

KEEP YOUR LOAD OFF THE ROAD



FACTS:

Roughly 45% of litter on highways comes from unsecured cargo and debris that falls or is blown out of pickup beds, trailers, and boats. It is estimated that litter and debris on freeways leads to 51,000 accidents in the U.S. each year, injuring nearly 10,000 people.

(2021-New Mexico Dept. of Transportation/www.tossnomas.com)

PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS



REPORT:

If you see materials on the roadway or that have fallen off a vehicle and pose a threat to public safety: Call 911 immediately from a safe spot.



PREVENT:

Keep all smaller waste items contained in the cab of the vehicle (Do not place loose trash or unsecured materials in truck bed).



AVOID A FINE.

Littering is a crime punishable with a fine up to \$300 in New Mexico.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT:

Fully contain and properly dispose of all waste materials at an authorized and permitted landfill or disposal facility. Loose litter and debris pose potential threats to water sources, native soils & plants, air, livestock, and wildlife.

REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING:

REPORT: If you witness illegal dumping in progress, find a safe place to call 911 as soon as possible. If you come across an illegal dump already on the landscape, report it ASAP.

ILLEGAL DUMP REPORTING HOTLINE

844-496-5509

MORE INFO:

www.SENMIDP.com



- Transport check.** Ensure your vehicle, trailer, and all tires are in good condition and that all required safety lights work prior to loading.
- Tie down check.** Ensure you have enough rope, restraints, tie down straps, chains, netting, tarps, and/or blocking materials to secure your load prior to loading. Don't use restraint materials that are frayed, cut, falling apart, or damaged.
- Stability in larger loads.** Tie larger items directly to your vehicle or trailer. Use blocking and bracing equipment as needed to ensure large items won't shift during transport.
- Even weight distribution.** Evenly distribute the weight of the load to prevent it from shifting during turns, braking, and acceleration.
- Smaller materials belong in bags or under tarps.** Materials of small or fine size (i.e. dirt, mineral material, yard debris, etc.) need to be either fully contained in sealed/tied bags or containers or the load should be fully tarped.
- Hauled materials must be larger than metal mesh containment.** Materials transported in partially enclosed trailers made of metal mesh (i.e. walls, floor, roof, etc.), must be larger than the metal mesh. Materials that are finer and smaller than the metal mesh holes need to be bagged or put into other secondary containment during transport in these types of trailers.
- Tight and secure cargo covers.** Ensure tarps and nets are properly secured, extend all the way across the load, and installed tight enough so they don't lift off the cargo or rip apart at driving speed.
- Don't overload.** Keep loaded cargo weights within the specifications of your vehicle and/or trailer. Overloading can destabilize your vehicle and trailer and cause accidents, in addition to loss of cargo. Keep material level with truck bed or trailer unless otherwise secured.
- Double-check.** Always double-check your load. Ask yourself, "Would my loved ones be safe driving behind my vehicle?" If the answer is, "No," then take corrective action immediately.
- If you lose some, part, or all your load:** According to New Mexico state law (NMS § 66-7- 364), loss of load materials on roadways is a criminal offense—which is why it is important to take measures to properly secure your load before transporting it. If bodily injury or property damage is caused by the material, fines and penalties increase. NMS § 66-7-364 also requires all released materials be immediately removed.