SAFETY BULLETIN #7

July 15, 2025

Trailers & Towing Safety

Prior to Towing



- ★ Before hooking a trailer, inspect the hitch for deformation, damaged pins, or loose bolts
- ★ Verify the ball on the truck matches the size on the trailer. (Commonly either 1 ⅞ inches, 2 inches, or 2 5⁄16 inches) - Pay attention to the weight capacity of each.
- ★ Connect electrical plug and breakaway cable for proper operation. Visually confirm the trailer lights are working properly.
- ★ For bumper pulls, attach safety chains to the truck by crossing chains. Chains should be long enough to allow for turning but not dragging the ground.
- ★ Evenly distribute and balance weight of loads.
- ★ Secure cargo, tools, equipment, and machinery with tie-downs and chains to prevent movement
- ★ Confirm truck and trailer tires have proper inflation and tread quality. Confirm a spare, lug nut wrench, and jack are present.
- ★ Double check all trailer jacks, gates, ramps, etc are secured and roadway ready
- ★ Remove any loose tools or debris from trailer deck, including mud chunks and rocks
- ★ If equipped, adjust trailer brakes to reflect the towing load

While Towing

- ★ Make wide turns at curves and corners to avoid roadway edge drops and to prevent hitting curbs.
- ★ Maintain a generous space between you and other vehicles. Take precautions to prevent slamming on the brakes or making abrupt turns. The added weight of the trailer increases stopping distances.
- ★ Keep height clearances in mind when entering gas stations, drive-thrus, and low bridge crossings.
- ★ If the trailer starts to sway, remove your foot from the gas pedal and coast until the trailer is under control.
- ★ Should you experience a blow-out or other emergency, move the truck and trailer away from traveled lanes of traffic before working on repairs.

Offloading/Unhooking the Trailer

- ★ Before unloading equipment, check your surroundings to prevent struck-by and pinched/caught-in injuries.

- ★ Climbing on and off the trailer poses slip and fall hazards. Keep straps and chains picked up. Clean up any oil or grease spills.
- ★ When unhooking the trailer, ensure it is on level ground and block the wheels. This will prevent the trailer from rolling forwards into the truck or from rolling backwards down a hill.
- ★ Tag out any trailer that needs repair or maintenance. Submit maintenance request on Fleet Management portal https://www.steepcreekllc.com/portal

Other Discussion Points:

- ★ Do any of the trailers at our jobsite need maintenance?