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Newsletter

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## Mohr Safety



A tractor-trailer wheel flew over divider and collided with the van. TIM MCKEE/OTTAWA CITIZEN

A tractor-trailer driver and his employer have been charged after a dual wheel fell off the truck early Friday morning in Ottawa and struck a cargo van on the windshield, killing the driver instantly.

The tractor-trailer was heading west just before 6 a.m. ET on Highway 417 near Carling Avenue when the driver noticed smoke coming from the wheels and began to slow down, according to Ontario Provincial Police Const. Eric Booth. "As he was pulling over, a set of wheels from the trailer comes unattached, bounces across three lanes of roadway, goes over the centre median and then lands right in the windshield of a van as it's travelling eastbound in the far right-hand lane," Booth said.

Ottawa-based ICB Food Distribution, the company that owns the truck, has been charged with operating an unsafe commercial vehicle, and the driver of the truck, a Gatineau, Que., man, has been charged with driving with a detached part, Booth said. A court appearance is scheduled for March 31.

"This doesn't happen as much as it used to," Booth said. "A number of years ago, the province set up guidelines and made it a more serious offence for a wheel to come off, and made the owners of the vehicles liable as well as the mechanics.

"Just regular maintenance, that's all it comes down to, maintaining the vehicle properly ... on a regular basis. That's why it's so important for the walk-around in the morning, to have a pre-check on the vehicle." The driver of the tractor-trailer had done a pre-trip inspection before the Friday morning incident, Booth said.

**CBC News Ottawa**

### Daily (pre-trip) Inspections

The purpose of the daily vehicle inspection is to ensure that problems and defects have been identified before the vehicle is operated on the highway. Inspections prevent the operation of a vehicle with problems that are likely to cause or contribute to the severity of an accident.

[HTA Regulation 199/07](#) contain the requirements for daily (pre-trip or "circle check") inspections that must be completed within 24 hours before driving. (MTO Website)

**During this busy season it is very important to take the time to do a thorough pre-trip and post-trip inspection. Take the time to do so, the consequences could be fatal if not done properly.**