

# November 2006 Safety Meeting

## Securing of Truck Cargo

### Introduction

Securing truck cargo is a very important responsibility of propane industry employees. Keep in mind that the DOT expects that everything carried on your vehicle is secure while traveling down the highway. Furthermore, the DOT expects that cargo and securing equipment remain secure even under accident conditions.

*True Story: In 2002, a flat bed truck traveling through Kansas City, MO lost a 30 lb. bracket used to secure a large piece of equipment. This bracket was not secured and it bounced off the truck into the windshield of a car following the truck. The bracket struck the driver, instantly killing her. The truck driver was charged for not properly securing his load.*

Listed below are some things to consider relative to securing loads:

### Cylinder Truck, Tank Setting Trailer, Boom Truck

- Check integrity of straps and brackets.
- Check condition of chains.
- Check condition of ropes.
- Place small parts and fittings in cab or toolboxes.
- Secure cylinders in racks or cages.
- Keep tailgates closed during operation.
- Ensure lift gates and associated components are properly secured with chains and locking brackets.
- Check your load after traveling a few miles.
- Prior to departing on your trip, carefully check the truck bed for loose parts, fittings and other material that could fall from the vehicle.
- Keep all toolbox doors securely closed.
- If truck is equipped with flip over placards, ensure these units are in good condition as these movable components can sometimes break off and fall from the vehicle.

### Bobtails

- Ensure the transfer hose end valve is secured to the rear deck.
- Check the rear deck area for loose parts such as methanol containers, shovels, spanner wrenches and miscellaneous parts and fittings. Remove or secure as needed.
- Check ACME caps to ensure they are securely attached. Make sure these caps have chains attached to make sure they can't fall off the truck.
- Check for loose parts and components under the truck during the pre-trip inspection.

- Check condition of antennas, light brackets and lights to ensure they are not likely to break off and fall off the vehicle.

**Class Discussion:**

Ask class participants for instances where they have had parts and equipment fall from one of their vehicles or similar close calls. Ask what types of load securing issues do you have at your location?

**Conclusion**

Prior to entering the vehicle, don't forget to do a walk-around procedure and carefully check the truck to ensure loads are secure and nothing will fall off the vehicle while en route. The bottom line, can you operate your truck at highway speeds and feel comfortable that everything is safely secured?

# Securing of Truck Cargo

## Test

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Read and answer each of the following questions. When complete, grade the test and review incorrect answers so each employee is “armed” with the correct answers before they leave the training.

1. The DOT expects truck cargo to remain safely in place even in the event of an accident.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
2. ACME caps on a bobtail do not need a securing chain attached to them.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
3. Even bobtail trucks can loose parts and equipment while traveling down the highway.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
4. Ropes and chains don't need to be examined periodically as they never wear out.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. Shovels should probably not be transported on the rear deck of a bobtail.
  - a. True
  - b. False

# Securing of Truck Cargo

(Answer Sheet)

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  - a. **True**
  - b. False