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More than 4,500 commercial vehicles checked for safety in June

Faulty-equipment charges help to prevent collisions and breakdowns

Edmonton... More than 1,100 charges were laid in June following surprise commercial vehicle inspections by Alberta transport officers and enforcement agencies.

More than 4,500 commercial vehicles, including 92 buses, were inspected resulting in 1,148 out-of-service charges. The most common equipment violations were faulty lighting, inadequate cargo securement and overweight vehicles.

An out-of-service violation is issued for any vehicle that could cause a collision or a breakdown due to its mechanical condition or loading. No motor carrier or person can operate an out-of-service commercial vehicle until all repairs are satisfactorily completed.

Transport officers conducted 18-point visual inspections looking at safety essentials such as load securement, driver credentials, brakes, tires, log books, exhaust systems, coupling devices, fuel systems, turn signals, steering, lamps and wheels. It takes approximately 20 minutes to do the inspection.

Alberta also uses a thermal-imaging technology as a pre-screening device to identify unsafe vehicles for commercial inspections. The thermal imaging units use infrared imaging to measure the heat emitted from an object. These units can perform brake inspections on moving commercial vehicles to identify defective brakes, tires and other mechanical components. Alberta is the first province in Canada to use this technology for this purpose.

June is designated as Commercial Vehicle Safety Month in the Alberta Traffic Safety Plan calendar. The Traffic Safety Plan outlines initiatives to help prevent motor vehicle collisions, build safer roads, enforce traffic laws and better educate all Albertans about traffic safety.

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