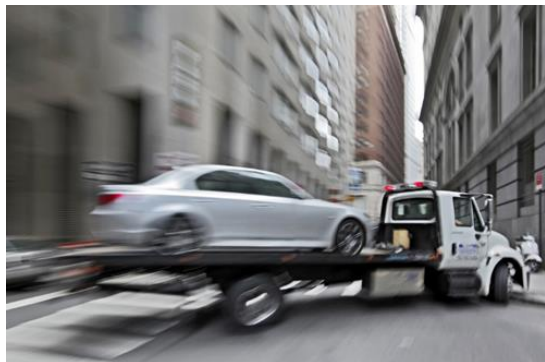


TOWING SAFELY



INTRODUCTION

Towing any amount of extra weight adds to the danger of driving, whether that extra weight is from a trailer or another vehicle. It is extremely important to drive carefully and execute all of the necessary safety steps to protect not only your health and safety, but of those around you.

PREPARATION

- Make sure the weight of the load is not too heavy for the tow vehicle.
- Consult the owner's manual to confirm appropriate towing weights.
- Employees must be trained on how to hookup properly before attempting to do so.
- All connections and safety chains must be secured and double-checked before towing.
- Avoid becoming distracted when hooking up a vehicle or trailer to tow.
- If you hear an unusual noise or suspect trouble while towing, employees must stop at a safe place to identify and correct the problem.
- Before driving, and at each fuel stop, you should perform a brief inspection of the following:
 - *Attachments*
 - *Safety chains*
 - *Lights*
 - *Tire Pressure*



SAFE DRIVING

All of the general road rules for your area must be applied at all times while driving. In addition to that, when towing vehicles or trailers, you should:

- Avoid sudden acceleration or braking, as these can be highly dangerous.
- Allow much more time or distance when braking or passing other vehicles than usual.
- Never pass on hills or curves.
- Slow down, shift into a lower gear, and never ride the brakes when driving on downgrades.
- A wider than normal turning radius may be required when towing.
- Reduce your normal driving speed when towing.



TRAILERS

Trailer-specific towing safety rules that must be adhered to include the following:

- Un-braked trailers must not weigh more than the empty weight of the towing vehicle.
- Braked trailers and their loads may weigh more than the empty weight of the towing vehicle only if approved by the recommendations of the trailer manufacturer.
- The component ratings must meet or exceed the trailer weight.
- Load weight must be evenly distributed or as recommended by the trailer manufacturer.
- Cargo must be properly secured against any movement.
- If sway or whipping occurs, always let off the gas, and hold the steering wheel straight ahead.



CONCLUSION

If you follow the included safe work practices, you will avoid costly damage and possible injury to yourself and others. Towing a vehicle or trailer safely includes following all of the regular road rules as well as additional safety guidelines specific for towing.

