

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Unsecured Loads

The Santa Cruz County, Solid Waste Division has zero tolerance for unsecured and uncovered loads. Therefore, all unsecured and uncovered loads will be charge a double at all its facilities. Thus, as a public service, we are providing our customers with the following information:

“Failure to properly secure and cover a load will subject the user to a doubling of the disposal fee charge because of the high probability that the solid waste will be blown or fall out of the vehicle and cause litter on the public right of ways.”

Unsecured and Uncovered Loads are defined as follows (User Fee Policy, Adopted by the Board of Supervisors, July 2003).

“An unsecured load is defined as a load that is not restrained, tied down or secured with tarps, nets or ropes.”

“An uncovered load is defined as load that is not covered or restrained by a tarp, nets or ropes.”

Another County in Arizona Provides the following definition: “loads in which refuse or other materials are not securely contained, covered or adequately restrained by nets and/or tarpaulins, enclosing the vehicle body, or other means to preclude blowing litter or falling objects that may pose a road hazard to the motoring public”

As such, Santa Cruz County requests that it customers make sure of the following:

- All loads need to be covered and secured.
- Bags must be covered.
- Garbage cans must have lids.
- Do not leave the tailgate of your truck or trailer down during transport.

### Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is there any chance of debris falling or blowing out of my vehicle?
- What would happen to my load if I had to brake suddenly or if I hit a bump?
- Do I need to drive slower than I normally do?
- Is my load secured at the back and on the sides AND top?
- **Please remember** that you share the road with other drivers. Secure your load and avoid accidents by taking the proper precautions.

### Recent incidents involving unsecured loads:

- In February 2004, a driver was **critically injured** when an entertainment center fell from the back of a trailer being pulled by a vehicle located in front of her. The driver permanently lost her eyesight and has endured numerous surgeries including complete facial reconstruction.
- In January 2006, a **young man was killed** and a **5-year-old boy critically injured** after a tow truck crashed into their car while swerving to avoid a tarp from another vehicle.

- In February 2006, a woman and her young niece were **nearly killed** when a huge piece of plywood flew off a truck and into their windshield. The plywood shattered the windshield, coming within inches of the driver's face.
- In 2007 the California Highway Patrol reported that more than 200 automobile accidents were caused by flying debris and spillage from the transport of solid waste materials.

**Follow these tips for securing your load:**

- **Tie down your tarped load** with rope, bungee cords, netting or straps. Tie large items directly to your vehicle.
  - Don't Overload - Keep material **level with the truck bed** or trailer if possible - in addition to tying down your net, canvas or tarp.
  - Put **lighter** weight things at the **bottom** of the load.
  - **Plan your route** in advance to avoid bumpy dirt roads, fast moving highways or potholes.
  - Always **double-check** to make sure your load is secured. It is a good idea to stop after a few miles to check if your tarp or tie-downs have loosened.
  - **Do your part** to make sure no one else is injured or killed by unsecured loads:
  - Take the time to secure your load and report people who don't secure theirs.
  - Call 911 if you see a load that is imminently hazardous - like unsecured lumber on a lumber rack or a precariously perched wheel barrow, or if something dangerous has or is about to happen.
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- This regulation applies to all material brought into the landfill trash, bulky wastes, recyclables, scrap metal, yard wastes, etc.
  - In addition to these regulations, uncovered load laws are enforced by State, County, and City Officials.
  - Violation of these regulations will result in a double charge for the load.
  - Violations will be determined based upon the condition and characteristics of the load upon arrival at the facility.