



LOUISIANA HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION NEWS RELEASE **June 5, 2026**

Saturday is Secure Your Load Day: Vehicle owners urged to tie down unsecured loads

June 5, 2026 – A 20-pound object that falls from the back of a pickup truck can strike another vehicle with a half-ton impact, a stark reminder from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission for all vehicle owners to secure their loads before hitting the road.

Gov. Jeff Landry has proclaimed Saturday, June 6, as “Secure Your Load Day” in Louisiana.

“The State of Louisiana recognizes the profound suffering and loss of those harmed by unsecured loads and stands with those critically impacted by such instances of avoidable tragedy,” Gov. Landry said in his proclamation.

Even if an unsecured load falls without hitting another vehicle, that material remains as an extreme hazard in the roadway as vehicles must swerve to avoid hitting it. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 730 people were killed on U.S. roads last year because of objects in the roadway.

“When someone is traveling on the interstate at 60 miles per hour and some large debris suddenly appears in their path, they often have less than a second to react,” LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman said. “And even if they can swerve to avoid the object, their actions can prompt other vehicles to swerve, potentially creating a multi-car crash.”

Even a small amount of litter from a vehicle can cause havoc on the road. Gov. Landry’s proclamation states that 16% of litter in Louisiana comes from unsecured loads.

“Litter is not only unsightly, it is illegal, and it can create truly hazardous situations,” Freeman said.

According to Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Louisiana spends \$91.4 million a year on litter prevention, education, remediation and enforcement.

“The bottom line is that it only takes a few moments to properly secure a load with straps or rope to the body of a vehicle,” Freeman said. “It takes even less time to properly dispose of litter in a trash can. If everyone does their part, we can make our roadways safer just by taking those simple steps.”

For more information, contact:

Gregory Fischer

Public Information Officer

DPS – Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Gregory.Fischer@la.gov

225-925-7858 (work)

225-489-1969 (mobile)