

# THOR CALIFORNIA

## RECALL NOTICE

RECALL CAMPAIGN No. 04V-243

Dear Dealer:

We have identified a group of 2004/2005 Wanderer/Vortex 333WTB, Tahoe/Fury 33FTB and Jazz/Frenzy 3330WTB cargo/travel trailers manufactured from April 2003 through March 2004 on which there exists a possibility of overloading in the rear cargo area. Too much weight in this area can result in a light hitch weight and affect stability. Depending on the specific tow vehicle and its hitch equipment, a sufficiently light hitch weight can result in sway at highway speeds. Too much weight incorrectly positioned can also result in severe bending of the A-frame assembly, failure of the coupler assembly and/or failure of the safety chains. This can cause an accident involving the trailer and tow vehicle. A Safety Recall procedure has been initiated to inspect each affected trailer, the owner's tow vehicle and hitch equipment, and determine the best remedy for each situation. In all cases involving these trailers, the GVWR will be reduced, the A-frame will be reinforced, the coupler and safety chains will be replaced with appropriately rated components, revised DOT weight placards will be attached to the trailer exterior, proper loading advisory placards will be attached to the inside of the trailer cargo area, and instructions outlining proper product use and correct loading techniques will be provided to the customer.

We have identified and contacted owners of units that may be affected. A copy of that letter is also enclosed. We have instructed affected owners to contact you and schedule an appointment with your facility to have this recall performed. The recall is to be performed at no cost to the retail customer.

### **What We Are Asking You To Do**

You may receive calls from retail owners to schedule an appointment. Please schedule these appointments according to your work load and customer accommodation. Please call for authorization before performing the recall on any unit.

The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act provides that each vehicle that is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the owner has tendered it for repair. Generally, failure to repair within sixty (60) days after the owner's first delivery for repair is assumed to be an unreasonable delay.

All unsold trailers in your possession that are subject to this recall campaign must be held and inspected/repared in accordance with the service procedure of this campaign bulletin before owners can take possession of these trailers. Please service all trailers subject to this recall campaign at no charge to the owners, regardless of age or vehicle ownership, from this time forward.

You should contact owners of trailers recently sold from your vehicle inventory for which you have received the owner notification letter and make arrangements to perform the required service according to the instructions enclosed with this bulletin. At a minimum, mail the owner a copy of the owner notification letter accompanying this bulletin.

### **What THOR California Will Do**

Since this recall is to be performed at no charge to the retail customer, THOR California, Inc. will reimburse you as outlined in the Recall Service Bulletin. If you have questions about this recall, or require further information or assistance, please contact THOR California Customer Relations Department at (888) 697-8467.

It is our goal that working with you we can continue to deliver a high level of customer support to our retail owners. You are an important part of our customer support team, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

THOR California, Inc.

THOR CALIFORNIA, INC.  
14255 Elsworth Street  
Moreno Valley, California 92553

**Date:** 23 October 2006

**Ref. #:** 04V-243

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**Subject:****Coupler Replacement**

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**Application:**

2004/2005 333VTB Wanderer/Vortex

2004/2005 33WTB Tahoe/Fury

2004/2005 3330WTB Jazz/Frenzy

Manufactured from April 2003 through March 2004  
(See VIN list on back page)

The bulletin describes the procedure to add reinforcing steel to the A-frame, install a new coupler with higher weight capacity, and higher capacity safety chains to correct insufficient tongue weight capacity.

**TOOLS REQUIRED**

Floor jack(s), jack stands of sufficient capacity to lift and fully support the trailer.

Welding (MIG) equipment

Cutting (acetylene) equipment

Grinder

Hand and/or power tools to remove stabilizer jacks and components mounted on the  
A-frame

1/4" and 1/2" drill and drill motor

Fire extinguishing equipment

**PARTS/MATERIALS REQUIRED**

| <u>Qty.</u> | <u>Part No.</u> | <u>Description</u>                                          |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1           | R000006         | Parts kit containing the following (except primer & paint): |
| 2           | R000005         | U-channel, 2" X 2" X 2" X 54"                               |
| 1           | R000001         | Coupler assembly, 15,000 lb. capacity                       |
| 1           | R000004         | Plate, post jack, 2M                                        |
| 2           | R000002         | Chain, safety, 16,000 lb.                                   |
| 1           | R000003         | Rod, 7/16" cold-rolled for chain                            |
| A/R         |                 | Primer/black chassis paint (acquire locally)                |

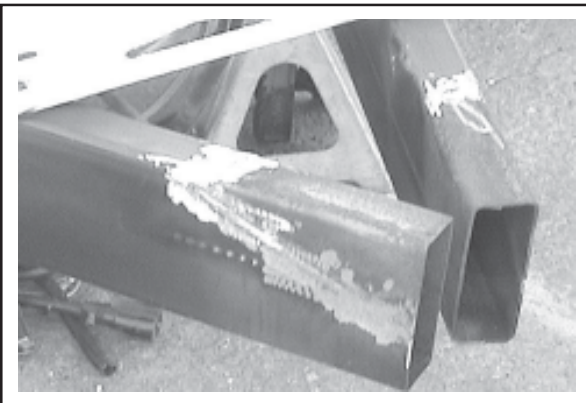
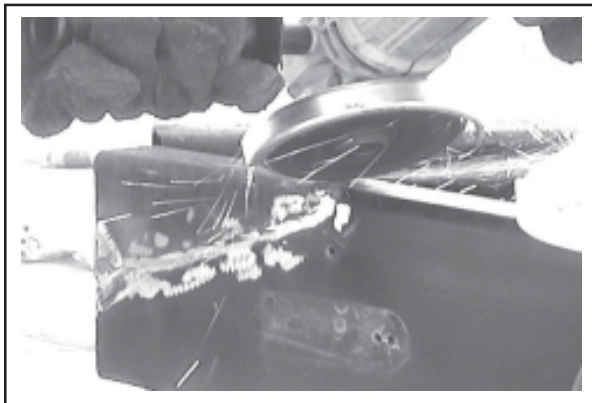
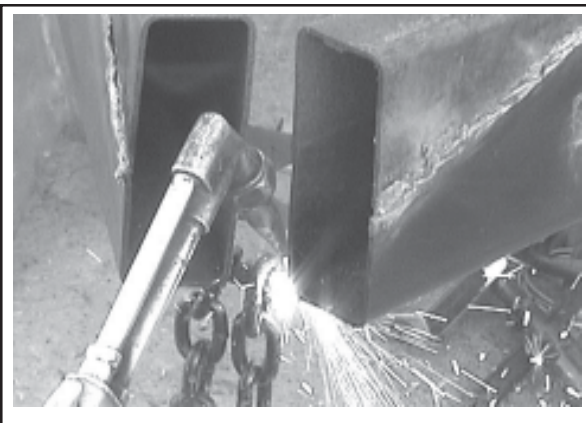
**PROCEDURE** (See illustrations)

1. Locate the unit on a solid, level area where the front frame can be raised and supported on stands. Park unit in a straight line to minimize chassis twisting. Lift with the tongue jack. Set jack stands under the A-frame at the front wall. Retract the tongue jack.

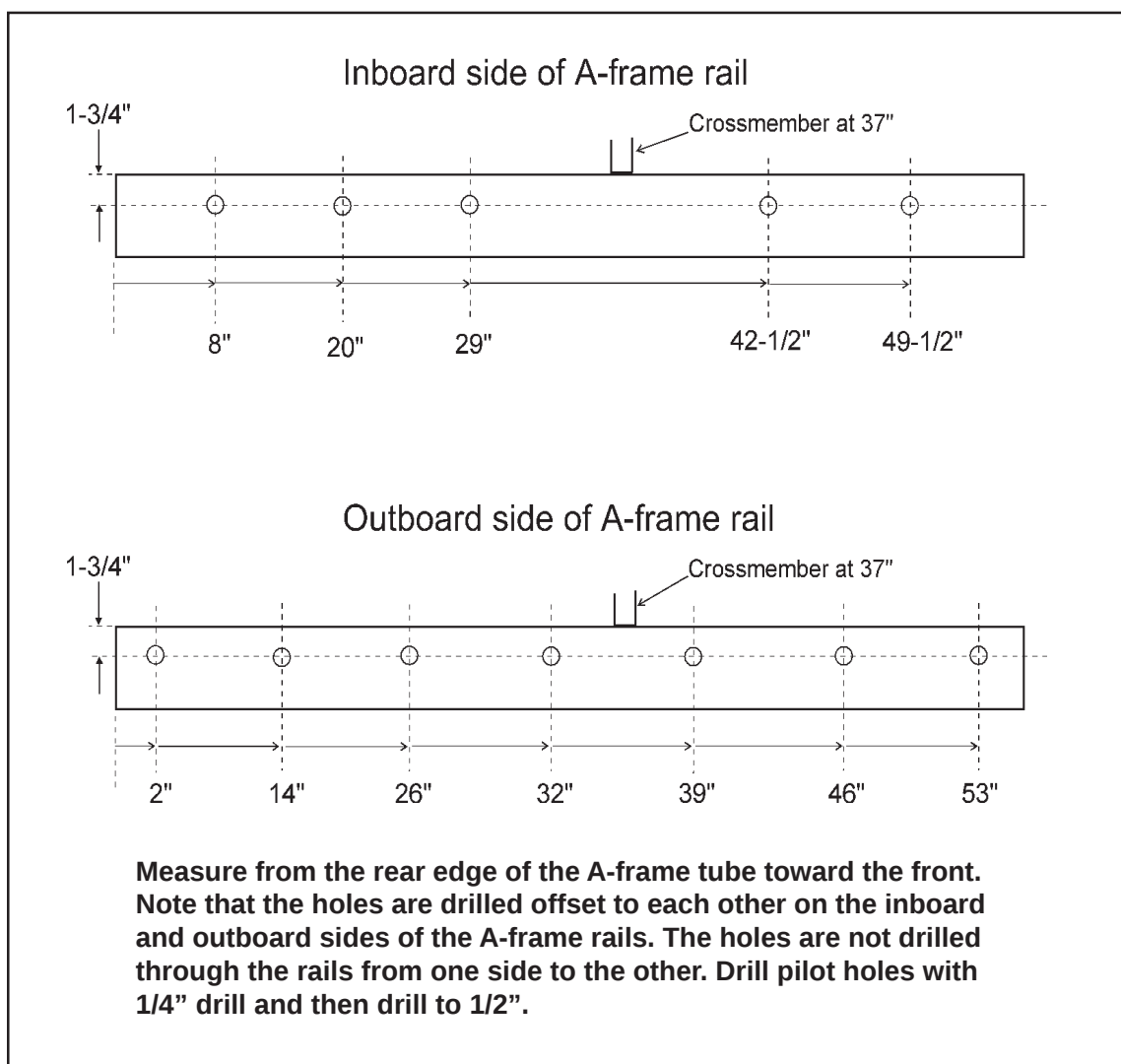
2. Remove the following components from the A-frame:

- Propane cylinders, regulator, switchover valve and tray (do not disconnect system)
- Battery and battery box
- Breakaway switch
- Electrical components and wiring attached to the A-frame
- Disconnect (if electric) and remove tongue jack

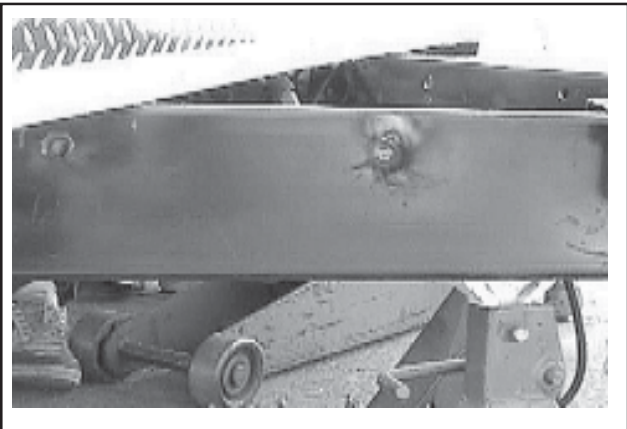
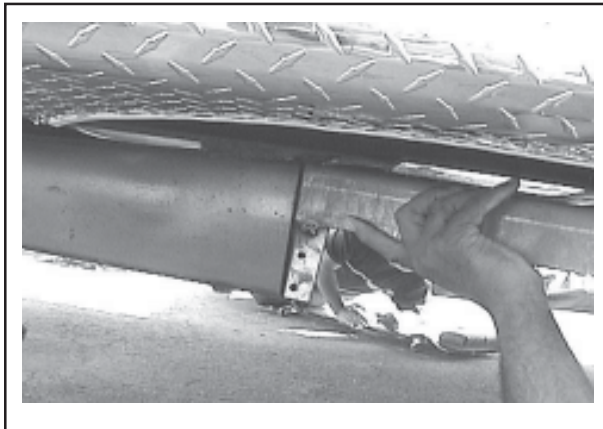
**NOTE: Do not remove customer installed items such as hitch bar mounts, etc.)**



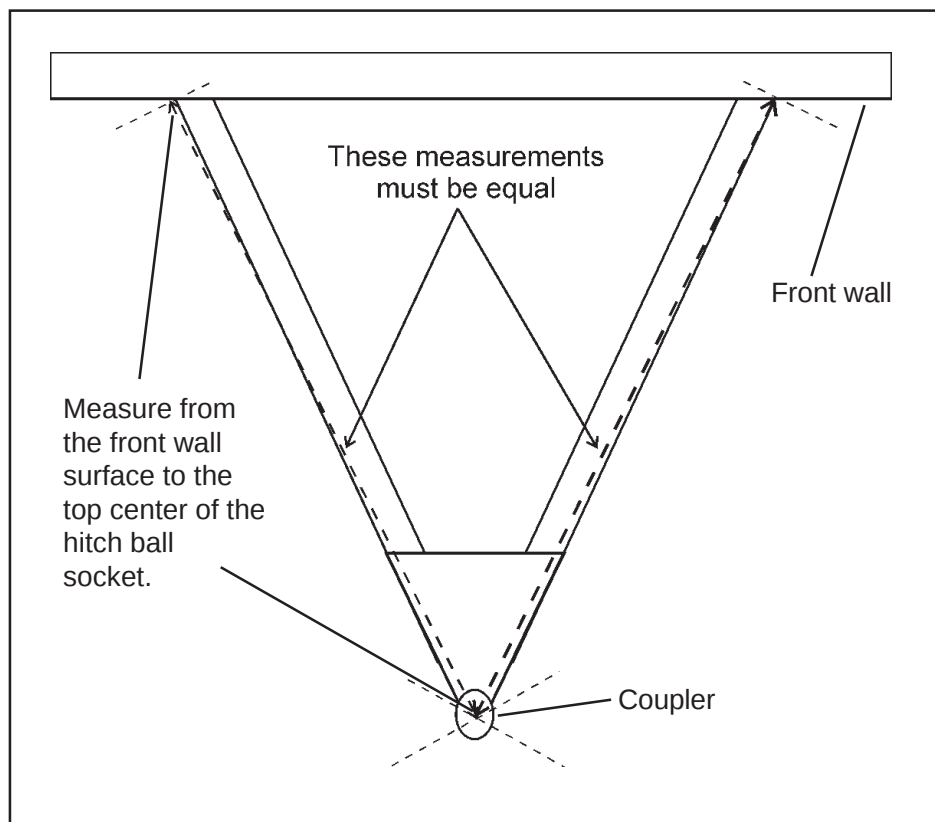
3. Torch cut off the coupler and safety chains.
4. Grind off old weld down to the A-frame channel.
5. Carefully mark and drill  $\frac{1}{4}$ " pilot holes, and drill  $\frac{1}{2}$ " holes in the A-frame channel as shown in the illustration. (**NOTE:** If it is anticipated that several or many units will be repaired, a drilling jig can be made to reduce the time involved in measuring.)



6. Look through the A-frame channel from the rear. Check for any obstructions. The reinforcing steel must be inserted from the rear and it extends to 17" past the front wall. The inside of the channel must be clear for at least this distance.
7. Insert the reinforcing steel into the A-frame with the open side down. The tab welded to the end of the steel must be inserted first. Slide it toward the front until it is flush with the end of the A-frame channel. Clamp the end of the reinforcing steel to the end of the A-frame channel. The reinforcing steel must be held in the channel squarely to the top of the channel with little or no gap.



8. Weld the reinforcing steel to the A-frame channel through the drilled holes. Weld all around the holes. Weld the end of the reinforcing steel to the A-frame channel end.
9. Remove weld residue, grind flat.
10. Set and temporarily clamp in place the new coupler. Measure along either the inside or the outside of both A-frame rails to the top and center of the hitch ball socket. The measurement must be the same on both sides. Adjust the position of the coupler as required. Clamp securely and weld coupler to the A-frame rails.



11. Torch cut off the bottom tongue jack plate.
12. Temporarily attach the tongue jack to the coupler. Tighten bolts to hold it in place.
13. Slide the new lower plate onto the lower jack extension. Slide the plate up to the A-frame rails, position it squarely and clamp it in position.
14. Remove the tongue jack and weld the lower plate to the A-frame rails.
15. Slide the end links of the new safety chains onto the 7/16" cold rolled steel bar. Clamp the bar and chains to the A-frame in the original position, and weld in place.
16. Remove all weld residue and grind welds flat. Prep for paint.
17. Clean areas where component were removed. Remove all rust, etc. and prep for paint.
18. Mask front wall and other areas from paint overspray. Prime and paint with chassis black paint.
19. Reinstall all components removed in previous steps. Remake any electrical connections that were cut during disassembly.
  - Propane cylinders, valves, tray
  - Battery box and battery
  - Wiring and other electrical components
  - Other components
20. Test tongue jack and other electrical components for proper operation.
21. Remove jack stands.

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**Warranty Labor Allowance:**

**Prior authorization is required for this repair.  
Call for authorization.**

|                        |                |                                            |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Flat Rate Code:</b> | <b>150002</b>  | <b>Recall 04V-243, coupler replacement</b> |
|                        | <b>6.5 hrs</b> | <b>PAR</b>                                 |

|       |                        |       |                        |       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 46074 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 48516 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 50763 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46608 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 48517 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 50764 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46609 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 48773 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50765 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46610 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 48774 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50766 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46611 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 48775 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50767 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46612 | 3330FTB TT JAZZ        | 48776 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 50780 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46613 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 48799 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50781 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46614 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 48800 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50782 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46615 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 48981 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50783 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46616 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 48982 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50784 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46617 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 49201 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50785 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46618 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49203 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51159 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 46619 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49204 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51160 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46620 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 49205 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51161 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46621 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49560 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51162 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46622 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49561 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51867 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46623 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49562 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51868 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 46624 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49563 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51869 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 46625 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49846 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51870 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 46626 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 49847 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51879 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46627 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 49848 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51880 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46628 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49849 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 51881 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46629 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49850 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51882 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46630 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49851 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51959 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46631 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49866 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51960 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46632 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49867 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 51961 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46633 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49868 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 51962 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46634 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 49869 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52208 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46635 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49870 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52209 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46636 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 49871 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52210 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 46637 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50256 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 52211 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 46638 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 50257 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 52461 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 46639 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 50258 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 52462 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 48488 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50259 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52463 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 48489 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50331 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52464 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER |
| 48490 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50332 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52503 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 48491 | 333VTB TT VORTEX VIPER | 50333 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52504 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 48514 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50334 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52505 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |
| 48515 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 50762 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    | 52506 | 33FTB TT TAHOE FURY    |



# CAUTION

Trailer weight, weight distribution, and tire inflation pressure are major factors in safe and economical towing of your trailer. Follow these rules for good, safe towing:

1. Use an equalizer hitch with 2-5/16" hitch ball.
2. Tighten all lug nuts before first movement and at 10, 25, and 50 miles. See the Owner's Guide for correct torque specification and instructions on changing a tire.
3. Maintain cold tire pressure as shown on the tire inflation tag attached to the front left side of the trailer.
4. Braking performance of your towing vehicle and trailer are affected by several factors, including the respective size and weight of each vehicle. Make several low speed stops using the trailer brakes alone, followed by several low speed stops using both the trailer brakes and the towing vehicle before you make your first trip. Please refer to the installation instructions furnished with your electric brake controller for further information.
5. Avoid overloading. The total trailer weight (dry weight of the standard equipped trailer plus all added options, fresh water, liquid wastes in holding tanks, and all cargo) must not exceed the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) stated on the weight certification tag attached to the front left side of the trailer.
6. The total load of your fully loaded trailer when connected to the towing vehicle must not exceed the combined total gross axle weight rating (GAWR). The GAWR is stated on the weight certification tag attached to the front left side of the trailer.
7. Weigh your fully loaded trailer at a public scale. Weigh separately:
  - A. The load on your tow vehicle rear with your trailer connected. This must not exceed your tow vehicle manufacturer's GAWR for the tow vehicle rear axle.
  - B. The weight on the wheels when connected to the tow vehicle. This weight must not exceed the combined total GAWR.
  - C. The total weight on the wheels and tongue jack when disconnected from the tow vehicle. This weight must not exceed the trailer GVWR.
8. Balance the load from side to side. Store heavy objects on or near the floor. For ramp trailers, place 60% of the cargo weight over or slightly forward of the axle(s) center line.
9. Avoid towing with waste holding tank(s) full. If unavoidable, drive slowly until tank(s) can be dumped.
10. Keep water and waste holding tanks either completely full or empty when towing. The movement of the water/waste can change the loading balance of the trailer when towing.

**Contact your dealer if you have any questions on these rules and other towing tips.**



**WARNING**

**PLACE 60% OF CARGO WEIGHT  
FORWARD OF THIS LABEL.**

FAILURE TO DISTRIBUTE CARGO LOAD PROPERLY  
WILL RESULT IN AN UNSTABLE TOWING CONDITON.  
THIS CAN CAUSE AN ACCIDENT,  
RESULTING IN INJURY OR DEATH.

CONSULT YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL FOR  
LOADING AND TOWING GUIDELINES.

**DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THIS LABEL.**



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