

Hazards associated with TRAILER TOWING



Hazard	Barriers	Hazardous Event	Controls ¹
Incorrect towing combination weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trailer combination must comply with the load and weights limits identified on the vehicle manufacture's plate or handbook. 	Exceeding the manufacture's maximum towing combination plate weight may potentially cause instability, loss of control resulting in serious, possibly fatal, injury to the driver/passengers and other road users and serious damage to trailer combination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital. Quarantine equipment for repair.
Trailer manoeuvring and towing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use only competent and experienced drivers. Competent persons only should be allowed to tow trailers. 	Poor trailer manoeuvring may potentially cause drivers/Club members and the public to suffer serious, possibly fatal, injury if struck by the towing vehicle or trailer. Such accidents may seriously damage the trailer combination and its load.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital. Quarantine equipment for repair.
Vehicle accident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent and experienced trailer driver aware of road conditions and hazards. Need to check the condition of the trailer, tyres, brakes etc. 	Driver error/misjudgement causing accident with potential serious injury to driver, pedestrians and other road users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital. Quarantine equipment for repair. The driver must carry a torch, high visibility jacket and safety triangle to help prevent injury at the accident scene.

Reference : LRGCS safety document – Hazards associated with TRAILER TOWING - issue 1 (January 2018)

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<p>Falls from trailer during loading</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver and crews briefed on potential hazards when climbing onto trailer whilst loading/unloading boats. • Loading and unloading should be planned and supervised by the driver. 	<p>Drivers and helpers may suffer injury if they fall from the trailer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital.
<p>Non-roadworthy trailers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular maintenance inspections of trailers mechanical/electrical condition must be undertaken to ensure trailers conform to road traffic regulations. • Driver pre-use checks of trailer roadworthiness must be carried out by the driver before every road movement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tow ball and connections • Breakaway cable • Wheels and tyres • Lights and indicators 	<p>Mechanical or electrical failure due to poor maintenance may cause a breakdown or an accident resulting in serious, potentially fatal, injury to drivers/passengers and the public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital. • The tow driver should be equipped with the correct tools, jack and safety equipment/clothing for changing a wheel.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load and weight limit • The tow driver equipped with the correct tools, jack and safety equipment/ clothing for changing a wheel. 		
Unfamiliarity with risks at other gig sites. Slips and trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits are planned and attention paid to potential dangers/difficulties advised by site officials. • Drivers following unfamiliar routes should make a route plan and not rely on satnav to avoid getting into dangerous or impossible road conditions. 	Club members may suffer injuries such as fractures or bruising if they slip on slippages or trip over objects when loading/unloading the trailer at unfamiliar sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital.
Manual handling Lifting and moving heavy objects (the gig) that are difficult to grasp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver and crew are trained on correct manual handling techniques. 	Club members/others risk injuries or back pain from loading/unloading the gig.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital.
Insecure and incorrectly loaded trailer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver responsible for load security and fittings (straps and ties) are serviceable (fit 	Drivers/others may suffer serious injury if the boat moves unexpectedly whilst loading or unloading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital.

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	<p>for use).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew supervised by driver during loading and unloading. • Equipment including oars are be firmly secured for transport. 		
Incorrectly secured coupling of trailer to tow vehicle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The driver correctly attaches the trailer combination and supervises helpers so as to prevent injury. • Drivers are aware of the potential dangers and correct method of coupling the trailer to the towing vehicle. 	Drivers/others may suffer serious crash injuries if trapped by moving trailer or towing vehicle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital.
Driver fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers to take regular breaks if they become tired whilst driving. • Trailer towing should be well planned so as to avoid the onset of fatigue. 	Driver /other road users may suffer serious injury if road accident results from fatigue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat with first aid or evacuate to hospital.

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- **Report incident**