



If you beat a tarp at arm wrestling, who really wins?

A 43-year-old Washington truck driver found out the hard way that using a weak and worn tarp was a big mistake. A strong tug on the bungee was enough to rip out the D-ring and send him falling from the load. Thankfully, he survived the fall, but he's been off work for over two months with a back injury. That's two months at only about 60 percent of his usual pay for his family to live on, not to mention the probable increase in workers' compensation costs to his company for having a time-loss claim. Tarp maintenance would have been a less expensive and less painful solution.



Tips to live by

www.KeepTruckingSafe.org

DRIVERS

- Check tarps monthly for wear. Even small holes can quickly become a hazard.
- Report worn tarps to your supervisor.
- Use softeners on sharp corners to prevent tears.

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TIRES Project
SHARP Program
Dept. of Labor & Industries

EMPLOYERS

- Train workers to inspect tarps monthly.
- Keep tarping area well lit to allow tarps to be thoroughly inspected.
- Have a system for reporting wear and removing tarps from service until they are patched or replaced.
- Include in the contract that forklifts lift tarps onto the load.
- Request plastic wrapped loads to minimize the need for tarps.
- Provide plenty of good quality bungees.

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