

**Bradbury Stamm Construction – Safety Directive**

**Safety Directive # 029-00**

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**Revision Date: N/A**

**TRAILER AND TOWING**

**Selecting a Trailer**

- What are you going to haul?
  - Lots of small items are best hauled in a trailer with open or closed sides.
  - Long items and palletized loads are typically loaded/unloaded with a forklift; therefore, flat bed trailers should be used.
  - When hauling equipment, it is best to use a trailer with ramps to drive equipment on the trailer.

**Hooking Up**

- Wear Gloves
- Check the size of the hitch and select the correct size ball to match hitch - 1 7/8", 2" or 2 5/16".
- Close hitch around tow vehicle ball, install hitch latch safety pin.
- Connect two Safety chains or cables. Cross them to avoid binding when turning.
- Light check: connect trailer wiring harness; start engine; turn on driver's side turn signal and walk back and check that they are operational, repeat for passenger side; turn on headlights, walk back and check. If you have someone to help, check to see if the brake lights are also functioning properly.

**Loading/Unloading Equipment and Load Balance**

- Block trailer tires: loading can raise up tow vehicles and the rear wheels will not touch the ground and roll away.
- Sweep off snow, frost or water before driving up ramps.
- Put on your seat belt whenever operating any moving equipment.
- Drive on equipment until truck starts to settle. Stop and check that trailer frame is level or parallel with truck frame; too far forward will cause the front tires to be light and could impact steering and front braking; too far back the rear tires cause loss of traction and fishtailing or jack knifing.
- Keep a broom on the trailer or in the truck; sweep off rocks and debris before starting the haul to avoid damage to other vehicles on the road.

**Securing the Load - Tying Down**

- Use straps or chains and chain binder. For equipment use Grade 70 5/16" chain or larger. Rig tie downs to apply clamping force to the load. Always use two methods to tie down the load. DOT says every 5 feet.
- Place binders and ratchets on the passenger side to stay out of traffic lane when checking tightening on side of road. Pad straps at sharp edges. Vibration can cut straps.
- Sweep off the trailer.

**Towing**

- Reduce speed. Add double the stopping distance (it will take longer to stop the heavier the load is), stay in the right lane.
- Avoid rapid starts.

**Training**

BSC has developed a 20-minute training video available online or from John Romero in the yard. Watch before you take a company trailer on the road.