

SMART DRIVER[®] November 2020

Tips for Flatbed Trailer Safety

Flatbed trailers pose a significant number of hazards to drivers, and those hazards can lead to serious injuries and fatalities. Read the information below about flatbed trailer safety and the recommended injury prevention techniques, and then ask yourself how you can better protect yourself from harm.

RECOGNIZE THE HAZARDS

ENVIRONMENT

The weather can create hazards around the truck. For instance, ice, snow, rain, and mud make surfaces slippery and can cause your feet to lose traction. These conditions can cause a driver to fall off the tractor, trip in a pothole, or slip and fall.

EQUIPMENT

Manually tarping or securing a load using chains and straps exposes a driver to possible back and shoulder injuries as well as hand injuries, such as pinches, abrasions, cuts, and bruises. Likewise, improperly securing a load can lead to serious injuries and fatalities to you and others if the cargo shifts or falls off the trailer.

PERSONAL BEHAVIORS

Failing to perform a proper pre-trip inspection and an inspection at each stop can lead to preventable losses. Likewise, not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as hurrying and ignoring safety procedures, can contribute to injuries.

KNOW THE DEFENSE

UTILIZE PPE

Always wear gloves to protect your hands when tarping or

securing a load. Wear proper footwear with slip-resistant soles and steel toes. Ensure the footwear is made of puncture-resistant material. If a tarping machine or station is available, use it. Use a strap pusher to help adjust edge protection from the ground to limit unnecessary climbing on equipment.

USE THREE POINTS OF CONTACT

Use three points of contact, meaning both hands and one foot or both feet and one hand are always in contact with the equipment. Always face the equipment when climbing on or off the trailer. Do not jump off the trailer.

CONDUCT PROPER VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Ensure the tractor, trailer, and cargo are inspected thoroughly before leaving. Check the rub rails and headboard for damage. At each stop, re-check that the cargo securement devices are properly in place.

UTILIZE FALL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Use fall protection harnesses or systems, if available, when working from an elevated position. Ensure this equipment is properly inspected and maintained, and you are trained how to use it.

BE ATTENTIVE TO YOUR SURROUNDINGS

Avoid distractions and do not hurry. Watch your step when working on or around the truck. Be attentive to your surroundings and hazards, such as ice, snow, and water, that can increase the risk of injury.

Note: These lists are not intended to be all-inclusive.

This material is intended to be a broad overview of the subject matter and is provided for informational purposes only. Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada does not provide legal advice to its customers, nor does it advise insureds on employment-related issues. Therefore, the subject matter is not intended to serve as legal or employment advice for any issue(s) that may arise in the operations of its insureds. Legal advice should always be sought from the insured's legal counsel. Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada shall have neither liability nor responsibility to any person or entity with respect to any loss, action, or inaction alleged to be caused directly or indirectly as a result of the information contained herein.
Used with permission by Great West Casualty Company.

Knowledge Verification

Driver's Name: _____

Emp/Unit #: _____

Please answer, and forward a completed copy to your Safety Department/Safety Representative.

1. Good footwear and gloves are essential.

☐ True

☐ False

2. Once a load is secured it will not come loose in transit.

☐ True

☐ False

3. Jumping from your trailer is always safe.

☐ True

☐ False

Answers:
1. True
2. False
3. False



FLATBED TRAILER SAFETY