

## INTRODUCTION

Flatbed towing is the preferred option for towing in many situations such as: heavy or low vehicles, all-wheel drive vehicles, long-distance towing and in the event of a totaled or junk vehicle. The benefits of flatbed towing include increased safety, convenience, versatility and speed. Additionally, the use of flatbed tow trucks helps prevent further damage to a towed vehicle. By following the safe work practices contained in this lesson, employees can safely and efficiently carry out their duties.

## HAZARDS

There are several hazards associated with using flatbed tow trucks, including the following:

- Being hit by a passing vehicle
- Being hit by a flying hook
- Crushing by the carrier bed
- Being hit by the towed vehicle while loading or unloading



## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Personal protective equipment plays a vital role in keeping employees safe while performing their job duties. The following personal protective equipment should be worn when loading or unloading flatbed tow trucks:

- Jackets equipped with reflective stripes or tape
- Work gloves
- Safety toe work boots
- Safety glasses



## SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Before loading or unloading a flatbed towing vehicle, ensure that the area is clear of all bystanders.
- When loading vehicles on the road, activate flashers and emergency lights.
- Chock the front and rear surfaces of each rear wheel of the car carrier when loading or unloading vehicles from the carrier bed.
- Vehicles should be secured by at least four tiedown chains, straps or equivalent devices.
- Do not exceed the safe working load of the flatbed.
- Never exceed the rating of the weakest component of the tow truck.
- Ensure that the attachments have a working load limit that meets or exceeds the chain's or cable's working load limit.
- Ensure that a hook's point is facing upward.
- Never stand behind the carrier bed when it is in a loaded, tilted position.
- Never get beneath the carrier bed after it has been lifted.
- Perform a walk-around inspection after the vehicle has been loaded. Check the position of the vehicle on the carrier bed as well as the winch, cable, all connections and the securing devices.
- When traveling, avoid fast starts, rapid acceleration and sharp turns.



## CONCLUSION

When employees follow the safe work practices contained in this lesson, loading and unloading vehicles from flatbed trailers can be completed safely.