

Safety Note #125

RIDING SAFELY ON TOWED TRAILERS



Photograph Courtesy of Desert REC

Falling off a moving trailer can be a painful experience that may result in a bruise, laceration, broken bone, or other more serious injury. By taking precautions and following common sense rules, persons can avoid falling off a moving trailer and enjoy the experience of traveling cross country on a field trip.

The following Safety Note provides information about how to safely ride on a moving trailer.

Safety Precautions for Riding on a Towed Trailer

- Be prepared for the weather conditions and wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including a hat and sunscreen during warm weather and a jacket or rain coat when it is cool or rainy.
- Drink adequate water for the weather conditions.
- When available, use stairs and hand rails to mount or dismount a trailer.
- Do not push, shove, or participate in horseplay when mounting, dismounting, or riding on a trailer.
- Only sit only those portions of the trailer where instructed.
- Do not sit where your legs will hang near the trailer wheels.
- Be prepared for a bumpy ride with sudden starts and stops.
- Stay seated on a moving trailer until it comes to a complete stop. Dismount when instructed.
- Keep your hands and feet away from objects on the ground. Do not reach for tree limbs, plants, or other objects.
- Do not swing or lean on trailer rails.
- Always stay seated on a moving trailer.
- If you drop something from the moving trailer, let the presenter or group leader know. The trailer will stop so the item can be retrieved.
- Never jump from a moving trailer.
- If you become ill when riding the trailer, let the presenter or group leader know. The trailer will stop and you will be taken care of.
- Never throw anything from a moving trailer, including food wrappers or beverage containers.