

February 13, 2009

Transport officers crack down on unsafe vehicles in Fort McMurray area

More than 1,200 commercial vehicles checked over three days

Fort McMurray...

As part of a commercial vehicle inspection blitz, 40 Alberta government transport officers, along with dangerous goods, carrier services and vehicle safety inspectors, cracked down on unsafe commercial vehicles and buses in the Fort McMurray area. For 17 hours per day, over a three-day period, from January 20 to 22 officers checked 1,200 commercial vehicles and buses.

During the blitz:

- 235 Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) inspections were conducted (55 vehicles passed, 68 required attention, and 112 were placed out-of-service);
- 529 CVSA violations were noted;
- 70 non-CVSA equipment violations were noted, including 58 document violations;
- 25 overloaded vehicles were found;
- 16 infractions were noted for speeding or for not slowing down when passing a stopped emergency vehicle with emergency lights flashing;
- 184 traffic violations tickets were given for various infractions, including equipment violations, cargo securement, moving violations, overweight violations and permit violations; and,
- seven appearance notices were given for federal commercial vehicle hours-of service violations.

Transport officers conduct 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. An inspection takes about 30 minutes.

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. Using these units, officers can inspect 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.

For more information on the thermal imaging unit go to <http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/3161.htm>.

To ensure the mechanical fitness of commercial vehicles, these inspections will continue.

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