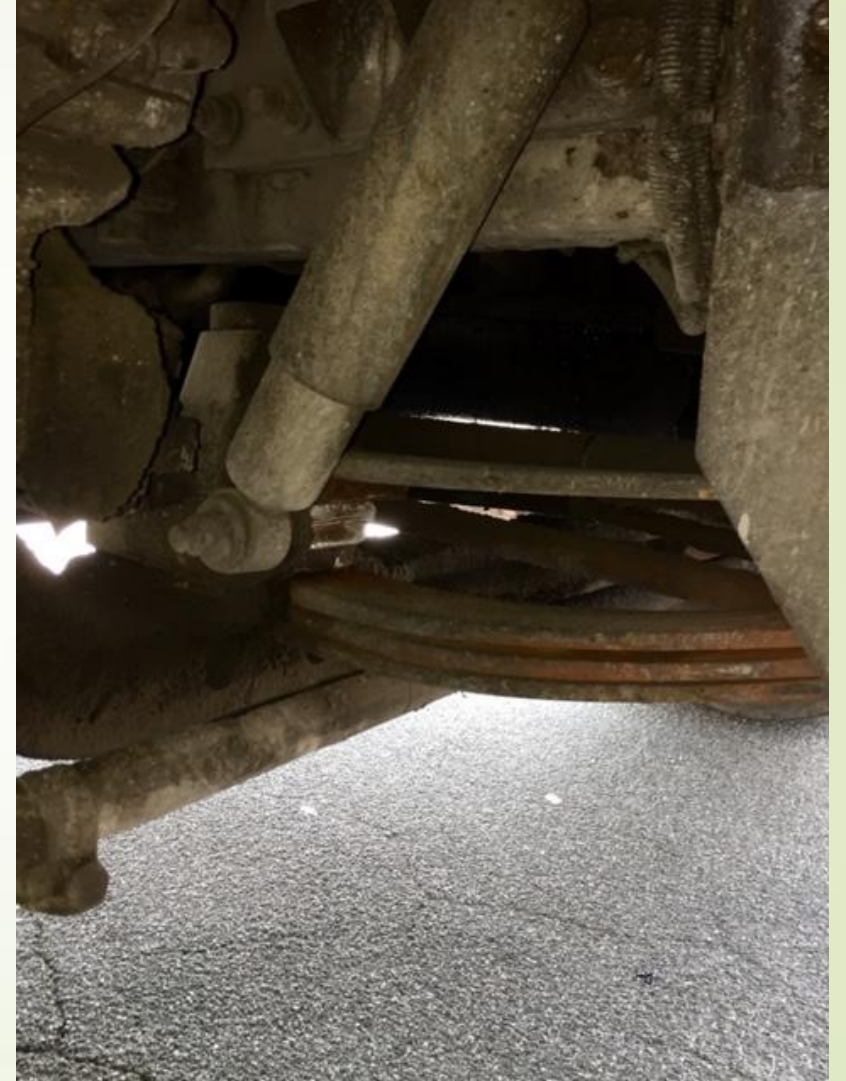


Equipment and Maintenance Programs – Their Role in Safety



Preventive Maintenance Program

- A regular PM schedule is essential to vehicle, operator, and public safety.
- Title 49 CFR 396 requires an inspection and maintenance program for fleet vehicles.
- Included in this program should be a thorough visual inspection as this is what allows the detection of problems possibly unidentified by the operator and potential safety issues.
- Utilizing a comprehensive check list during the PM is an effective way to ensure that no part of the vehicle is overlooked.



Preventive Maintenance Program Continued

- Safety items to be inspected are covered in Title 49 CFR 393 and include but are not limited to mirrors/glass, safety warning alerts, lighting, air systems, fuel systems, steering, suspension, tires, and brakes. Discrepancies with these items may place the vehicle out of service until repairs are performed. According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, in 2011 commercial vehicle enforcement officers placed over 14,000 vehicles and 5,000 drivers out of service for safety violations.
- In addition to a thorough chassis inspection it is important to inspect truck body hydraulic, mechanical, and safety systems for proper operation. Included in this category are items such as pumps, PTOs, tubes/hoses, mounting hardware, and safety interlocks/warning indicators such as unsafe travel alarms for body, tailgate, forks, arms, etc.
- Although recall notices are sent by mail it is still a good idea to check for vehicle recalls at NHTSA.gov by entering the VIN. According to the NHTSA about 7.5 million vehicle recalls were unrepaired in 2017.



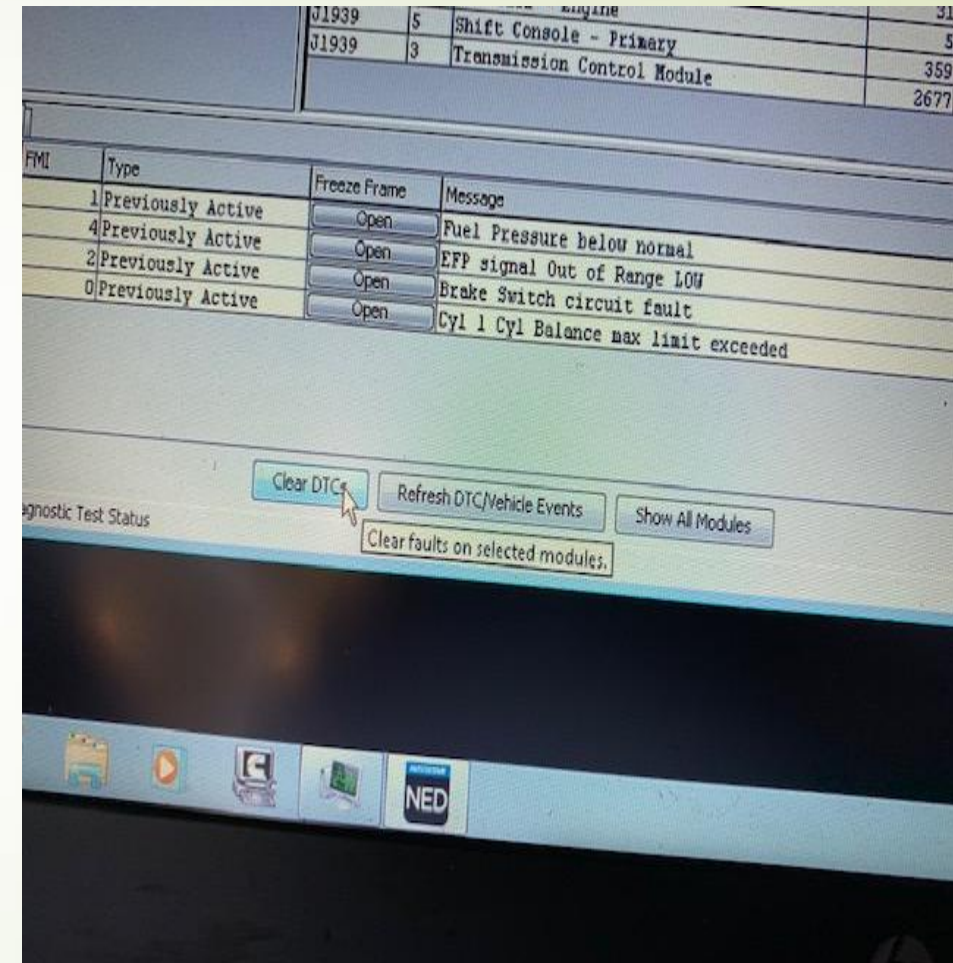
Fire Prevention and Suppression

- ▶ Once again, the visual inspection allows us to identify and correct potential fire hazards such as garbage on the exhaust or oil leaks
- ▶ Installation and maintenance of a fire suppression system significantly reduces vehicle damage, repair costs, and downtime in the event of a fire
- ▶ While vehicles are in the shop the fire suppression system should be checked to ensure it is in a ready state and has a full charge.



Vehicle Monitoring Systems

- Camera systems can provide up to a 360-degree view of the vehicle and may even monitor the operator. Another feature of many camera systems is the DVR option which allows camera footage to be recorded and saved. Installation and maintenance of these systems allows operators a greater view around their vehicle and can provide evidence in the event of an accident.
- GPS Tracking and Telematics systems provide many benefits to include real-time vehicle location tracking, speed monitoring, ABS/brake events, and diagnostic reports. Engine diagnostic monitors can help your fleet maintenance personnel to identify and repair problems that may cause your vehicle to shut down during operation.
- Fleet maintenance software such as AssetWorks allows your fleet team to monitor your PM program and repair history.



Communication

- ▶ Communication between fleet and operators is incredibly important in order to identify vehicle condition and necessary repairs.
- ▶ Driver vehicle inspection reports (DVIR) or vehicle condition reports (VCR) turned directly into the fleet shop streamline the inspection and repair process by faster assignment of work to technicians.
- ▶ A strong technician-operator relationship is very helpful in terms of communicating problems with the vehicle that may otherwise be difficult to determine based on a DVIR or VCR.

