



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™  
MS AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY  
EXPERIMENT STATION

# MAFES DAWG TRACKS

Proper loading, positioning, and securing of equipment on a trailer can mitigate risk during, not only accidents, but sudden stops and maneuvers on the road. Take precautions to prevent damage to equipment or cause harm to you and other drivers on the road.

## BEFORE loading the trailer...

- Verify that the trailer is the right fit for the load, and the truck pulling it all is rated for the total weight.
- Ensure stop, tail & turn signals, and trailer brakes are functioning properly.
- Determine where the equipment will be placed on the trailer to balance the weight distribution and not compromise the trucks drivability.
- If the equipment to be hauled has rubber tires, verify the tire pressure. Low pressure may result in the loosening of the tiedowns.
- Remove any excessive dirt/debris from the trailer ramps and floor that could reduce friction during loading or transport.

## DURING loading...

- Do not operate or load equipment that you do not know how to operate safely.
- Wear the seatbelt while loading & unloading.
- Have another person help watch and guide the equipment operator on and off the trailer.

## AFTER loading...

- Lower all accessory equipment and other movable parts such as hydraulic shovels, booms, implements, etc.
- Remove any dirt/debris from the equipment then trailer floor that could fall off during transport.
- Determine your securement points on the trailer and the load. Remember that the weakest component determines its integrity. Beware of rotten boards, loose hardware, or cracked anchor points.

## SECURING the load...

- Everything needs at least 2 tiedowns. The tiedowns total working load limit must be at least 50% of the cargo weight.
- If the load is over 10 ft long, on wheels/tracks, or over 10,000 lbs. have at least 4 separate tie-down points. This prevents side-to-side movement as well as vertical, forward and rearward movement.
- Avoid attaching chain/straps over brake lines or hydraulic hoses. Use the equipment manufacturer's designated attachment points when possible.
- Hydraulics alone are not enough to secure accessory equipment. Any implements, buckets, or boom components must also be secured. If the equipment being transported has an articulation point, pivot, or hinge within its construction, lock or restrain the vehicle or equipment to prevent any articulation while in transit.

## PULLING a loaded trailer...

- Maintain a wider space between you and other vehicles, giving more time for stops and the opportunity to be a better defensive driver.
- Drive at reasonable speeds.
- Stop frequently to check your coupler, trailer, tie-down tightness, and all equipment.

For more info contact:

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MAFES/MSU-Extension

Risk Mgmt./Loss Control

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## Sources:

[49 CFR 392.100-136;](#)

<https://www.equipmentworld.com>

<https://www.trailersuperstore.com/tips-for-hauling-heavy-equipment>