



News Release

For more information, contact:

Barbara Gould
Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC
(440) 329-9609
barbara.gould@bendix.com

or

Ken Kesegich
Marcus Thomas LLC
(888) 482-4455
kkesegich@mtllc.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Special Edition of the Bendix Tech Tips Series

BENDIX TECH TIPS: COLD WEATHER IS COMING – BE READY WITH THESE
TOP 12 TIPS FOR BUMPER-TO-BUMPER WINTER PREP

With Chilly Months on Their Way to North America, Help Keep Your Vehicle on the Road and Operating Safely with This Advice for Wheel-Ends, Air Systems, and Electronics

ELYRIA, Ohio – Oct. 5, 2021 – Like it or not, winter is coming. You know the drill: falling temperatures, snow, and ice hitting large swaths of North America, presenting challenges for trucks and fleets. Now is the time to prepare. With harsh weather looming, this special installment of the Bendix Tech Tips Series serves up 12 pieces of advice for wheel-ends, air systems, and electronics to help keep your vehicle in good operating condition.

Wheel-Ends (*Tips from Mark Holley, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Wheel-End*)

- 1) **Check air brake chamber housings.** Look for corrosion – or damage that could allow corrosive materials to take hold – and ensure that dust plugs are properly installed. Prevent corrosion from getting a foothold when these areas are most exposed to hazardous conditions.
- 2) **Lubricate drum-braked wheel-ends.** Focus on automatic slack adjusters, clevis pin connections, cam tubes, shafts, and bushings. Lubrication is a standard preventive maintenance procedure that also keeps moisture from building up and enabling corrosion.

- 3) **On wheel-ends with air disc brakes, check the guide pins and inspect the boots for tears or punctures.** Openings could permit corrosion of the caliper within. Replace any pins or boots as needed. Verify that the shear adapter cover is in place and fully seated.
- 4) **Ensure free movement of air disc brake pads in the carrier.** If necessary, remove them and clean the carrier surface with a wire brush – and make sure that the brake moves freely on its guidance system.

Air Systems (*Tips from Richard Nagel, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Air Supply and Drivetrain*)

- 1) **Keep it dry.** Moisture in the air system can condense and freeze, increasing the odds of brake and valve malfunctions. If the air dryer cartridge hasn't been replaced lately, now is the time to do it. Bendix recommends oil-coalescing cartridges like the PuraGuard®, since oil aerosols passed into the system can be particularly harmful.
- 2) **Check the dryer's purge valve for corrosion or grit accumulation and replace it if necessary.** Corrosive road chemicals can damage the purge valve, and putting in a new one as a safeguard is a relatively quick and simple bit of preventive maintenance that can save bigger headaches in the future.
- 3) **Manually drain the air tanks.** Today's vehicles use compressed air for more non-braking functions, including automated manual transmissions (AMTs), advanced safety systems, and emissions controls. It's always advisable to manually drain the air tanks at the start of the cold weather season. Draining every three months is generally sufficient for typical line haul trucks, but more often – monthly or even weekly – is recommended for vehicles with high air demand, like vocational trucks.
- 4) **Avoid using de-icing solutions on an air system – unless it's an emergency.** They can corrode O-rings and valve seals. (If one must be used, limit the exposure to as small an area as possible and keep an eye on the affected parts.)

Electronics and Controls (*Tips from TJ Thomas, Bendix director of marketing and customer solutions, Controls*)

1. **Remember that driver assistance technologies – like stability control and collision mitigation – rely on maintenance of complementary systems like tires and the brakes to ensure performance in the field.** Maintaining these systems is

BENDIX TECH TIPS: COLD WEATHER IS COMING – BE READY WITH THESE TOP 12 TIPS FOR BUMPER-TO-BUMPER WINTER PREP

Oct. 5, 2021/Page 3

- especially critical in winter when electronic systems may be called on more often to help mitigate crashes. Check tires for adequate tread depth and proper wear, and wheel-ends for tight bolts and cracks.
2. **If a DTC (diagnostic trouble code) light on the dash is illuminated, then run a diagnostic check to make sure tire pressure monitoring systems are operating properly.** Internal and external temperature swings, along with slick road conditions, make running on the right tire pressure exceedingly important in the winter.
 3. **Keep external cameras and radar sensors – forward-mounted collision mitigation units, for instance – clear of snow and ice.** Check them prior to getting on the road as part of your pre-check inspection.
 4. **During normal preventive maintenance activity or if you believe there is a problem, verify connections to ensure they are secure and watertight.** Salt and other road chemicals can cause corrosion, which can ruin connectors and components.

Preparation and preventive maintenance help fleets and owner-operators avoid the toll that winter hazards can take on their trucks. These efforts in the shop and on the road can help keep vehicles running smoothly and safely.

Bendix safety technologies complement safe driving practices. No commercial vehicle safety technology replaces a skilled, alert driver exercising safe driving techniques and proactive, comprehensive driver training. Responsibility for the safe operation of the vehicle remains with the driver at all times.

Information in the Bendix Tech Tips series can be found in the Bendix multimedia center at knowledge-dock.com. Further instructional videos and interactive training on wheel-ends, air systems, and electronics are available at the Bendix On-Line Brake School, www.brake-school.com. For more information, contact the Bendix Tech Team at 1-800-AIR-BRAKE.

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.

BENDIX TECH TIPS: COLD WEATHER IS COMING – BE READY WITH THESE TOP 12 TIPS FOR BUMPER-TO-BUMPER WINTER PREP

Oct. 5, 2021/Page 4

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 4,100 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.

#