb 2009	Western Cape	25	25	100%
June 2009	Bloemfontein	54	26	48%
Nov 2009	Pietemaritzburg	12	11	92%
March 2010	Port Elizabeth	16	6	40%
July 2010	Rustenburg	7	5	72%
Dec 2010	Limpopo	11	10	91%
Feb 2011	Estcourt	24	20	84%
June 2011	Northern Cape	24	20	84%
Sept 2011	JHB- Langlaagte	24	18	75%
Feb 2012	Midway KZN	12	11	92%
May 2012	Klerksdorp	16	14	88%
Aug 2012	Tshwane	25	17	68%
Nov 2012	West Rand-Krugersdorp	13	11	85%
Feb 2013	Port Shepstone	9	6	67%
May 2013	Donkerhoek	19	14	74%
Aug 2013	Western Cape	41	19	46%
Nov 2013	Marian HIll - KZN	41	29	71%
Feb 2014	Tshwane	12	4	33%
May 2014	Mpumalanga	13	12	92%
August 2014	Ekurhuleni	32	19	59%
Nov 2014	Heidelberg	10	8	80%
March 2015	Potchefstroom	30	21	70%
May 2015	Ermelo	11	7	64%
Aug 2015	Durban	14	11	79%
Nov 2015	Langlaagte	15	11	73 %
March 2016	Estcourt	10	8	80%
May 2016	Ekurhuleni	12	10	83%
Aug 2016	Brackenfell, Western Cape	13	11	85%
Nov 2016	Kimberley	10	7	70%
Mar 2017	Mokopane - Polokwane	12	8	67%
May 2017	Durban - Pinetown	6	4	66%
TOTAL		707	482	68%

Brake & Tyre Watch Training Day

Traffic Officials are trained prior to the hands-on testing day. Training is an important component of the project, for it is very difficult to stop a truck in a roadblock and ascertain whether or not the brakes and tyres are functional.

New braking systems are continually being introduced into new trucks coming into the market, therefore our intention is to offer on-going training to traffic officials to help them better conduct their task out on the road. Training is given free of charge in the interest of road safety by our industry Partners. Each full day's training session focuses on the quality of brake maintenance and determining braking efficiency, through to tyre faults and general issues. It also includes a practical check with a roadworthy truck and trailer.

Brake & Tyre Watch Practical Test Day Event

Our hands-on test day is held at a Vehicle Testing station in the selected Province. The modus operandi on the day is to randomly select trucks from the closest main route (N1/N3/N4) as well as urban centres and put them through a Brake Roller Test so as to ascertain the state of brakes and braking systems on each vehicle.

The vehicles are also checked in the pit for trailer defects and other faults. In order for us to conduct the tests, we work closely with Provincial Traffic Officials and the SAPS in the selected area. The same Traffic Officials who received training on the previous day assist us in pulling the trucks off the road and into the testing area.

The rationale behind this is that all too often accidents are blamed on two things - either 'the brakes failed' or 'the tyre burst'. _FleetWatch_ contends that brakes only fail if you fail to put your foot on the brake pedal or alternatively when the operator has failed to maintain the braking system. It is the latter area of neglect that concerns us.

It is a sad fact that many operators, due to the pressures to deliver combined with the current negative economic climate, are skipping their scheduled maintenance intervals - a worrying trend with dire consequences. In an effort to avoid an escalation of this trend, _FleetWatch_ publishes the actual results of what we find. Brakes, even though they are a hidden component, together with tyres are the most critical safety items on a vehicle and need to be maintained to the highest standards.

FleetWatch would like to thank each of our partners for their time, effort and dedication to this project. Your passion and commitment goes a long way towards making a difference. As we always say: 'If it helps to save just one life, it will have all been worthwhile.'

MAIN PARTNERS

Bridgestone – Your Journey, Our Passion
Wabco
HCV – caring for trucks + truckers
SARF
BRP
Standard Bank
Imperial Road Safety Programme
mX Telematics

AD-HOC PARTNERS

The South African National Roads Agency SOC Ltd
NBTC – Safety. Convenience. Mobility.
N4 Toll Route TRAC – Trans African Concessions
International
babcock – trusted to deliver
Bakwena – N1N4 tol
DAF
IVECO – Your partner for sustainable transport
Mercedes-Benz
Woodford Vehicle Rentals
Hino – A Toyota Group Company
TATA
MAN
Volvo
Isuzu Trucks – With you For the long run