

# NZ Safety Alert

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe

November 2019

## Wheel bearing failure causes fire



A Truck and Trailer was travelling along a state highway when the trailer wheel bearing failed and heated to extreme temperatures that resulted in a fire.

The driver managed to pull over and off the road and call the fire brigade.

To extinguish the fire, the driver used three fire extinguishers, but was unable to extinguish the fire. The fire brigade extinguished the fire.

The vehicle had been serviced the previous week.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 24 months to June 2019 show 3% of all incidents (59 incidents) result from outbreak of fire.

### You need to ensure that:

1. In the event of a trailer fire, if safe to do so, disconnect the trailer to prevent a further fuel source from igniting.
2. You only attempt to extinguish the fire if it is safe to do so. Do not put yourself or any person at risk of harm in order to extinguish a fire.
3. Emergency procedures are in place and all workers are trained in these procedures.
4. You always call emergency services immediately in the event of a fire that may escalate or endanger workers or the public.
5. All vehicles are maintained in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) requirements.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.