



Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

Law of the Month – Failure to Properly Secure a Trailer

With the holidays approaching and families going on summer vacations, there will be more pulling of boats, campers and other items hauled with a trailer. We want to remind motorists to make sure that their trailers are in good condition to be on the roads. Some things to remember before you start your trip is to check your tires, axles and lights to ensure everything works properly. Make sure your items on the trailer are secure.

It is very important to make sure your trailer is secure prior to traveling. Items like coolers, chairs, grills and fishing equipment can be a hazard if they fall out of a trailer and can cause a crash or damage to other vehicles trying to avoid debris in the road.

Failure to properly secure a trailer, Wisconsin State Statute 347.47 can result in a \$200 citation with two demerit points added to a driver's license. More info regarding safety chains, cables and leveling bars can be found in Wisconsin Transportation Administrative Code 308.12. State law 348.08 details various requirements related to vehicle trains. Wisconsin law also provides for a \$200 citation for "failure to properly secure a load" (348.10) or for "spilling a load or waste along a highway" (346.94).