



July 2014 Newsletter

Five Things to Consider When Towing a Trailer

Towing a trailer can be dangerous when not done properly. Use these five tips to make sure that you are always safely towing your trailer!

1. The addition of a trailer adds weight and length to the tow vehicle. The additional length and weight affects all aspects of the tow vehicle. Improperly loading or overloading a trailer can result in trailer sway/ control concerns, abnormal tire wear, damage to the trailer or tow vehicle, and can even lead to an accident.

2. The manufacturer's tow vehicle ratings should never be exceeded when towing a trailer. This figure will vary depending on vehicle equipment such as transmission type, four-wheel drive, or two-wheel drive. The Gross Combination Weight Rating (GCWR) should be determined before towing a trailer. The GCWR would include the weight of the tow vehicle, trailer, passengers, equipment, luggage, fuel, etc. that would be traveling.

3. The trailer tongue weight should be considered when loading a trailer. The tongue weight is the amount of the trailer's weight that is pressing down on the trailer hitch. Too little tongue weight can result in trailer sway and too much tongue weight can affect the tow vehicle's steering and breaking abilities. The trailer should be properly loaded from side-to-side and front-to-rear. The trailer's owner manual and tow vehicle's manual should be consulted when loading a trailer.

4. Consider the tow vehicle's maintenance schedule. Vehicles used for towing often require more frequent maintenance intervals versus vehicles not used for towing. For example, a vehicle that is used to tow a trailer over a long distance may require the transmission fluid to be flushed after the trip. The vehicle manufacturer should be consulted to determine the maintenance schedule required when using the vehicle to tow a trailer.

5. Towing a trailer results in additional heat buildup in the engine and transmission. Due to the additional heat produced when towing, tow vehicles are generally equipped with upgraded cooling system components and air-to-fluid coolers. These coolers are used to dissipate heat from the engine oil and transmission fluid. Overloading a tow vehicle can result in component failure or fluid being expelled from the transmission contacting a hot surface, such as the exhaust system, can result in a

IN THIS ISSUE

[Five Things to Consider When Towing a Trailer](#)

[2014 Vehicle Theft and Fire School](#)

[Mobile Property Live Burn Seminar](#)

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fire.

For additional information or assistance, it is recommended to consult the tow vehicle's manufacturer and the trailer's manufacturer.

2014 Vehicle Theft and Fire School

This year's Vehicle Theft and Fire School is from September 30th to October 3rd. The class is limited to 30 students, so register today! Police & Fire Origin & Cause Investigators, Police Auto Theft Units and Insurance SIU Personnel will be accepted first. Click [here](#) for more information and to register!

Mobile Property Live Burn Seminar

This year's Live Burn will be October 2nd at 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will focus on incendiary fires and accidental causes. This seminar will be certified through the Michigan Firefighters Training Council and certified fire inspectors will receive points for attendance. Further, police officers in attendance will get MCOLES Certification. The class is limited to 30 students! Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

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