



To: All Colleagues and Service Partners

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Safe trailer towing and trailer rollways

Our contractors have recently had 2 serious incidents whilst using a trailer. In the first incident, a trailer was disconnected from the towing vehicle and then rolled a considerable distance before crashing into stationary vehicles. On the second occasion, a trailer became disconnected from the towing vehicle whilst travelling which resulted in the trailer crashing into stationary vehicles. The breakaway cable had not used as it should have been.



On both occasions damage was caused to the vehicles the trailers crashed into. The outcome would have been very serious if either of the trailers had hit a pedestrian or another vulnerable road user. Both were preventable if the 4 points below had been followed:



- **Hitch:** Double-check that the tow hitch is correctly attached and locked in place.
- **Breakaway Cable:** Ensure that the breakaway cable is attached and in good working order. This cable activates the trailer's brakes if it becomes detached.
- **Brakes:** Fully apply the trailers brake when it is disconnected from the towing vehicle.
- **Chocks:** When parked consider placing chocks against the tyres to prevent the trailer rolling away.