



August - Law of the Month

We want to remind motorists to ensure that their trailers are in good condition to be on the roadway. Some things to remember to check before you start your trip is to check your tires, axles, and lights to make sure everything works properly. The next thing to check is to make sure your items on the trailer are secure. This can include pulling of boats, campers and other items that are hauled with a trailer. It is very important to make sure before you leave the boat launch, leaving the campsite, or hauling anything to make sure your trailer is secure before you leave. Items like coolers, chairs, grills and fishing equipment can be a hazard if they fall out. If these items fall out it can cause damage to other vehicles, or a crash may happen with people trying to avoid the debris in the roadway.

Driving with an unsecured load is both against the law and extremely dangerous. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that 739 deaths, 17,367 injuries and 89,915 property damage crashes resulted from unsecured loads and road debris. A load must be securely fastened and is only considered secure when nothing can drop, sift, leak or otherwise escape onto the roadway or become airborne.

Wisconsin State Statute 348.10 – Special limitation on load

No person shall operate a vehicle on a highway unless such vehicle is so constructed and loaded as to prevent its contents from dropping, sifting, leaking or otherwise escaping therefrom.

The load imposed upon trailers, semitrailers, recreational vehicles, or mobile homes shall be distributed in a manner that will prevent side sway under all conditions of operation:

All items of load carried by any trailer, semitrailer, recreational vehicle, or mobile home, except bulk material such as sand, gravel, dirt not in containers, shall be secured to, on or in the trailer, semitrailer, recreational vehicle, or mobile home in such manner as to prevent shifting of the load while the trailer, semitrailer, recreational vehicle, or mobile home is being drawn by a towing vehicle.

Boats of any type transported on a trailer or semitrailer being drawn by a towing vehicle shall be secured in position at bow and stern by attachments of such strength and design as to prevent the boat from shifting its position on the trailer or becoming separated from the trailer while being transported thereon.

The load carried by any trailer, semitrailer, recreational vehicle, or mobile home shall be so positioned that a weight of not less than 35 pounds is imposed at the center of the point of attachment to the towing vehicle when parked on a level surface.