



Towing Safety Talk

1. Introduction (1-2 minutes)

Why It Matters:

Welcome everyone! Today's safety talk focuses on **Towing Safety**. Towing may seem routine, but one mistake can lead to **serious accidents, injuries, or damage** to equipment and cargo. Common issues include trailer sway, lost loads, jackknives, and rollovers — often caused by **overloading, improper hookups, or lack of attention**.

Proper towing safety means more than just hitching and hitting the road — it means **doing it right, every time**.

2. Key Safety Points (3-5 minutes)

Common Hazards

- Overloading the trailer or towing vehicle
- Improper or incomplete hitching
- Poor weight distribution (too much in front or rear)
- Worn or damaged equipment (chains, hitches, lights)
- Lack of visibility or trailer sway
- Inadequate braking distance
- Reversing or cornering too fast

| Towing | Safety Tips |
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| Inspect Before You Tow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the hitch, coupler, ball, and safety chains • Make sure the trailer lights and brakes work • Inspect tires (tread and pressure) on both vehicle and trailer • Check load rating and weight limits — don't exceed them |
| Load Safely and Securely | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute weight evenly, with about 60% toward the front of the trailer • Use tie-downs, straps, or chains to secure the load • Make sure nothing can shift or fall out • Close and lock all gates, latches, or doors |
| Proper Hitching Procedure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the ball and coupler size match • Lower the coupler over the ball and lock it securely • Attach safety chains in a crisscross pattern • Plug in the electrical connection for brake lights and turn signals • Test everything before you move |
| Drive with Extra Caution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase following distance • Take turns wider to avoid clipping curbs or objects • Brake gradually — trailer weight can push your vehicle • Slow down in wind, rain, or downhill slopes • Never exceed 55–65 mph (or lower depending on laws/equipment) |
| When Parking or Unhooking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park on level ground whenever possible • Use wheel chocks to prevent rolling • Disconnect the lights and safety chains carefully • Use a jack or stand to support the tongue safely |



3. Demonstration & Checklist (3-5 minutes)

- **Interactive Segment:** Invite questions and clarify any concerns.
 - What's your routine for inspecting towing gear before hooking up?
 - Have you ever seen a trailer sway or disconnect? What caused it?
 - Do we have a policy for towing limits and training?

4. Conclusion (2 minute)

- **Summary:** Towing isn't just about pulling a load — it's about protecting people, equipment, and everything in your path. Take the extra time to do it right. **The road won't forgive shortcuts.**
 - **Call to Action:** Let's all ensure we follow towing safety tips.
 - **When to Call Emergency Services:**
 - Call 911 or local emergency services if the injury is life-threatening, or if you're unsure about the severity.
 - **Report Accidents:**
 - Always report any workplace injury, no matter how minor it seems, to your supervisor or EHS office for documentation and follow-up.
 - Ensure the injured person receives proper medical attention.
 - **Thank you:** "Thank you for your time and attention today. Safety is everyone's responsibility. Stay alert, stay safe!"
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