

SAFETY ALERT

On the 1st of July, the Idaho City Hotshots were in route to a fire in New Mexico when the driver side rear dual tires came off the vehicle. The wheels crossed the median and struck another vehicle in the oncoming lane, no injuries were reported but both vehicles received damage. The superintendant of the hotshots called local law enforcement to investigate the accident, filed a report and complete agency accident reports. The vehicle was towed to a local community and repaired. The Idaho City Hotshots continued on to their fire assignment on the 2nd of July.



Picture 1: Sheered Lug Bolts



Picture 2: Vehicle resting on frame and utility box

On the 5th of July, the crew was demobed from their incident. Prior to leaving, the Superintendant checked the lug nuts on the repaired wheel. He found they were loose and some were missing. He took the vehicle to Ground Support and they found the vehicle had a broken frame on the driver side of the vehicle, in front of the U-joint. It has not been determined what caused the broken frame or how long it had been damaged.



Picture 3: Broken Frame on Drivers Side

The vehicle was inspected on several previous assignments this spring. The daily preventative maintenance inspections were current. Be sure to conduct preventative maintenance inspections on your vehicles. Look under the vehicle to see if there are any fractures or things that look out of the ordinary with the undercarriage or frame.

Year of Vehicle: 2001
Make of Vehicle: Ford F550
Mileage on Vehicle: 150,000 miles plus.