

Safely Towing the Troop Trailer then backing it up!

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18 May 2017



**Boy Scouting
Youth Leadership
Training**

Today's Agenda

- ▶ **EQUIPMENT**
- ▶ **HOOK-UP**
- ▶ **SAFE TOWING**



Equipment

- Choose the correct vehicle



Equipment

➤ Quality tow hitch



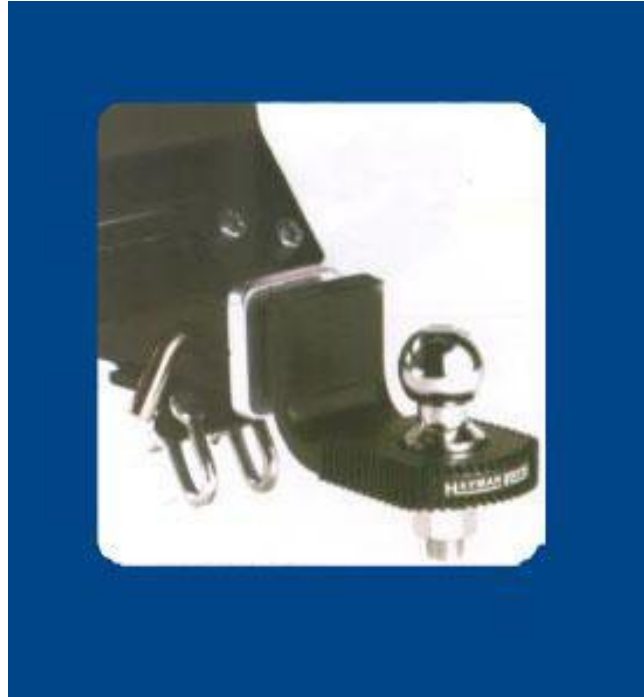
Equipment

➤ Ball Mount

➤ 1 7/8"

➤ 2"

➤ 2 5/16"



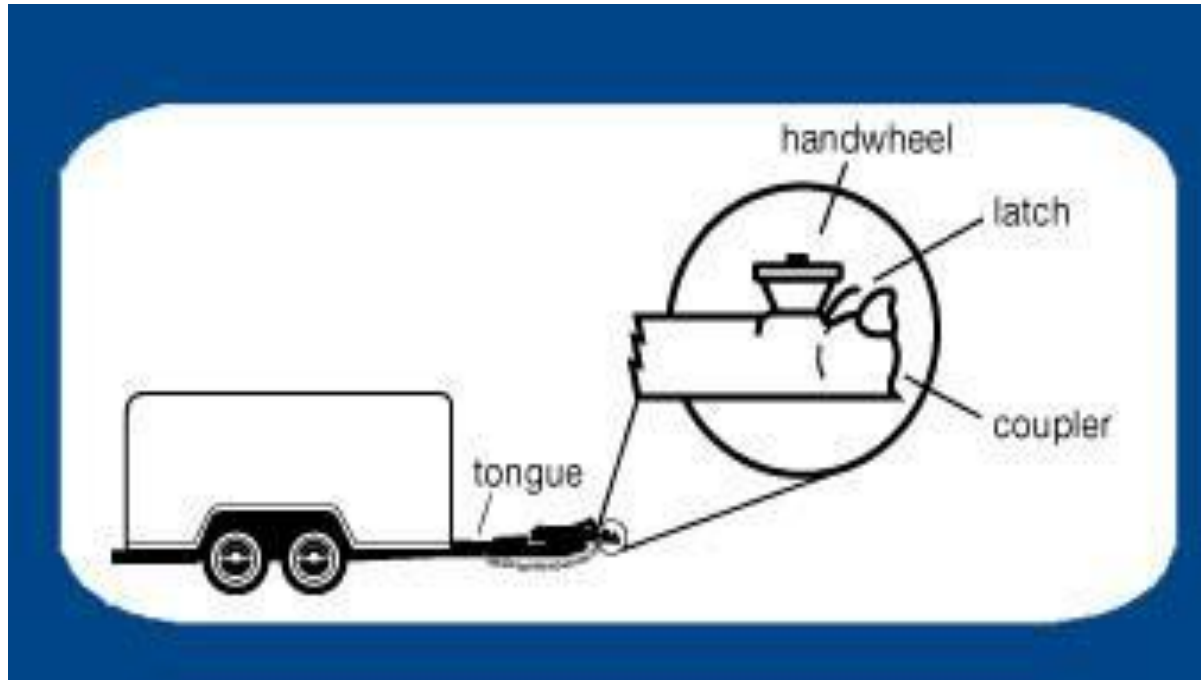
Equipment

➤ Coupler or Ball Socket

➤ 1 7/8"

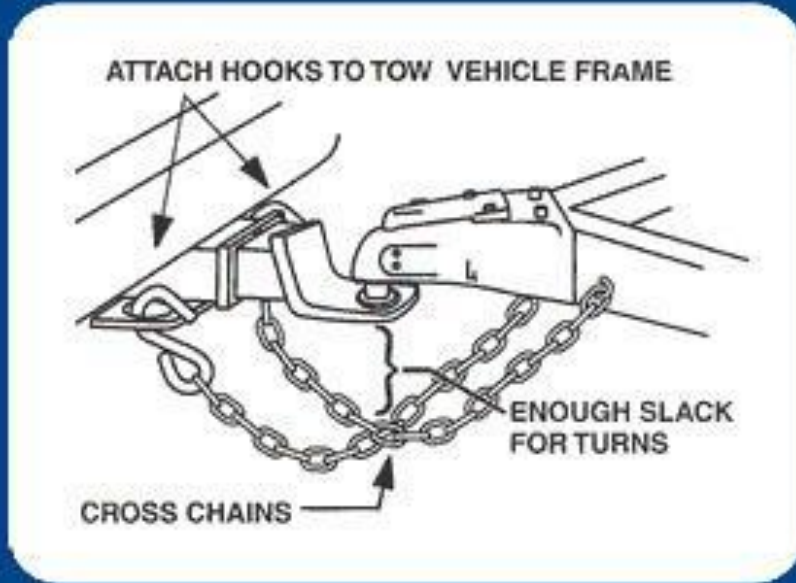
➤ 2"

➤ 2 5/16"



Equipment

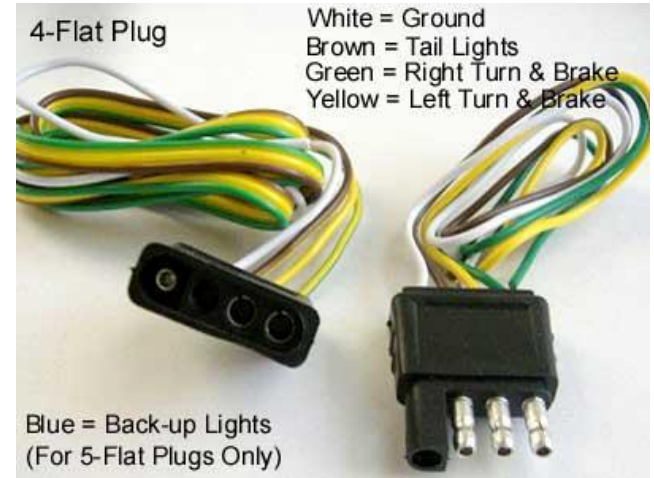
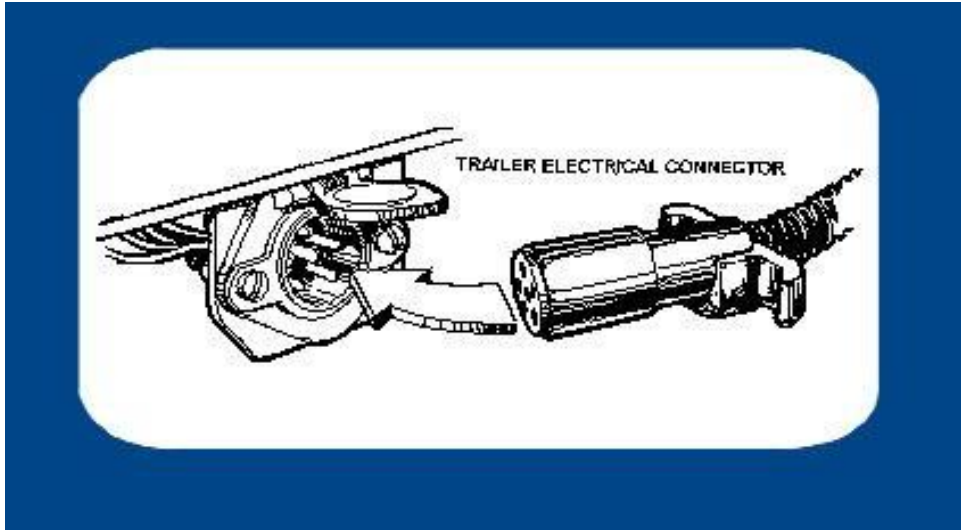
➤ Safety Chains



Equipment

➤ Light kit

- 7 point connector
- 4 point connector



Equipment

➤ Side Mirror



Equipment

➤ Tongue Jack



Equipment

➤ Brake Controller



Hook-up

- Ball mounted in bumper



Hook-up

➤ Frame mounted receiver hitch



Hook-up

- ▶ **Brake Lights**
- ▶ **Running Lights for Night Driving**
- ▶ **Directional Turn Lights**



Safe Towing

- ▶ **Towing Checklist**
- ▶ **Conduct a Safety Check before each towing:**
- ▶ **Make sure tires are in good condition and properly inflated on trailer as well as towing vehicle.**
- ▶ **Inspect the tow hitch, ball and socket connection to make sure they are properly attached and secure.**
- ▶ **Check coupler locking pin (if used).**



Safe Towing

▶ **Towing Checklist**

▶ **Conduct a Safety Check before each towing:**

▶ **Check the lights to make sure they are working properly.**

▶ **Make sure hitch and safety chains are properly connected.**

▶ **Be sure there is not too much load on tongue or tail of trailer. Bulk of load should be over trailer axle. Ten percent of load weight should be on hitch.**

▶ **Be sure tongue jack is up and secured to A-frame tongue of trailer.**



Safe Towing

- ▶ **Safety practices while towing:**
- ▶ **Check brakes while at a low speed to be sure they will stop the vehicle and the trailer comfortably. Reduce speed and increase following distance to compensate for extra stopping distance required.**
- ▶ **Avoid sudden stops - anticipate traffic lights and slow down early.**



Safe Towing

- ▶ **Safety practices while towing:**
- ▶ **Do not make jerky steering corrections as this may result in trailer shifting and loss of control - make smooth course corrections and turns.**
- ▶ **Consider the length of the trailer and allow extra distance when changing lanes in front of another vehicle.**
- ▶ **Use your mirrors frequently to check traffic conditions beside and behind you.**



Safe Towing

- ▶ **Safety practices while towing:**
- ▶ **If the trailer tire drops off the roadway into the ditch, smoothly bring the trailer back onto the roadway. Do not try to correct too rapidly as the trailer may whip across the roadway resulting in loss of control.**
- ▶ **Be careful in turns. The trailer tends to cut corners more sharply than the towing vehicle which can be dangerous when cutting corners close to curbs, other vehicles and road-side obstructions.**

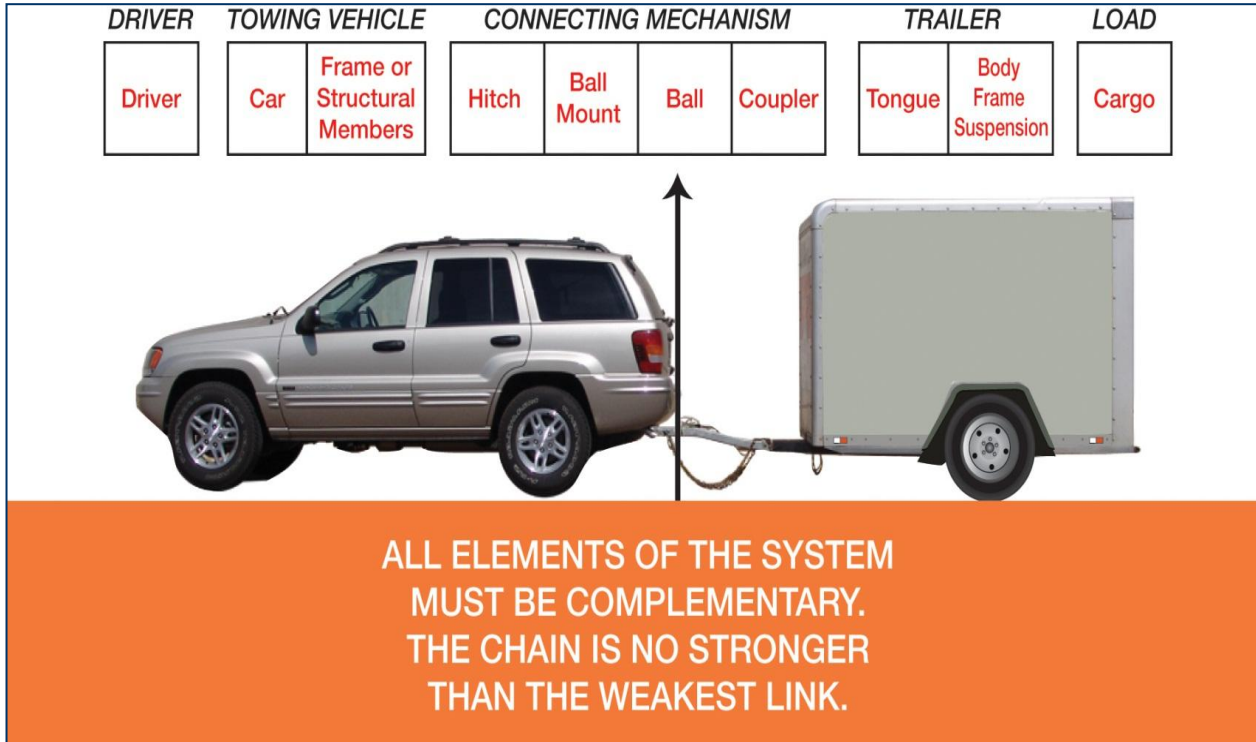


Safe Towing

- ▶ **Safety practices while towing:**
- ▶ **Watch your gas gauge. Towing a trailer may cause your vehicle to get fewer miles per gallon of gasoline.**
- ▶ **Wind conditions can greatly affect how your trailer tows. The broad side of the trailer can catch the wind.**
- ▶ **Be a friendly driver. If a line of traffic is building up behind you, find a safe place to pull over and stop to allow them to pass.**

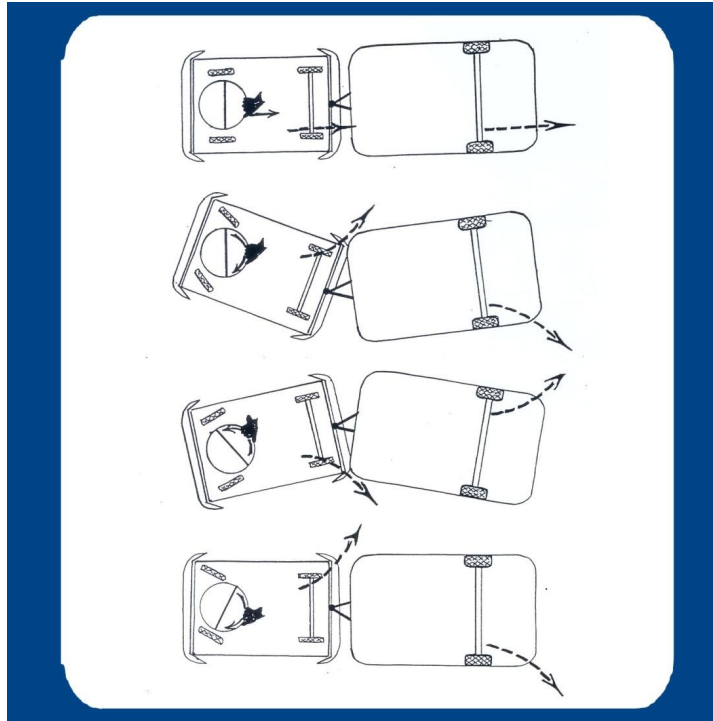


Safe Towing



Backing the trailer

- ▶ Turn opposite
- ▶ Place hand on bottom of the steering wheel
- ▶ Always back in on drivers side if possible
- ▶ Pull forward if needed



Backing the trailer

- ▶ **All driving is serious business. However, when towing a trailer, one must be extra cautious because of the hinged connection, the extra length, and the extra weight. Hopefully these safety tips on towing will help you to have a safe, pleasurable towing experience.**

- ▶ **Are there any questions?**



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