

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
"Could it happen here?"

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Broken Water Trailer Coupler – Property Damage

An employee was returning a water trailer to the office at the end of the season when, while driving along a road the vehicle encountered washboard and rutting.

The rough conditions caused the trailer coupler lock to break off, resulting in the trailer detaching from the hitch ball. The trailer began to fishtail and struck the back of the employee's pickup.

Fortunately, the safety chains kept the trailer connected, allowing the employee to pull over safely without further incident.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

- Ensure trailer is thoroughly inspected and documented with a pre-trip inspection form
- Increased awareness on how to tighten and adjust coupler and what to look for when inspecting
- Regular check of the coupler for wear, cracks or damage
- Reduce speed on rough or washboard roads to minimize stress on trailer components

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Ensure trailer is thoroughly inspected and documented with a pre-trip inspection form. Pay particular attention to couplers and other attached items

