

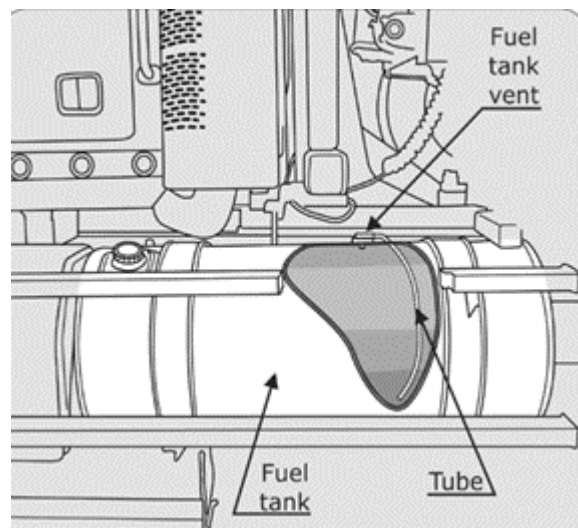
MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

A log transport truck quit running while driving up a steep hill on a main highway. The driver got out to investigate the cause. While he was investigating, a flash fire occurred after he removed the diesel tank fuel cap. The driver was seriously burned.

After the incident, investigators found that the end of the fuel tank vent tube was blocked with mud. This blockage caused a pressure differential in the fuel system that starved the truck of fuel and caused it to shut down. When the driver opened the diesel tank fuel cap to investigate, he was exposed to hot diesel vapors that ignited due to several potential ignition sources, including static electricity, contact with hot exhaust surfaces and contact with energized electrical equipment.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

1. Develop and implement written safe work procedures for maintaining fuel tank vent systems and for refueling and educate and train drivers in those procedures.
2. Check your vehicle's fuel tank vent system as part of your daily pre-trip inspection. Make sure, the end of the tube is not clogged with mud or other debris. Clean it if needed.
3. Bond and ground equipment when refueling.

Important Take Away

Check your vehicle's fuel tank vent system as part of your daily pre-trip inspection.

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