



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
From the Bendix Tech Tips Series

BENDIX TECH TIPS: GET READY FOR WINTER
AND HELP PROTECT AGAINST UNEXPECTED DOWNTIME

Prepare for Cold Weather's Hazards and Keep Your Truck Operating Safely

AVON, Ohio – Dec. 14, 2022 – Winter has been making plans for your trucks: corrosion, freeze-ups, blockages – all the fun stuff that can reduce your time on the road, leaving you stuck in the garage or stranded at the roadside. The good news is there's still time for fleets and owner-operators to help keep these things from happening – and this installment of the Bendix Tech Tips series explains how.

Be on Top of Your Brakes (*Tips from Mark Holley, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Wheel-End*)

So much depends on what happens at the wheel-end, and in winter's road conditions, the importance of brake performance heightens. Get your preventive maintenance in before your wheel-ends are put to the tests of snow, ice, and more.

- **Use your eyes down under:** Check the air brake chamber housings for corrosion or damage that could give corrosion a foothold. Make sure the dust plugs are properly installed, which helps prevent corrosive materials taking hold from within. Fleets may also want to consider replacing their air chambers with the Bendix® EnduraSure® PRO™ sealed air chamber. This technology incorporates a dust plug with an integrated check

valve allowing for air to escape from the air chamber but prevents moisture and other contaminants from entering the park side of the chamber.

- **Lubricate, lubricate, lubricate:** Several components on drum-braked wheel-ends require regular lubrication as a standard maintenance procedure that keeps moisture from building up and enabling corrosion. Make sure automatic slack adjusters, clevis pin connections, cam tubes, shafts, and bushings are all newly greased in preparation for winter.
- **Inspect air disc brakes:** Any opening into the caliper can permit corrosion, so inspect the boots for tears or punctures and check the integrity of the guide pins, replacing parts where necessary. Make sure the shear adapter cover is in place and fully seated. Additionally, make sure the pads move freely in the carrier – remove them and clean the carrier surface with a wire brush if you need to – and check that the brake moves freely on its guidance system.

Take Care of the Air (*Tips from Rick Conklin, Bendix director of engineering, Air Supply and Drivetrain*)

Compressed air powers the braking system – and on today’s vehicles, other crucial functions as well, including automated manual transmissions (AMTs), advanced safety systems, and emissions controls. Winter conditions increase the vulnerability of air systems, so be vigilant.

- **Drain the tanks:** Draining every three months tends to be sufficient for typical line haul trucks, but if you’re driving something with high air demand, like a vocational truck, monthly or even weekly is recommended, depending on job conditions. In any case, it’s a good idea to manually drain the tanks at the beginning of cold weather season to get rid of any moisture from the warmer months.
- **Check your dryer cartridge:** If it hasn’t been replaced lately, then now’s the time: If you see moisture in your tank drainings or have reached the OE’s recommended preventive maintenance (PM) interval for the air system, then an inspection for excessive air consumption (air leaks) and replacement of the air dryer cartridge to an OE-recommended cartridge, like the Bendix® PuraGuard®, may be wise before the winter season hits. Moisture in the air system can condense and freeze in the winter, upping the chances of brake and valve malfunctions.

Because oil aerosols that are passed into the system can be particularly harmful to the air system, air dryers equipped with oil-coalescing cartridges are common on most manufacturers' vehicles. If the vehicle was equipped with an oil-coalescing cartridge – such as the Bendix® PuraGuard® – from the factory, then it's especially important to replace it with the OE-recommended oil-coalescing cartridge. Failure to replace like-for-like may cause accelerated deterioration of system components and other malfunctions in the air system caused by the oil aerosols and other contaminants.

- **Replace the purge valve:** This step is a quick and simple bit of preventive maintenance that can really save you some trouble down the road, so if you spot corrosion or grit accumulation, then go ahead and put in a new one. Corrosive road chemicals – the kind you'll run into during winter – can damage this valve and cause bigger system issues.
- **Save de-icers for emergencies:** We know sometimes they're necessary to get trucks back on the road, but de-icing solutions can corrode O-rings and valve seals within your air system, so you should limit the exposure to as small an area as possible. And afterward in the shop, keep an eye on the affected parts.

Look After Advanced Safety Systems *(Tips from TJ Thomas, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Controls)*

Systems like stability control and collision mitigation may play an even larger role in winter, and even the most advanced technologies depend on basic upkeep of tires, brakes, and other components to deliver at their best out on the road. As the cold months take hold, we recommend you look at a few things.

- **Double-check your wheel-ends:** On the tires, you're looking for adequate tread depth and proper wear, and you should examine wheel-ends for cracks and check to make sure all bolts are tightened.
- **Watch your tire pressure:** Winter's temperature swings make running on the right tire inflation exceedingly important. Make sure your tire pressure monitoring systems are operating properly, and run diagnostic checks if you encounter any DTCs (diagnostic trouble code).
- **Clear the sensors:** Before you get on the road each trip, inspect for and remove any snow, ice, or debris from external cameras and radars that are a part of forward- or side-

mounted collision mitigation technology or lane-departure warning systems. Obstructions will reduce their ability to perform effectively.

- **Examine electrical connections:** Secure and watertight connectivity is even more important in the winter, when even small amounts of salt or other road chemicals can ruin connectors and components.

In the shop and on the road, the right maintenance and inspection practices pay off in safety and uptime. You can find more information from the Bendix Tech Tips series in the Bendix multimedia center at knowledge-dock.com. Additional instructional videos and interactive training on wheel-ends, air systems, and electronics are also available at the Bendix On-Line Brake School, www.brake-school.com, and B2Bendix.com. You can reach the Bendix Tech Team at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE, option 2. And as always, complete maintenance and troubleshooting information can be found in the library of Service Data Sheets and Technical Bulletins located at B2Bendix.com and bendix.com.

About the Bendix Tech Tips Series

Bendix, the North American leader in the development and manufacture of leading-edge active safety, air management, and braking system technologies, is committed to helping keep commercial vehicles on the road and in good working condition. The Bendix Tech Tips series addresses common commercial vehicle maintenance questions and issues concerning the total range of components found within foundation and air brake systems, as well as advanced safety systems.

About Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC

Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems, a member of Knorr-Bremse, develops and supplies leading-edge active safety technologies, energy management solutions, and air brake charging and control systems and components under the Bendix® brand name for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, tractors, trailers, buses, and other commercial vehicles throughout North America. An industry pioneer, employing more than 4,400 people, Bendix – and its wholly owned subsidiary, R.H. Sheppard Co., Inc. – is driven to deliver the best solutions for improved vehicle safety, performance, and overall operating cost. Contact us at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE (1-800-247-2725) or visit bendix.com. Stay connected and informed through Bendix expert podcasts, blog posts, videos, and other resources at knowledge-dock.com. Follow Bendix on Twitter at twitter.com/Bendix_CVS. Log on and learn from the Bendix experts at brake-school.com. And to learn more about career opportunities at Bendix, visit bendix.com/careers.

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