

Case Study Chippewa Sand Transport, Chippewa Falls, WI

PRIMARY BUSINESS: Contract Sand Hauling



Chippewa Sand Transport is based in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin and has been in business for just over a year. With 32 tractor trailer combinations and 10 body dump trucks, Chippewa operates 24-hours a day/7-days per week moving sand from the mine to the

plant for processing. As you might imagine with any 24/7 operation, "safety is huge" says Chippewa Sand Transport's Maintenance Manager, Scott Mewhorter. "For us, safety is first, and everything else seems to fall into place."

"This (product) puts ownership of the issue in the drivers' hands and is definitely a product that you want on your trucks. This year we have driven more than 3.2 million miles and have not had a single tire related road call."

Chippewa is a progressive fleet using the PeopleNet onboard computer platform for driver logs and monitoring driver performance. They use wide base single tires on all of their vehicles covering a combination of on-road and off-road terrain. Under these conditions, keeping over 300 wide base single tires properly inflated in a 24 hour operation can be quite a challenge. "With wide base single tires it is critical for tire inflation to be right for safety, fuel costs and tread wear" says Mewhorter. "Downtime is also an issue for us, we don't have time for flat tires or replacing blown tires on the side of a road. When we saw the BatRF system, it just looked like an easy way to monitor tire pressures. Replacing blown out wide based single tires is expensive."

Scott and his team elected to use the AirBAT single tire pressure sensors for their wide base single tires

and to get the drivers more involved; they added the Tractor Interface Module (TIM) which ties directly into the PeopleNet g3 on-board computer system. The visual low tire indicators on the AirBAT sensors are used for pre and post trip inspections and the TIM provides real-time low pressure warnings to the driver through the PeopleNet driver display. In addition, the TIM also sends out email and SMS text messages to Scott when a low tire event occurs, giving him the exact time and location of the event. The AirBAT tire pressure monitor in tandem with the TIM, keep the drivers and the maintenance team informed of low tire conditions 24/7.



Mewhorter adds "Installation was really easy and we already run PeopleNet, so it was simple to install and connect the TIM cable to the PeopleNet g3 on-board computer. Now when we have an issue, I get an email or text so the driver is not the only one that knows there is a problem. This allows me to hold them accountable. And I know exactly where the truck is with the mapping when the problem occurs." When asked if there were any surprises, Mewhorter continues "at first drivers did not receive it well but after they saw what it could do and how they could use the alerts, they started to rely on it for their inspections and making decisions while on the road. This puts ownership of the issue in the drivers' hands and is definitely a product that you want on your trucks. This year we have driven more than 3.2 million miles and have not had a single tire related road call. Initially, the price may cause you to hesitate, but once you know what you can do with this product, it is money well spent."

The right information at the right time.SM

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