

## TROOP 537 TRAILER TOWING CHECKLIST

***Note: This single-axle trailer does not have an independent braking system. Your vehicle brakes also serve to stop trailer.***

### **Prior to towing**

Ensure tow ball is the right size (2-inch.) Lubricate trailer tongue coupler and latch, ensure coupler latch is engaged and the lock in place while towing. After securing to tow vehicle try lifting to ensure the latch is secure.

Inspect safety chains, connect to tow vehicle.

Inspect and/or clean lighting plug and receptacle, connect to tow vehicle. *Note: An adapter is located in trailer for converting from 4-way flat plug to 6-way round plug.*

Inspect all hitch components for cracking or broken welds

Check tires for proper pressure (50 psi cold) and condition.

Check wheel nut torque

Check exterior lighting, brake lights and blinkers

Ensure the pin & clip are installed through drawbar of hitch

Distribute the load, front-to-back and side-to-side. There should be slightly more weight in front of the trailer axle than in rear of the trailer axle. Too much or too little weight on the tongue can cause control problems during towing. Side-to-side weight should be balanced.

Inspect spare tire, bottle jack and lug wrench

Ensure trailer doors are latched and locked

### **After first hour of towing, and periodically thereafter**

Monitor axle wheel bearing temperature, and tire pressure. Feel with your hand at the hub to check for one bearing that may be running hotter than the other. (Be careful. If the bearing is adjusted too tight or is running without grease it can get VERY hot!) A hot bearing needs immediate attention. Most often either more grease or proper adjustment will ease the problem, seek out a professional at the nearest automotive service station or parts store.

### **After towing and returning to storage site**

Ensure trailer is EMPTY; doors latched and locked

Ensure coupler latch is engaged and the lock in place to prevent unauthorized use

Whenever the trailer is detached from the tow vehicle, block the wheels so it is impossible for the trailer to roll off on its own