



Training Solutions, Delivered!

COUPLING & UNCOUPLING TRACTOR/TRAILERS

**Leader's Guide, Fact Sheet
& Quiz**

**Item Number: 5053
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This easy-to-use Leader's Guide is provided to assist in conducting a successful presentation.

PREPARING FOR THE MEETING

Here are a few suggestions for using this program:

- a) Review the contents of the Fact Sheet that immediately follows this page to familiarize yourself with the program topic and the training points discussed in the program. The Fact Sheet also includes a list of Program Objectives that details the information that participants should learn from watching the program.
- b) If required by your organization, make an attendance record to be signed by each participant to document the training to be conducted.
- c) Prepare the area and equipment to be used for the training. Make sure the watching environment is comfortable and free from outside distractions. Also, ensure that participants can see and hear the TV screen or computer monitor without obstructions.
- d) Make copies of the Review Quiz included at the end of this Leader's Guide to be completed by participants at the conclusion of the presentation. Be aware that the page containing the answers to the quiz comes before the quiz itself, which is on the final page.

CONDUCTING THE PRESENTATION

- a) Begin the meeting by welcoming the participants. Introduce yourself and give each person an opportunity to become acquainted if there are new people joining the training session.
- b) Introduce the program by its title and explain to participants what they are expected to learn as stated in the Program Objectives of the Fact Sheet.
- c) Play the program without interruption. Upon completion, lead discussions about your organization's specific policies regarding the subject matter. Make sure to note any unique hazards associated with the program's topic that participants may encounter while performing their job duties at your facility.
- d) Hand out copies of the review quiz to all of the participants and make sure each one completes it before concluding the training session.

5053 COUPLING & UNCOUPLING TRACTOR/TRAILERS FACT SHEET

LENGTH: 4 MINUTES

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS:

As a professional truck driver, you drive thousands of miles on all different kinds of roads and every day you face challenging conditions and hazards that require the knowledge and skills of a professional. One of the biggest challenges you have to deal with before you even hit the road is an integral part of your everyday activities: the hooking up, and at the end of your day, the unhooking of your truck's components. This program demonstrates how to properly couple and uncouple a trailer to a truck.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

After watching the program, the viewer will be able to explain the following:

- How to properly couple a trailer;
- How to uncouple a trailer properly;
- Why it is important to chock the wheels of a trailer to prevent a roll away.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

COUPLING THE VEHICLE

- The process for hooking up and unhooking tractor/ semi-trailer combinations can be accomplished safely in a few steps. To begin, make sure the trailer wheels are chocked.
- The fifth wheel jaws should be fully-opened and the wheel tilted back so the hookup can be made successfully. Make sure the hook is pulled open allowing for kingpin access. The fifth wheel may need to be greased to ease the connection.
- Line up the kingpin with the fifth wheel slot and confirm trailer heights are correct. Back straight and slow and stop the tractor when the fifth wheel engages with the trailer kingpin.
- Connect color-coded brake lines and electrical connections.
- Release trailer brakes and test your fifth wheel connection slightly.
- Re-engage the parking brake. Visually check the coupling before proceeding.
- Raise the trailer supports and secure the handle in the low range position. Remove chocks from trailer.
- It's a simple process, but one that is vital to your safety, the safety of your truck and the safety of those around you. Always take time to ensure that your vehicle is properly coupled.

UNCOUPLING THE TRAILER

- Once you've successfully arrived at your destination, you must uncouple your trailer. It's a similar process. First, set the trailer parking brake. Lower the trailer supports and landing gear and secure the handle.
- Disconnect emergency airline, disconnect electrical connector and service air lines and secure them so they do not drag during travel.
- Pull the fifth wheel hook and lock the handle. Make sure your foot is clear of the tire before pulling the fifth wheel hook.
- Move forward gradually, allowing the trailer landing gear to take up the load.
- If you leave your trailer parked, you should chock the wheel to prevent a roll away.
- The pressure in your trailer's air tank will bleed down according to the amount of leakage in the trailer system. If the trailer tank drains, the trailer brakes release, so the chocks are important.
- If your trailer has spring brakes, they will remain in the applied position when the air pressure is released.

CONCLUSION

- Your responsibilities as a professional truck driver don't begin and end when you're driving down the road. The skills you need every day to ensure a safe and successful run include knowing every aspect of your truck and its components, and perfecting those skills is a high priority.
- It's up to you to practice and perfect these maneuvers, so that every trip you make is a successful one.

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ANSWERS TO THE REVIEW QUIZ

1. b

2. b

3. b

4. a

5. a

6. b

7. a

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REVIEW QUIZ

The following questions are provided to determine how well you understand the information presented in this program.

Name _____ Date _____

1. A visual inspection is not necessary if you are sure the coupling is good.
 - a. True
 - b. False

2. Chocks should be removed before coupling or uncoupling.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. After you uncouple your tractor and trailer, you should chock the wheels.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. You need to ensure the trailer is at the correct height before attempting to couple.
 - a. True
 - b. False

5. After coupling, you should test the connection before driving on the road.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. Trailer brakes should be off during coupling.
 - a. True
 - b. False

7. Airlines and electrical lines must be disconnected before you uncouple your trailer.
 - a. True
 - b. False