

Safety Bulletin



Security of loads on vehicles



A UK based DNO has recently reported a significant near miss incident when a set of extending ladders fell from an overhead lines vehicle as it was travelling at speed along a major motorway. The potential consequences of any equipment falling from vehicles, regardless of the speed at which they are travelling, is extremely serious. The investigation found that only one securing strap had been used, and it is believed that this failed.

Drivers of commercial vehicles should strictly adhere to individual Company policies, but good practice will always dictate securing straps should be of a type specifically designed and rated for the particular load, and generally all loads should be secured with a minimum of two such devices.

Securing straps should be visually inspected as part of routine daily vehicle checks, and any securing strap or device showing signs of fatigue or damage should be withdrawn from service and replaced immediately.

The photograph above shows an example of a climbing iron strap found on the vehicle which lost the ladders, which had been used to secure other loads. **Climbing iron straps are not approved devices for securing loads to vehicles.**

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