

What Causes Truck Tire Blowouts and Who Can Be Held Liable?

How Tire Failures Happen And Who Pays When They Cause A Crash In Texas

A truck tire blowout doesn't just flatten a tire, it can turn a fully loaded 18-wheeler into a 40-ton hazard that is suddenly hard to control and impossible to ignore. One moment you are driving along I 35W or I 30 with traffic flowing smoothly, and the next you hear a thunderclap ahead of you, see a tractor trailer lurch sideways, and watch strips of rubber fly across the lanes like thrown chains.

[Coby L. Wooten, Attorney At Law, P.C.](#) has seen how quickly a tire failure can ripple through a highway scene, causing chain reaction [truck accidents](#), serious injuries, and life changing losses for families across Fort Worth and North Texas. When that happens, the real question is not just why the tire failed, but whose decisions and shortcuts made that blowout so likely in the first place.

How Does a Truck Tire Blowout Really Happen?

A truck tire blowout is a specific kind of failure. It's not a slow leak that gives a driver time to pull over, it's a sudden structural collapse of the tire under load, with instantaneous air loss and rapid disintegration of the rubber. Drivers often describe a loud bang, a sudden pull to one side, heavy vibration, and then the sight of shredded tread trailing behind the truck.

Blowouts can occur on the steer axle, drive axle, or trailer tires, but a steer axle blowout is especially dangerous because it directly affects the direction of the tractor. On a passenger car, a blowout is frightening. On a fully loaded semi moving at highway speed, it can be the difference between a controlled slowdown and a rollover or multi vehicle pileup.

Commercial truck tires live under constant stress. A fully loaded combination vehicle can weigh up to 80,000 pounds, and that weight is carried and managed by a limited number of tire contact patches, each one about the size of a sheet of paper. When pressure, heat, or damage pushes those tires outside their operating range, failure isn't an abstract risk, it's a predictable outcome.

The Most Common Mechanical Causes of Blowouts

Most truck tire blowouts don't happen out of nowhere. They grow out of patterns of neglect, cutting corners, or ignoring basic safety rules that were put in place to prevent exactly this scenario. Some of the most common causes include:

Improper Tire Inflation

Incorrect pressure is one of the leading culprits in commercial tire failures. Underinflated tires flex too much with every rotation, generating excess heat that breaks down the internal structure and weakens the sidewalls until they finally let go. Overinflated tires have a smaller contact patch, wear unevenly, and are more vulnerable when they hit potholes or debris at highway speeds.

Excessive or Uneven Tread Wear

When tread depth falls below safe minimums, the tire is more likely to overheat, puncture, or lose traction, and misalignment or chronic pressure issues can leave one tire far more worn than the others on the same axle. Regular tread checks and timely replacement are basic safety obligations in commercial fleets, not optional extras.

Overloading and Poor Cargo Distribution

Every tire has a rated load. When shippers or carriers overload a trailer or let cargo cluster toward one side or one axle, certain tires end up carrying far more weight than they were designed to handle. That additional stress increases internal pressure and heat, which pushes a marginal tire toward failure and makes a blowout more likely, especially in Texas summer conditions.

Heat, Speed, and Road Conditions

High temperatures, long highway runs, and rough pavement all raise the stakes. Hot asphalt and heavy loads combine to increase tire temperature, and when you add underinflation or overloading to that mix, you create a situation where a tire that might survive in cooler, lighter conditions simply cannot hold together.

Poor Maintenance and Missed Inspections

[Federal rules](#) require regular pre-trip and post-trip inspections, along with systematic maintenance programs for commercial carriers. When companies treat those requirements as paperwork rather than real safety checks, trucks roll out with tires that are too old, too worn, or visibly damaged. Over time, a culture of skipping inspections or stretching replacement intervals turns into a pattern of preventable blowouts.

Defective Tires and Bad Repairs

Sometimes the problem starts before the tire ever meets the road. Design defects, manufacturing flaws, or poor-quality control can leave a tire prone to tread separation or sidewall failure even when it's used correctly. In other cases, improper repairs, unsafe patching, or low-quality retreading weaken the tire so much that it fails under stress.

Why Truck Tire Blowouts Cause Such Violent Crashes

When a truck tire blows at highway speed, the driver suddenly has a different vehicle under their hands. A steer axle blowout can yank the wheel to one side, forcing the driver to fight to keep the tractor from crossing lanes or sliding off the road. A drive or trailer blowout can cause the trailer to fishtail, especially in curves, rain, or heavy traffic.

The danger isn't limited to the truck itself. Large chunks of tread, often called "road gators," can come off in big strips that behave like heavy rubber boards tumbling down the highway. Any driver following behind may be struck directly, forced to swerve into another lane, or faced with an obstacle they simply don't have room to avoid.

In many cases, a blowout sets off:

- A direct collision between the semi and one or more vehicles
- Secondary impacts as drivers brake suddenly or change lanes
- Multi vehicle pileups when the disabled tractor trailer blocks several lanes and visibility is limited

Who Can Be Held Liable When a Tire Fails?

Depending on the facts, several different parties may bear responsibility, including:

- **The Truck Driver:** Drivers are required to inspect their tires and other important components before starting a trip and to monitor vehicle condition on the road.
- **The Trucking Company Or Motor Carrier:** [Carriers](#) control maintenance schedules, inspection policies, and the culture around safety in their fleet. They can be liable if they push drivers to skip inspections, refuse to take unsafe vehicles out of service, overload trucks, or ignore federal and state requirements related to tire condition and load limits.
- **The Tire Manufacturer Or Seller:** When the evidence shows that a tire had a design defect, manufacturing flaw, or inadequate warnings, victims may have a product liability claim against the manufacturer, distributor, or seller.
- **Maintenance And Repair Shops:** Third party shops that mount, repair, or retread tires can be liable if their work falls below reasonable standards.
- **Cargo Loaders And Shippers:** If a separate company loaded the trailer and exceeded weight limits or created a dangerously unbalanced load, that company's decisions may have contributed directly to the blowout.

- **Government Entities Or Contractors:** In some cases, unusually dangerous potholes, repeated roadway failures, or debris left from construction can play a role in a blowout or in the severity of the crash.

How Our Texas Law Firm Helps Families After Blowout Crashes

Coby L. Wooten, Attorney At Law, P.C.'s work is grounded in something simple: when a company puts a dangerous vehicle on the road and a family pays the price, that family deserves the truth and a path toward recovery. We investigate tire blowout crashes in Fort Worth and across Texas with that purpose in mind.

With more than 30 years of experience handling serious injury cases, and over 40 years of combined experience between [Coby Wooten](#) and [Mattilyn Smith](#), our firm has the depth and resources to take on trucking companies and their insurers at every stage of a case.

We dig into [maintenance logs](#), inspection records, and electronic data to find out what really happened and who had the power to prevent it. We deal directly with trucking and insurance companies so our clients can focus on healing instead of fighting about paperwork or phone calls. When a fair settlement is not on the table, we're prepared to take cases into the courtroom and ask a jury to weigh the evidence and hold negligent parties accountable.

Contact a Fort Worth Truck Accident Lawyer Today

If you were hurt in a crash that may have involved a truck tire blowout, we understand how overwhelming the days and weeks afterward can feel. Getting medical care, missing work, dealing with phone calls from insurance companies, and trying to understand your rights is a lot to carry at once. Our attorneys are here to listen, explain your options in clear language, and stand beside you as you decide what comes next.

In the meantime, don't sign anything from the trucking company's insurer, preserve any photos or dashcam footage from the scene, and follow up consistently with your medical providers so your treatment record stays complete and connected to the crash.

[Contact us](#) today to schedule a free, no obligation consultation and talk with our team about what happened, what you are facing now, and how we can help pursue justice in your case. We take these cases on a contingency fee basis, so you pay no legal fees unless we recover compensation for you.