

# TIRE PRESSURE 101

Underinflated tires lead to downtime and cause a lot of reactive fire fighting for most carriers. According to a study by the Department of Transportation, only 55 percent of heavy truck and trailer tires are within the optimal pressure range, dropping down to 17 percent in the cooler months. Where are you in that statistic?

An ounce of prevention can go a long way with helping you optimize your tires' patch on the ground, so keep the below basic guidelines in mind, and watch your tire bill drop.

## Five Tips to Maintain Proper Tire Pressure



### **TIP 1: USE A CALIBRATED GAUGE, NOT A FOOT**

You cannot tell a tire's pressure by kicking it – use a gauge. Gauges are easy to carry around but can also get dropped, which is why you should calibrate your gauge regularly against a master gauge at a nearby shop.



### **TIP 2: WAIT FOR HOT TIRES TO COOL BEFORE CHECKING PRESSURE.**

Tires take only minutes to heat, but hours to cool. If you check your tire pressure immediately after driving, it will measure higher as a result of the heat built up while driving. For the most accurate pressure reading, check tire pressure first thing in the morning, or after the tires haven't been in operation for several hours.



### **TIP 3: KNOW THE IMPACT OF WEATHER ON TIRE PRESSURE.**

Tire pressure decreases 2-3 psi for every 10-degree Fahrenheit drop in temperature. These underinflated tires bend and flex, wreaking havoc on casings and leading to downtime in the spring. Many drivers don't realize the impact that underinflated tires have on stopping distance and overall vehicle performance. The reality is that driving on underinflated tires causes excessive heating, which is a tire's biggest enemy, and causes most tire-related ERS events.



### **TIP 4: FACTOR IN YOUR ROUTE'S EFFECT ON TIRE PRESSURE.**

It's important to know your tires and where they're going in order to be in a position to maintain proper tire pressure. When you don't keep up with the changes that happen based on your routes, the tires tend to wear much more quickly. For example, if your routes have you constantly driving between climates, the wide variance in temperatures may cause major fluctuations in your tire pressure. Knowing the impact of the tire's environment can help understand how it's likely to behave.



**TIP 5: BALANCE PRESSURE BETWEEN DUALS**

Don't skip the yard checks. Studies have shown that in dual tire assemblies, only 20 percent of the tires checked are within 5 psi of the tire beside it. Having mismatched dual tires will ruin both tires. Here's what happens. The smaller tire drags along the road to keep up with the distance traveled by the larger tire. And all it takes is having the diameter of the two tires even the slightest bit different. So keep up those inspections and make sure the psi of your dual tires match up.



**And a Bonus TIP 6: USE HALO**

Of course, maintaining proper tire pressure is easier if you're using our Halo Tire Inflator and Halo Connect platform. The Halo Tire Inflator is a completely mechanical, rotary pump, compatible with dual or wide-base tires on tractors and trailers. As an easy-to-install, bolt-on device, it can be mounted in 5-10 minutes per wheel-end and does not require connection to an onboard air compressor.

Carriers looking for more insights into the state of their tires' health enjoy our Halo Connect predictive tire management platform. Because Halo Connect uses machine learning built on 20+ billion real-world miles, the system cuts through the noise generated by traditional threshold-based tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS) to alert users to tire health issues and their severity.

By coupling active inflation with the Halo Connect tire management platform, carriers can expect to reduce tire issues by more than 70 percent. And, when there is a tire that needs your attention, expect to be notified 60 percent sooner than TPMS.

The bottom line is that tires are still the leading cause of downtime for commercial carriers, and good tire pressure management prevents blowouts.

Our goal with Halo and Halo Connect has always been simplicity. Contact us today at 844-RUN-HALO to learn if Halo and Halo Connect are right for your application.

**SEE YOU ON THE ROAD!**