



## MONTHLY SAFETY MEETING

**Date:** April 2018  
**Subject:** Preventing Unnecessary Accidents & Personal Injury

This month's subject revolves around Light-Duty, Medium-Duty, and Heavy-Duty service vehicles. They all have one thing in common, onboard tools, chains, snatch blocks, and other equipment related to the job. Most if not all of this equipment is used in connection with towing and securing loads. Many of the tools used for this purpose are made of steel and are quite heavy.

This month's subject cautions all involved to secure all the tools and equipment before leaving for the service call and after loading-up. Something as simple as a socket-wrench can easily be left behind on the bed of the truck and turn into a projectile while driving on the highway. There have been many reported injuries and deaths from tools, chains, and other equipment dislodging themselves from truck bodies traveling down the highway.

Many of you are responsible for cleaning-up after an accident. The debris left behind, car parts and other items related to the accident must be secured properly before you get on the highway. We don't want anything flying off the truck resulting in an accident or personal injury. **Safety Tip** When towing severely damaged vehicles from accident scenes, it may be beneficial and reduce your company's liability risk to apply collision wrap to the damaged areas of the vehicle to prevent loose parts from flying off the vehicle. This will ensure you are following DOT secured load requirements.

The same problem will happen when you are off road performing an extraction and the tires are subjected to mud and dirt. The rocks imbedded in the mud and dirt will act as projectiles if not removed from the fender wells and tires. The medium-duty and heavy-duty trucks will dig in deeper to the mud and bigger rocks imbed themselves into the groove of the tires. These rocks can cause serious injury to another motorist on the highway. The same rule applies to low-boy equipment trailers. If you're transporting a piece of equipment off a jobsite make sure the piece of equipment is free of dirt and mud. When you're traveling down the highway and hitting bumps loose items become projectiles. These projectiles can cause personal injury or in some cases death.

Please secure your loads properly and inspect the load carefully before entering the highway. Make sure all the extra chains, hooks, tools, and other equipment are placed back in the storage cabinets before entering the highway.

Let's hear what some of your personal experiences have been relating to this subject.

### DISCLAIMER

The Safety Committee for the Pennsylvania Towing Association (PTA) encourages all of its members and affiliates to conduct monthly safety meetings. We cannot force our membership or its employees to participate in this program, however communicating safety measures will lower the risk of an accident or personal injury. These meetings are directly but not limited to personal safety. The PTA believes in safety-first when it comes to performing our job. You can download the subject of the month from the PTA website. Please join us in educating our work force to protect themselves and others while performing their duties. Please visit our website at [www.patowing.com](http://www.patowing.com) to download the latest monthly safety meeting.