

Heavy Equipment Loading

Worksite equipment needs to be transported frequently.

Loading equipment onto trailers and trucks happens so often, it's easy not to give it any thought. Don't get complacent with any activities on the worksite, no matter how routine.

Following these safe loading principles may prevent injury to you and damage to equipment.

Pause for Safety

- Hazards**
- Equipment falling or rolling over off low bed trailer;
 - Slipping or falling off the trailer or equipment;
 - Hands pinched handling chains/load binders;
 - Hands slipping off snipe;
 - Truck or trailer sliding or moving;
 - Winch cable breaking;
 - Hand lacerations while working with a frayed cable;
 - Workers being struck by equipment; and
 - Workers caught between equipment and trailer.

PPE



Additional PPE



- Controls**
- Chains or ratchet straps;
 - Load binders (approved binders that match the load taken)
 - Snipe;
 - Wide load sign (night time red flashing lights);
 - Flags and
 - Measuring Tape



Strategies and Procedures

Prepare truck and trailer

- Have the truck and trailer parked on level and stable ground;
- Inspect the trailer and loading ramps to ensure they are in good operating condition;
- Remove rear wide load sign;
- Ensure beaver tails and deck are clean of debris and replace any decking that is not suitable or rotten/missing;
- Make sure the tractor trailer and equipment brakes are set.
 - If necessary use wheel chocks to wedge the tires of the trailer to avoid unexpected movement;

Operate equipment to be loaded as per manufacturers' instructions;

Align the equipment to be loaded so that it is loaded straight and centered on the low bed deck, use of a spotter or signal person is recommended;

Ensure no Workers are between the equipment or equipment and trailer when being loaded;

When loading equipment such as a loader or crane, be sure boom is as low as possible to prevent tipping;

Drive slowly and smoothly onto low bed, keeping equipment centered at all times;

Stop in position so that axle weight distribution is proper;

Secure the load

- Make sure all equipment brakes are engaged (swing brake, park brake);
- Position all tie down chains and binders in the proper location on the trailer deck;
- Put front chains on first and watch pinch points when securing the load;

- Try to avoid getting onto the vehicle or equipment after it has been loaded;
- Tighten load binders securely, ensuring chains are properly spaced and not kinked.
 - When using snipe, be careful not to let it slip and spring the load binder. The flying snipe can cause serious injury/damage.
 - **Always pull when using a snipe. Do not push.** If the snipe slips or fails the risk of injury is greatly reduced.

Measure and know the height of your load before departure;

Place and fasten wide load sign (red lights if necessary); and

Stop and check your load within the first hour of transport or as determined by law/regulations to ensure it is secure.

