What is a secured load?

Each year, heavy items such as large truck tires, spools of wire, and large pieces of wood fall from vehicles and end up on our roadways creating hazards for motorists.

Take the time to always secure your load.

According to AAA:

- About 50,000 crashes a year involve road debris on U.S. roadways.
- Road debris has resulted in nearly 10,000 injuries and 125 deaths each year.
- Nearly 37 percent of all deaths in road debris crashes resulted from the driver swerving to avoid hitting an object.
- About two-thirds of debris-related crashes are the result of items falling from a vehicle due to unsecured loads and improper maintenance.

Even with a small load, items can shift and become loose or airborne. Don’t risk it – secure your load.
Unsecured Loads in South Carolina

Section 56-5-4100. Preventing escape of materials loaded on vehicles; cleaning the highways of escaped substances or cargo.

(A) No vehicle may be driven or moved on any public highway unless the vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent any of its load from dropping, sifting, leaking, or otherwise escaping from the vehicle, except that sand, salt, or other chemicals may be dropped for the purpose of securing traction, and water or other substance may be sprinkled on a roadway in the cleaning or maintaining of the roadway by the public authority having jurisdiction.

(B) Trucks, trailers, or other vehicles when loaded with rock, gravel, stone, or other similar substances which could blow, leak, sift, or drop must not be driven or moved on any highway unless the height of the load against all four walls does not extend above a horizontal line six inches below their tops when loaded at the loading point.

Section 56-5-4110. Loads and covers must be firmly attached.

No person shall operate on any highway any vehicle with any load unless such load and any covering thereon is securely fastened so as to prevent such covering or load from becoming loose, detached or in any manner a hazard to other users of the highway.

Penalties for violation include fines up to $1,092 and up to one year imprisonment.

For more information about South Carolina Litter Laws, visit www.palmettopride.org.