

## **SAFETY ALERT**

# **Shared Learning's**

### **INCIDENT TITLE:**

Trailer Safety

### **TIME AND DATE OF INCIDENT:**

04/06/2018 & 12/06 2018

### **INCIDENT DETAIL :**

#### **First Incident:**

The Trojan Oil trailer which is moved between sites was found to have a 50mm coupling on the trailer. The Ute tow ball is a 1 7/8 which is the common size of the Meridian vehicles, so the trailer had the possibility of detaching while in transit.

#### **Second Incident:**

Contractors were using a site trailer to transport equipment for their work within the wind farm. While travelling, the trailer hitch bounced off the tow ball, causing the draw bar to swing under the tow bar of the ute, damaging the hitch and surrounding parts. This had not been connected to the hitch correctly.

#### **Third Incident:**

A trailer had been attached to a work ute by others. When completing checks before using the vehicle, the operator found that the tow ball had not been locked into place.

### **INITIAL RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION OUTCOMES :**

#### **First incident:**

Tag out trailer from use and organise a new coupling to be fitted in 1 7/8 before any movements of the Trojan Trailer.

#### **Second Incident:**

Contractors reconnected the trailer and ensured that the hitch was locked down correctly before continuing on their way. Following this decision it was agreed to stop using the trailer until repairs were carried out.

#### **Third Incident:**

The tow ball was locked into place and remaining vehicle checks were completed.

### **LEARNINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIS INCIDENT:**

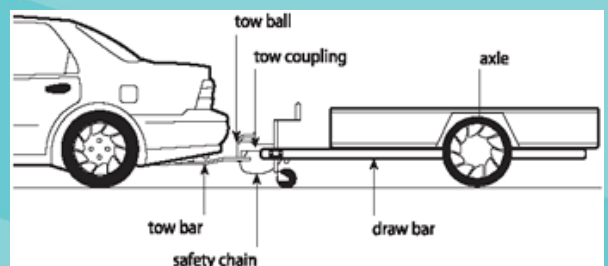
This highlights the importance of checking equipment is fit for purpose and ensuring anyone who is using equipment knows the potential risks that they need to look out for.

As noted in the third incident, a vehicle/ equipment check is essential before use to prevent an event taking place.

This includes checking:

- Tyres
- Lights & indicators
- Weight limits for vehicle
- Coupling is a correct fit
- Safety chains are attached
- Current WOF & Registration
- Load is secure and within height/ length/ weight limits
- Driver is comfortable and experienced with driving with a trailer

### **PHOTO:**



The Corporate Safety and Health Team are currently working on systems to support the above learnings. If interested in viewing the full investigation report for this incident, it can be found in:

Safety Manager

More information on trailer safety can be found on [www.NZTA.govt.nz](http://www.NZTA.govt.nz)



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