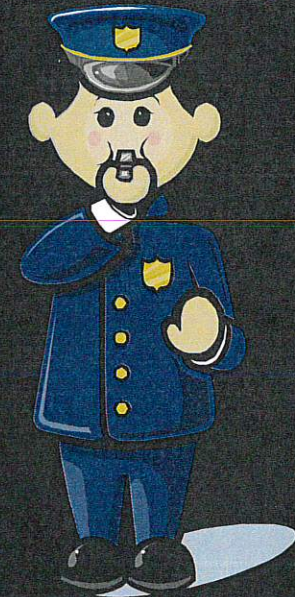


Safe practices with
loading, securing and
hauling landscape
equipment and material



We've all heard...

- **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!**
- **SLOW DOWN!**
- **DON'T TAILGATE! KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THE CAR AHEAD OF YOU**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO THE SIGNS!**
- **STAY ALERT AND MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS!**
- **BE PATIENT AND STAY CALM**



Agenda

- ❑ Pre-trip inspections
- ❑ Proper hook-up procedures
- ❑ Loading equipment onto the trailer
- ❑ Securing equipment on the trailer
- ❑ Loading landscape materials and loose items
- ❑ Final inspection procedures
- ❑ Driving the truck and trailer
- ❑ Safe backing procedures

Safe practices with loading, securing and hauling landscape equipment and material

- Reasons to use safe practices:
 - Avoid costly delays
 - Avoid serious accidents and injuries
 - Avoid bad publicity



Securing equipment

- An exposure somewhat unique to the landscaping industry is the flying wheelbarrow. Landscapers need to transport the tools and equipment necessary for the job. Just remember to make sure that all the equipment being carried in or on an open trailer is properly secured. It can be awfully unnerving for a driver to have to avoid flying landscaping tools on the freeway. And 65 mile-per-hour wheelbarrows can do a lot of damage. While we see a few of these claims a year, fortunately we haven't had any injuries arising out of these situations.

Securing equipment

- Make sure the parking brake is set and wheels are chocked
- Make sure the load is balanced
 - Unbalanced loads can cause:
 - The trailer to sway
 - The trailer hard to control
 - A traffic accident

Securing equipment

- Using chains or straps with ratchet load binders is the best way to secure the equipment
- Make sure gas cans are secure and not loose
- Secure tools with straps or bungee cords
 - Tools can include rakes, shovels, ladders, etc.

Improper Loading and Tie Downs

Another cause of accidents is the way trucks are loaded or tied down. Heavy cargo falling off a flatbed may cause little damage to the truck but can create a major hazard to following vehicles. A load shift during a too-fast turn can cause the truck to flip into an oncoming lane.

Loading



- Of course, before products can be delivered, the trucks need to be loaded. As you can see in this picture, someone was not being too careful while using the front end loader, turning this perfectly good vehicle into a perfect total loss.

Inspection

- Tires
 - Always maintain proper tire pressure
 - Replace worn tires
 - Remember—your tow vehicle tires may require a higher tire pressure for towing, especially heavy loads
- Wheel lug nuts/bolts on the tow vehicle and trailer should be tightened to the correct torque.
- Be sure the hitch, coupler, draw bar, and other equipment that connect the trailer and the tow vehicle are properly secured and adjusted.

Inspection (cont.)

- Check that the wiring is properly connected — not touching the road, but loose enough to make turns without disconnecting or damaging the wires.
- Make sure all running lights, brake lights, turn signals, and hazard lights are working.
- Verify that the brakes on the tow vehicle and trailer are operating correctly.
- Check that all items are securely fastened on and in the trailer.

Inspection (cont.)

- Be sure the trailer jack, tongue support, and any attached stabilizers are raised and locked in place.
- Check load distribution to make sure the tow vehicle and trailer are properly balanced front to back and side to side.
- Check side- and rear-view mirrors to make sure you have good visibility.
- Check routes and restrictions on bridges and tunnels.
- Make sure you have wheel chocks and jack stands.