

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Road to Safety: June 6th is Secure Your Load Day

Seattle, WA, May 29, 2022---Fabulous news: The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed November 2021 included the language “to prevent crashes, injuries and deaths caused by unsecured vehicle loads” this continued federal funding is a big win for unsecured loads and road debris.

In addition to federal funding, recent data for 2020 released by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) for crashes caused by unsecured loads and road debris shows that there were 715 deaths, 16,595 injuries and 82,479 property damage crashes. The best news... the numbers in all categories have gone down compared to the 2019 data! Thanks to all who have participated in Secure Your Load Day safety campaign. You are truly making a difference!

Abel, a Seattle, Washington resident and Paul Reif an Arizona resident have made it their mission to fight this senseless and avoidable danger after Abel’s daughter was catastrophically injured and Reif’s son Matthew was killed by an unsecured load on June 6th. Bonded by grief, Abel and Reif have supported and encouraged each other in an effort to save other families from these preventable incidents and unnecessary pain. The fact that there is now continued national funding for education and enforcement, data from NHTSA indicating a drop in numbers and most of the states are participating in Secure Your Load Day are all reasons for celebration this year.

Abel has some recommendations:

Consider adding Secure Your Load Day to your Highway Safety Plan and apply for federal funding to continue to educate and enforce load securement laws for both non-commercial and commercial drivers.

Partner with other agencies to expand your safety campaign. Keep America Beautiful affiliates have been good partners in sharing this safety message. Road debris litter is a huge cost to our country....just ask Department of Transportation in each state.

Give consideration to starting a Secure Your Load program to educate and fine for unsecured loads at the Waste Facilities in your state. This program has been very successful in other states. Some facilities are giving out free nets and tarps.

Ask yourself, “What can I do?” Share this safety message with family and friends and most of all be proactive, speak up. It isn’t easy and can feel awkward but by speaking up you may just save someone’s life.

Talk about speaking up, Abel has been able to get six national companies to pull their commercials that show a bad example of load securement. If you see a commercial that sets a bad example consider writing their legal counsel; it does make a difference.

On June 6th, in honor of those whose lives have been impacted or taken by unsecured loads and road debris and in an effort to make load-securing a standard practice, Abel and Reif urge everyone to share and heed this urgent traffic safety message. This simple precaution will save lives.

Here’s how Abel recommends to properly Secure Your Load in five easy steps:

1. Tie down load with rope, netting or straps.
2. Tie large objects directly to the vehicle or trailer.
3. Cover the entire load with a sturdy tarp or netting.
4. Don’t overload the vehicle.
5. Always double check load to make sure a load is secure.

“We put on our seatbelts and fasten our children in car seats so why is it that we think it’s OK to leave anything loose in the bed of our trucks and risk endangering others on the road? A 20-pound object at 55 MPH has a force of 1000 pounds at impact. “Secure Your Load” as if everyone you love is driving in the car behind you.” Robin Abel

For more information, go to www.secureyourload.com or go to <http://youtu.be/p2Dy630MDVc> to see a recent PSA.