



Releasing the fifth wheel

MANAGEMENT

Safety culture begins with you. Your employees will follow your lead. Research shows that the more management emphasizes safety, both in word and deed, the more safety conscious employees become.

- Be open to listening to drivers about their safety concerns.
- Maintain equipment so it functions easily.
- Provide tools such as extension rods for pulling the release latch.

DRIVERS

Protect your shoulders from injuries:

- Line up the truck and trailer in a level area to reduce tension on the latch.
- After backing trailer into position, pull forward slightly to release tension on the 5th wheel release.
- Use an extension rod to reach the latch so you don't have to bend your back or twist your shoulder.
- Report mechanical problems to your supervisor or repair shop.

Protect yourself from other drivers:

- Wear reflective clothing when outside your truck.

Protect yourself from slips, trips or falls.

- Before you exit the cab look for debris, ice, oil or holes in the ground.
- Always use three points of contact to enter or exit your cab.

www.KeepTruckingSafe.org

Hazard



Reaching to grab latch handle can cause a shoulder injury.

Solution



Use an extension rod to reach latch handle.