

Tires . . .

# Don't Anchor Cages



**F**orget what TM 9-2610-200-14, *Care, Maintenance, Repair, and Inspection of Pneumatic Tires and Inner Tubes*, says about anchoring tire safety inflation cages to the floor.

Paragraph 2-3f of the TM says that while it is not mandatory to anchor a cage to the floor, it is the preferred method. **Wrong!** Tire cages should be unrestrained so they can freely flex and absorb the forces of any tire explosion.

Fastening the cage to the floor prevents the flexing of the steel plate bottom. If the plate cannot flex, explosive forces are concentrated on the cage bars. Failure of one or more of the bars during an explosion may allow the release of wheel rim components, or pieces of the cage itself.

Testing shows that the cage and wheel assembly will not move much in an explosion. But keep the cage at least 3 feet from any wall. That helps keep the cage from moving if a high volume of air bounces off the wall—and back toward the cage—when the rim separates.

The tire TM is under revision, but until it is available, make a note in Para 2-3f that cages should not be anchored.

An added benefit of this change is that you can take your tire cages with you to the field.

