

# Trailer Safety

## Minsi Trails Council



Please use these guidelines and checklists to help ensure that you are travelling safely with your unit trailer.

### Before Each Trip:

- ☐ Make sure you have an appropriate vehicle for towing based on the size and weight of your trailer (fully loaded).
- ☐ Make sure your trailer is connected properly – hitch locked in place, break away chains attached, breakaway brake cable (if applicable) attached, and electrical cable attached.
- ☐ Check all lights – running lights, brake lights, turn signals, flashers.
- ☐ Check the brakes (if applicable) on a level surface before leaving.
- ☐ Check the tire pressure (including the spare) – it is important to travel with properly inflated tires to avoid issues.
- ☐ Make sure trailer contents are secure with bungee cords, straps, or rope to reduce the chance of things moving.

### At Camp:

- ☐ Check the area before pulling in (or backing in) and have a spotter to help guide you in tight spaces. Look for low obstacles (rocks/stumps) and overhanging obstacles. At scout camps, the camp ranger can often make suggestions for the best place to park the trailer.
- ☐ Park the trailer on a level surface.
- ☐ Place wheel chocks in front and behind tires before disconnecting the trailer.
- ☐ If leaving the trailer connected to the tow vehicle, disconnect the electrical cable to avoid possible battery drain.

### Things to have in the trailer (or tow vehicle):

- ☐ Spare tire, jack, and lug wrench.
- ☐ Road flares or markers
- ☐ Fire Extinguisher
- ☐ First Aid Kit

### Suggested Annual Maintenance:

Conduct a comprehensive inspection service that includes the following items. Consider a professional inspection yearly.

- ☐ Check tires for wear and tear. Rotate tires based on usage.
- ☐ Repack wheel bearings
- ☐ Inspect the frame and suspension checking for cracks, rust or structural damage
- ☐ Inspect the brakes including the breakaway mechanism
- ☐ Inspect the hitching system for signs of wear and tear – lubricate moving parts
- ☐ Check the wiring
- ☐ Inspect safety chains and hitch locking mechanism
- ☐ Inspect the roof and re-seal seams to avoid leaks
- ☐ General housekeeping – inspect the contents, make sure things are in good working order and contents are load balanced and secure.

### Other Suggestions:

- ☐ Consider adding a piece of foam pipe insulation on the inside top door frame to help avoid head injuries.
- ☐ Store water jugs upside down with caps off to allow them to dry after use.

