

# FIRE EQUIPMENT ALERT BLM-2010-02

The National Fire Equipment Program (NFEP) is issuing an equipment alert which may affect vehicles in your fleet. Recently two BLM 662 Light Engines experienced failures of the rear wheel assemblies. If F150, F250, F350, F450, F550 are part of your fleet ensure that an immediate visual inspection of the vehicle rim, hub, and tire assembly takes place. This alert is being issued as a preventative measure for all Fords. The NFEP is investigating the specific cause of this failure and further guidance will follow this initial alert.

## Recommendations:

- Remove each tire and wheel assembly. Inspect the rim for elongation of lug holes. (Figure 1)
- Inspect overall appearance of the rim. Look for signs of slipping e.g., shiny spots on the back and front side of rim, cracks or unusual wear.
- Inspect the lugs and lug nuts for unusual wear. Ensure you look at the flat washer portion of the lug nut for shine and signs of slipping. (Figure 2 and Figure 3).
- Inspect the hub. Look for signs of wheel wear on the actual hub. (Figure 4).
- Ensure that wheels and lugs are cleaned of dust and debris before installing wheel back on vehicle. Foreign debris and a dirty surface can cause a space which can cause the lugs to loosen.
- It is recommended to put only a single drop of machine oil between the lug nuts and the washer. Do not put oil on the lug or the lug nut threads.
- After re-installing wheels, re-torque lug nuts after 100 miles, then re-torque after 500 miles. Ensure that you adhere to the torque specs of your specific vehicle. That information is located in your owner's manual.
- The National Fire Equipment Program recommends that torque inspections are performed and documented within the Fire Engine Maintenance Procedure and Record (FEMPR) on a weekly basis or more frequently as conditions warrant.



Figure 1: Notice elongated lug holes



Figure 2: Extreme wear on lug



Figure 3: Lug Nuts surface is shined



Figure 4: Shine on hub from wheel wear

If your vehicle shows any of the preceding signs please contact the National Fire Equipment Program immediately by phone and submit a Deficiency Improvement Report at [http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fire\\_ops/EquipDev/def\\_form.php](http://web.blm.gov/internal/fire/fire_ops/EquipDev/def_form.php) . Please ensure that you document and photograph any issues associated with this deficiency. Once again, if you have any questions pertaining to this equipment alert please feel free to contact us. This alert will also be posted on the National Fire Equipment web-site. Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

The National Fire Equipment Program

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