

Worksite: \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### Topic C413: Securing Loads

**Introduction:** Equipment, tools, and material all need to be transported to set-up a new work place, relocate on an existing work place, or move between work areas. Tools and equipment may need to be transported for security at the end of the workday. Whether they are simply tossed into the bed of your pick-up, or chained and bound to a transport lowboy, in one way or another all items to be transported must be secured for the road.

Following are guidelines for securing loads to prevent loss and keep them from becoming a road hazard:

- At highway speeds even large, relatively heavy articles, such as wheelbarrows, plywood, and sheetrock may be blown out of an open pick-up bed. Secure any large items which may provide wind resistance, or “catch air” and be dislodged from pick-up beds with rope, straps, chain, bungee cords, etc.
- Use at least one tie-down for every ten feet of cargo. Use at least two tie-downs for any cargo regardless of its length.
- Tie-down methods used must provide adequate means to secure the load against movement during transit.
- Do not use straps which have broken stitching, are frayed, or show any signs of wear, damage, or deterioration.
- When securing a load such as pipe, logs, etc. that is over 27 feet in length, use at least 4 binders and space them equal distances over the length of the load with one binding near each end.
- Any item which extends more than three feet beyond the body of your vehicle must be flagged with high visibility material.
- Use a tarp to cover numerous small articles or materials which cannot be enclosed in a tool box or storage compartment. Tie the tarp down securely running your rope or straps all the way across the width of the tarp.
- Ensure that the anchor points used for tie-downs are suitably strong and secure for the purpose.
- When using bungee cords for tie-downs, make sure the cargo cannot shift and unclip the hook from the anchor point. Run the cord through the anchor and clip the cord back onto itself if possible.
- Before transporting equipment, ensure that any loose material is cleaned off; secure all wires, cables, and chains, check for tools or equipment left on frames, decks, or in hoppers.
- Equipment or material carried in a truck bed must also be secured from shifting or being thrown forward in a sudden stop. Use of a headache rack is recommended for vehicles which frequently carry heavy loads.
- Do not place unsecured items on the rear window deck, or back seat of a vehicle; in a sudden stop or collision these items may strike the driver or passengers with extreme force.
- Dump truck drivers must always clean off the dump apron and side boards, secure the gate, and check for rocks between your duals before proceeding on a public thoroughfare.
- Do a walk around inspection before leaving to ensure that all items are put away and secured.
- Check fasteners, tie-downs, and hitches, and look for loose tools and materials.
- Make sure that compartment doors, tailgates, or cargo doors are fully latched.
- When transporting cargo long distances, check your cargo frequently to ensure that it hasn't shifted, and that it's still secure.

Check your cargo frequently to ensure it hasn't shifted and is still secure.

**Conclusion:** Securing loads is important for the safety of the driver and for motorists sharing the road with the loaded vehicle. In addition to the loss of whatever falls off of your vehicle, road debris, and vehicles being struck by unsecured cargo is a growing problem, which causes accidents and even fatalities.

**Employee Attendance:** (Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

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These guidelines do not supersede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.