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SAFE OPERATING PROCEDURES

Trailers and Towed Equipment

SOP 12B-30

Hazard Review		
Backing	Unsecured Loads	Hooking/Unhooking
Debris on Bed		
Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (Based on job specific hazard review)		
Safety Vest	Safety Shoes	Gloves

- Supervisors shall verify that operators are capable and qualified on each type of equipment before allowing the equipment to be operated unsupervised.
- Operators shall perform a pre-operational check of their equipment. Be familiar with the operator's manual. Report needed repairs promptly to the equipment shop. Write an EMR noting details of repairs needed to the equipment. Do not use any equipment that is unsafe.
- Operators shall perform a visual and manual check of the "pintle hooks" to ensure that they are secure before the truck and attachment are put to use.
- Make sure cargo is properly loaded and secured using only approved chain and load binders.
- Safety chains are to be used and attached in a cross pattern on any attachment in tow.
- Be aware of height and width of load.
- Never load a trailer beyond its GVWR capacity.
- Do not allow anyone between truck and trailer when backing to hook trailer.
- Plan ahead to minimize the need for backing. Always check to the rear before backing and use a spotter when available. When in doubt us G.O.A.L. – Get out and Look. During pre-trip inspection make sure back-up alarms are working properly.
- Make sure trailer-bed and ramps are clear of any debris.
- Make sure tilt-beds or ramps are secure before putting trailer in use.
- Hook, unhook, load and unload on stable ground with trailer secure and parking brakes set.
- All lights and signals must be in plain view when towing any attachment that does not have taillight hookup. All lights and signals shall be working on trailers and checked during the pre-trip.
- Observe towing speed limit if applicable (Roller Trailers).
- Operators shall be responsible for securing permits for all oversize loads, and making sure that the correct permit is located in the cab of the truck.

Related SOP's

General SOPsChapter 10	Trucks, Crew Cab and Flatbed.....12A-29
Truck, Dump 12A-30	Truck, Geotechnical and Trailer12A-33