

## TYRE BLOWOUTS

*“ . . . Motorists suffered more than 24 hours of traffic chaos after one of the busiest stretches of the M25 was closed by a lorry crash. . . . doctors were today battling to save the life of one person this morning, who was last night airlifted from the scene with life-threatening injuries. Two others were seriously hurt. . . ”*

*‘A heavy goods vehicle suffered a tyre blow out and has lost control striking the central reservation barrier and overhead gantry,’ a police spokesman said today. . . ”*

The above is an extract from the Daily Mail Newspaper on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011, following a serious incident which closed the M25 motorway (south of London), on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

We are pleased to report that the injured parties are now all stable, but will require a period of rehabilitation.

The incident is being investigated by the Police and any learnings will be circulated following its completion, but in the meantime we ask the question . . . **how can we reduce tyre blowouts** . .

### What causes a blowout?

When a tyre is **under-inflated** more heat builds up inside it, which may eventually lead to a blow out. This may then cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle, putting the driver and other motorists at risk.

### How can we help to prevent blowout?

- 1) Have a tyre fitter **check** the **tyre pressure** regularly
- 2) **Check** the tyre pressure is correct for the vehicle **manufacturers recommended pressure**
- 3) Clean dirt from the valves and fit valve caps
- 4) **Pre-start checks**:-
  - a. Remove any stones and other objects embedded in the tread. **Look out** for any **bulges, lumps or cuts in the tread or sidewalls**



### . . .and the benefits of tyre maintenance. . .

- 1) Safety – driver, public and tyre fitters
- 2) Vehicle Handling – acceleration, braking and cornering
- 3) Fuel Economy
- 4) Premature tyre wear
- 5) Vehicle downtime
- 6) Legal and Financial: Avoiding fines and penalties from (£2,500 and 3 points UK)

