



- Your vehicle is stuck in mud.
- You connect a chain to a trailer ball that is mounted on a bumper.
- You use a ¾-ton pickup truck to try to free a 2-ton gang truck stuck in mud.

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## THIS MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU



Trailer Ball  
Bumper Mount  
on ¾-Ton Pickup  
Truck



Trailer Ball thrown  
into Windshield of  
2-Ton Gang Truck

### Incident Description

A contract roustabout crew had helped a 3<sup>rd</sup> party employee (not involved doing work on a ChevronTexaco lease) free his vehicle that was stuck in mud. The gang truck then became stuck in the mud.

The smaller vehicle was then used to try to pull the stuck larger vehicle out of the mud. One end of a chain was fastened to the front guard of the gang truck and the other end to a trailer ball that was mounted on the pickup bumper.

### What Went Wrong

- Attempting to pull a 2-ton gang truck with a ¾-ton pick-up truck.
- Not attaching chain to a firm/solid point on vehicle.
- Improper use of towing devices, metal chain instead of tow/snatch strap.

### Lessons Learned

- Avoid using chains if possible. They are very dangerous. Use a tow/snatch strap that is made for this task.
- Attach the tow/snatch strap to the frames of the vehicles. Attaching to trailer ball is not a proper way to securely fasten the tow/snatch strap.
- Wrap blankets or jackets around the tow/snatch strap to help absorb the energy if the strap breaks.
- Stand out of the line of fire. Lucky that no one was injured during this incident.