

COVER YOUR CARGO, LATCH YOUR LOAD AND FASTEN YOUR FREIGHT

When it comes to Utah's streets and highways, litter or debris is classified as anything that "doesn't belong." Thus, litter can range from candy wrappers and pop cans to mattresses and washing machines. Not only does litter and debris make Utah look bad, but it can also be expensive to remove and potentially dangerous or even deadly. In fact, it costs Utah taxpayers more than \$2 million each year to keep the highways litter free, and even still there are an average of 500 vehicle crashes in the state every year because of rubble on the roadways.

WHERE DOES LITTER COME FROM?

Every day UDOT maintenance workers and Utah Highway Patrol Troopers risk their lives to clear debris that has fallen onto the roadways from unsecured or improperly secured loads. In an effort to keep Utah motorists and troopers safe, state law mandates that all loads, whether carried by commercial or private vehicles, be properly secured before transport commences.

SECURING YOUR SHIPMENT

When transporting a load it is important to take the time to ensure that it is properly secured rather than simply assuming that gravity will hold it in place during transport. The following tips may be helpful in determining how to keep your load in place.

- Use rope, straps, and chains to secure items
- Ropes should be used with a type of anchor
- Keep items below the top edge of the truck bed or trailer
- Cover loose items with a tarp and secure it
- Immobilize items to prevent shifting to the extent that the vehicle's stability is adversely affected
- After traveling a short distance, stop and check to make sure nothing has loosened

THE BUSINESS OF TRANSPORT

Commercial vehicles transporting any type of cargo or freight in an open truck or trailer are legally obligated to secure their loads before beginning transport. Commercial drivers can find a detailed list of state regulations and requirements for securing different types of loads in the Utah Trucking Guide, which can be found online at www.utahmc.com/trucking_guide

DON'T TOSS IT

We've all seen them on the side of the freeways—containers filled with a not-so-mysterious yellow liquid. Did you know that tossing that "urine jug" could get you a \$500 fine? The next time you're tempted to throw it out the window, think again. Waiting to dispose of it at the next rest stop will keep the roads cleaner, doesn't take any more time, and could save you a lot of cash.

Sources: www.litterhurts.utah.gov, UDOT Motor Carriers