



H S E

HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENTAL



Alert #: SA 26-24

Date: 09/06/2024



Safety When Towing Utility Trailers

A GIS Vehicle towing a utility trailer carrying a small Excavator left the worksite enroute to the office. Along the way, on a busy interstate highway, the trailer detached from the truck, skidding over to the median on the left, then back across the road, through the embankment on the right side of the road, through a chain link fence, and settling on the Service Road beside the Interstate.

Investigation found the following factors that may have led to the incident:

- Employees moved a trailer that did not have a Safety Pin for the latch.
- Upon inspection on 8/14/2024, NO trailers at this division's facility had a Hitch Safety Pin connected to it.
- Employees should feel secure in admitting errors, and not try to hide the facts behind incident causations. It took two separate interviews before employees admitted there was no Safety Pin in the trailer latch.

Corrective Actions to prevent this type of incident from happening again are:

- Every trailer should have a Latch Safety Pin attached to it, as well as a spare if stowage is available for it.
- All trailers should be immediately inspected to make sure that the Safety Chains attached to the trailer have enough capacity and in proper condition to hold the expected weight of cargo for that trailer.
- Employees should not move a trailer with a truck or other vehicle that does not have a Safety Pin for the latch.
- Use a Documented Pre-use/Pre-Trip Safety Inspection for all trailers.

***Report all incidents immediately to the Hotline
1-855-543-5163.***

SAFETY ALERT