



SECURING YOUR LOAD

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LENGTH 2–5 minutes

TO PREPARE Read the background information.

Arrange for equipment to view video (optional)

Optional assignment for group before Safety Talk: Have your employees watch the following video:

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/08/11/health/road-debris-deadly-hazard/index.html>

BACKGROUND

- When you talk to your employees and drivers about securing the load on the back of a truck or other vehicle, make sure they know the law in Texas:
- The National GAO report states unsecured loads cause 440 deaths, 10,000 injuries, and 51,000 incidents each year.
- Secure your load before you drive away with your loaded vehicle as if everyone you love is driving in the car behind you.

DISCUSSION

- Who has a friend or neighbor who seems to be moving things every weekend? Anything from yard equipment to mattresses to a family room couch. They are the go-to person for homemade hauls.



What should you notice about the well-loaded vehicle?

- Load is tied down with rope, netting, or straps. The top, back and sides are all secured.
- Large objects are tied directly to the vehicle or trailer.
- A sturdy tarp or netting covers the load, possibly.
- The truck bed or trailer is not overloaded.
- Animals are properly secured as well.



How can you prevent losing part of your load and adding to the debris left on the roads?

- Have your vehicle routinely checked by a trained mechanic for underinflated tires, worn tire tread, and rusted exhaust systems that can cause mufflers and other parts to drag and break loose.
- Inspect the load, looking for any chance of debris or cargo falling or blowing out.
- Ask yourself what would happen to your load if you had to brake suddenly or if you hit another vehicle or another vehicle hit you.

OPTIONAL DISCUSSION

Driving Behind an Overloaded Vehicle

Ask your employees and drivers to offer suggestions to this situation:

- **You're merging onto the highway, when you spot a truck ahead of you that appears overloaded. What can you do to protect yourself?**
 1. Stay calm.
 2. Slow down to create greater distance between you and the vehicle.
 3. Continually search the road at least 12 to 15 seconds ahead of debris.
 4. If you have a passenger, have them report the vehicle to the authorities.

SUMMARY

- Be extra cautious when you are moving objects in a vehicle or trailer.
- Make sure your load is secure and your vehicle is always ready for the unexpected. Slow down, avoid hard braking and turning sharply.
- Allow ample stopping distance between you and the vehicles in front of you.