

TECH BULLETIN

FLOOD DAMAGED_BRAKE CHAMBERS

SEPT 2017

Keeping today's Heavy Duty, Class-8 Tractor and Trailers in safe operational condition after a major hurricane or flooding event means drivers and maintenance experts must be at the top of their game when inspecting these critical Air **Brake** Systems.



Most, air operated [BRAKE CHAMBERS] are unique in that they are designed with breathing vents in both the service and parking side housings. The underside vents allow water to exit the unit and ambient air to pass through the unit during everyday dry weather driving helping evaporate moisture in the unit.

If your tractor or trailer has been SUBMERGED in flooded/rain waters the vehicle should be decommissioned until a detailed inspection of the [BRAKE CHAMBERS] has been completed. Note: The [BRAKE CHAMBER] is only one component within your braking system. It is critical that you check every component in the entire braking system before you recommission the tractor or trailer. No Exceptions...

SALT WATER SUBMERSION

In the event that your vehicle has been subjected to coastal flooding. It is reasonable to assume that your [BRAKE CHAMBERS] have been thoroughly contaminated with salt water. Due to the highly corrosive nature of salt water, we recommend you replace all brake Chambers to prevent any chance of **PREMATURE BRAKE FAILURE...**

RAIN WATER SUBMERSION_CHECK LIST

Step 1: It is vital that you visually inspect all of the underside breathing vent holes to make sure they are clear of any contaminates like mud or sand.

Step 2: If the inspection confirms the vents are clean, without obstruction, carefully apply air to the service and parking sides of the chamber making sure each side functions properly. Repeat this step several times. If both sides operate correctly move to Step 3.

CAUTION: During initial brake application observe the chambers from a distance as fluids or foreign material can expel from the unit at high velocity causing injury.

Step 3: In a safe environment, test drive the vehicle at slow speeds to confirm that the SERVICE brakes are functioning properly and apply the PARKING brakes to confirm they hold properly.

After careful evaluation of the entire braking system the technician should be able to deem the vehicle road worthy with caution.

CAUTIONARY MAINTANCE: Knowing the [BRAKE CHAMBER] has been subjected to flood waters. It would be wise to schedule the vehicle for a vigorous reevaluation within 60-120 days. Any signs of rust or corrosion that were not present during the initial evaluation should be noted and if necessary, replace the unit accordingly.

Step 4: IF A VENT OBSTRUCTION IS FOUND: If any obstruction around the vents is found such as mud or sand, we highly recommend the unit be replaced. These contaminates will grind against the INTERNAL components of the [BRAKE CHAMBER] and over time will cause premature chamber failure.

Warranty... Please know that our warranty approval process will disassemble each and every unit to inspect for internal malfunction. If corrosion is due to foreign contamination, it is possible the units warranty will be voided.

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