



# FIRST ALERT

## Trailer Failure

**Location:** Reefton

**Incident:** Trailer detached from van when travelling at 90 kilometres per hour

### EVENT

A trailer detached from a van while travelling at 90 kilometres per hour on the highway near Reefton, on the West Coast. The driver noticed the trailer rock and jump. He was able to slow down and pull over, with the trailer remaining attached to the vehicle via the safety chain.

It was discovered that a permanent type split pin had fallen out and a sizeable nut on the back of the trailer brake system had worked its way off. This allowed the trailer coupling to stay attached to the towball, with the draw bar detaching.

The trailer had obtained a warrant of fitness the previous day.



### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Mechanical assistance was sought from nearby Reefton and the trailer was repaired.
- The security and condition of this attachment point has been added to trailer check sheets.