

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

September 2005

Ref. No. P-05-05

Hurricane Katrina: Floodwater Damage to Tires

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC recommends the following with respect to tires that have been exposed to flood waters as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Flood water contains contaminants such as oil, grease, salt and other materials which can be damaging to tires. This recommendation applies to all types of tires including passenger, light truck, truck, off-the-road and agricultural tires:

1. Due to the likelihood of damage to the inner structure of tires by contaminants, unmounted tires that have been exposed to flood water should be scrapped. All other unmounted tires should be inspected for debris damage by a qualified tire professional before being placed in service.
2. Tires that are currently mounted on vehicles that have been exposed to flood water should be cleaned with a mild detergent or vegetable based cleaner. Do not use degreasers or petroleum based cleaners on tires. The cleaned tires should then be inspected for physical damage such as cuts, tears, holes, or cracks which might allow contaminants into the tires. If damage is present, the tires should be scrapped. During the inspection, if indications of chemical residue such as oil spots remain on the cleaned tires, the tires should be inspected by a qualified tire professional at an early opportunity. Otherwise, tires without physical damage may be returned to service.
3. All scrapped passenger and light truck radial tires are to be rendered non-serviceable by drilling a 1 inch hole or by cutting an 8 inch cut completely through the sidewalls. All scrapped truck bus radial tires are to be rendered non-serviceable by making 3 cuts in a radial direction between the body ply cords 4 inches long through the tire sidewalls that are separated by at least 6 inches. All scrapped tires are to have the complete DOT serial number removed BEFORE the tires leave the affected storage entity's control. All tires must be scrapped in compliance with the laws, including but not limited to the environmental laws in each locality.