

2011 spec tires

Posted by many944s - 17 Mar 2011 13:55

Ok, I don't mean to be a buzz-kill but with less than 30 days til the race season begins here in the mid-west and great lakes regions, there needs to be some sort of decision made on tires for the season. With the issue in Japan I don't think there is any way to procure the needed amount of tires for all of our drivers for even the first couple weekends of racing! With everything I have read it seems that it will be quite a while before production continues at TOYO, not to mention how long it will take to get those tires here to the states!

Is there any way to choose an "alternate" tire? Whether it is for the entire season, or just a portion? As a build & support shop this is becoming a serious issue. From a 944-spec shop that rebuilds transmissions we really don't want to see a "full slick" tire be adopted as there just aren't that many available ring and pinion sets available! Running full slicks WILL kill these transmissions.

the 944-spec class isn't the only class that's going to deal with the TOYO shortage, so this may become a much larger issue! Are there any other tire suppliers that can provide a similar tire? At this point, contingency may not even be an issue! Sure, you may get a \$500 TOYO-buck certificate, but how much good does that do if you can't buy the tires before the cert expires??

Not trying to stir the pot, but this is an issue that is not going to resolve itself anytime soon.

-Nick Miller

Bennington Motorsports

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by joepaluch - 24 Mar 2011 09:12

We may be ok. This is my pure speculation, but it seems like many in Japan are working over time to rebuild. There was a section of freeway destroyed and then rebuilt in 6 days making it look like nothing ever happened.

There are also reports of many workers going back to work as little as 1 day later. So it may very well

be that the Toyo plant will be up and running rather soon. If a shipment just came in then one may not be due for a while. My guess is they make RA-1's as a specific production "run" and then change over to other tires. So the next run for RA-1's may be sometime off.

So again there is chance that it will have minimal impact on the supply for us racers.

Just a thought.

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by joepaluch - 24 Mar 2011 10:13

The Japanese are resilient.

<http://www.toyo-rubber.co.jp/english/news/2011/110324.html>

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Toyo Tires has announced that its Sendai Plant, which manufactures automobile tires, has resumed partial operation of productions as of today, March 23rd 2011. Toyo Tires' manufacturing subsidiary, Fukushima Rubber Co., Ltd. has also resumed partial operations. As indicated in an earlier press release dated March 18th 2011, entitled "STATUS UPDATE REGARDING TOYO TIRE'S SENDAI PLANT," manufacturing operations at the Sendai Plant had been suspended since March 11th 2011, due to the power outage in the region resulting from the massive earthquake. However, with the gradual return of electric power in the area, Toyo Tires has made a thorough inspection of the production facilities and evaluated the safety of its employees, and as a result has determined that it may safely resume productions as detailed below.

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Hmm down for 2 weeks.. Not bad. Clearly they are not at 100% right now, but this is progress.

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by cbuzzetti - 25 Mar 2011 16:03

I called Buttonwillow raceway tire shop and they only have 1 set of 944 tires in stock. They were waiting for a delivery that may not be coming.

They did have 30 SM tires in stock (205/50-15).

Only time will tell.

Let's hope for the best.

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by cgktexas - 29 Mar 2011 04:13

[Toyo resumes limited shipments](#)

Toyo resumes Japan tire shipments

Tire shipments have resumed at Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. Ltd.'s Sendai manufacturing plant in Miyagi Prefecture, Japan.

More good news from Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. Ltd.: tire shipments have resumed at its Sendai manufacturing plant in Miyagi Prefecture. The shipments of limited quantities follow news on Thursday, March 24, that the plant had recommenced production on a limited basis (see "More Toyo plants power-up in devastated Japan").

The Sendai Plant manufactures automobile tires. Production at the plant had been suspended in the aftermath of the "Pacific Coast of Tohoku Earthquake" on March 11, due to a lack of electric power.

While only some of the plant's production lines have partially opened, others will reopen soon. Toyo says products are being manufactured on a restricted basis due to the limited availability of electricity, fuel and raw materials.

Toyo previously announced that partial power had been restored at the Sendai plant (see "Toyo plant gets power, prepares to produce").

The company also recently made a significant donation to relief efforts in the two prefectures where the Sendai and Fukushima plants are located (see “Toyo donates \$1.9 million to relief efforts in Japan”).

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Re: 2011 spec tires

Posted by Chris - 29 Mar 2011 09:05

We have a race in 3 weeks and I am having difficulty finding RA-1s. Hopefully this shipment comes in or I will be SOL.

Anybody have any “insider info” on where I can find something?

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