

Testing your breakaway switch? Gene Poast, WBCCI #334, confirmed the technical details with Tekonsha who makes brake controllers. Some states, notably NY are requiring a test of the trailer breakaway system as a part of obtaining a yearly trailer license. The method they are using in some cases is to jack up one wheel, spin the tire/wheel, pull the breakaway cable, and observe that the wheel stops spinning. There are two significant problems with this procedure: (1) the trailer wheels should never be raised by placing a jack under the axle. It should be placed under the frame as explained in the owner manual. (2) If the breakaway switch is activated while the umbilical cord is connected to the tow vehicle, there is a very high probability that the trailer electrical system will feed back into and burn out the brake controller. The procedure that should be followed would be to disconnect the electrical cord from the tow vehicle, jack up one side of the trailer at the frame until at least one wheel is off the ground, spin that wheel, pull the breakaway cable, and observe that the wheel stops spinning