

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LOSSES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2019

Vehicle Maintenance



Important - please see: njmel.org

MEL Safety Institute » Resource Center » Vehicle Safety » Managing Vehicle Fleets » Fleet Safety Program

- Regular inspections and maintenance should be completed per manufacturer's recommendations.
- Each driver should complete an inspection report of the vehicle prior to each use.
- During inspection, if any items are found to be deficient, the vehicle should be removed from service until repairs are completed.
- All problems should promptly be reported to the program administrator.

Examples:

- Employee standing on tailgate of DPW truck when tailgate failed due to rusted quick link clip(see pictures above). The quick link clip was part of the chain existing on each side of the tailgate that kept the tailgate level. The employee suffered multiple leg fractures requiring a lengthy surgery and recovery. The total incurred on the claim is \$124,000. The quick link clip in this case costs approximately \$8.00
- Public Works employee stepping down from a backhoe when the bottom step broke causing him to fall, injuring his shoulder. The step was severely rusted. The employee has undergone 3 shoulder surgeries to repair the torn rotator cuff. The total incurred on the claim is over \$229,000.
- Employee riding on back of garbage truck slipped off wet step that was damaged in previous accident and should have been replaced based on OSHA guidelines. The step was no longer level and combined with the rain presented a slippery surface for the employee. A hip replacement surgery was required and the employee will be left with permanent issues. The total incurred on the claim is \$221,000.