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TRAILER GUIDELINES AND SAFETY

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Break-Away Kit Safety

All trailers sold with electric brakes have a break-a-way kit including battery, battery box, break away switch with attached plunger and cable. The theory is that if your coupler becomes separated from the tow ball the plunger of the breakaway switch will come out thereby completing the electrical circuit, allowing the battery to provide power to the electric brakes and bringing your trailer to a stop. This will work of course provided there is adequate power in the battery and provided your breakaway switch cable is properly attached to the towing vehicle. It is important to charge the battery periodically and it is recommended that you check the battery charge level with each seasonal change. If the wet cell battery does not keep adequate charge it can freeze in the winter months and become useless. The breakaway switch cable itself should be attached to its own anchor in order to provide the correct amount of play, not too loose or too tight.

Trailer Wiring & Electric Brake Safety

In spite of continued improvements in trailer wiring and electrical components, wiring problems can occur if regular maintenance is avoided. Many of the problems we see with a trailers electrical system stem from the conditions under which many trailers are operating in. Under gravel road conditions the underside of the trailer is being bombarded by an abrasive mixture of sand and stone (gravel). The trailer is literally being sandblasted. This sandblasting effect can damage the wiring underneath the trailer. The most common problems are with the electrical wires coming out of the electric brakes.