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NWOWS OH&S Book: Part 2: Travel Safety

Loads must be secured.

Use stamped tie downs, ratchets, etc. Nothing should be loose. If the vehicle was flipped upside down nothing should fall - if you believe this to be the case the load is secured.

In addition, as the driver, you are responsible for making sure the load is evenly balanced and properly secured against shifting. Any cargo that breaks loose or shifts during a sudden stop or sharp turn could cause a collision. All loads carried on a motor vehicle or trailer must be bound, covered or otherwise securely fastened or loaded such that no portion of the load can fall off the vehicle or trailer.

The Highway Traffic Act states that any load overhanging the rear of a vehicle by 1.5 m (5 ft) or more should be marked by a red light when lights are required (one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise or at other times of poor light conditions) and, at all other times, by a red flag or red marker.

Before moving a load, you should know the type of cargo you are carrying. Many commodities now being hauled require safety devices for the driver such as protective bulkheads or special lading. Before starting a trip or after unloading, check that van doors are latched or that racks, tarps and other equipment are properly secured.

Prior to using any vehicle - whether or not it is to be used on public roads:

Make a circle check of each vehicle you drive everyday, prior to travel. Fill out a vehicle inspection form. Do not drive a vehicle that you believe is unsafe - inform management of your concerns and wait for their instructions. If management informs you that the vehicle is safe, but you believe it is not, request management contact the MOL to settle the issue, if management refuses either contact higher levels of management directly, or failing all else contact the MOL yourself and refuse to drive the vehicle because "it is unsafe".

Slow Vehicles:

Slow vehicles, when taken onto public roads must have a slow moving vehicle sign attached at the back. Warning lights should be used when difficulty seeing the vehicle may exist.

Remote & Ice Roads:

- Follow all directions of the roads owners. If you or any employee is uncomfortable with the road, do not proceed, stop somewhere safe.
- Employees are NOT required to drive on an ice road.
- Never turn off all vehicles when working remotely. Always keep one running, especially in cold temperatures.

Solo Travel:

When travelling alone, make sure mangement knows exactly where you are going, and an estimated time to return or arrival. When working remotely from Thunder Bay, Supervisors are to contact mangement at scheduled times. NEVER leave a designated travel plan without notifying management.