



- You attach a chain to a bumper-mounted trailer ball.
- and attempt to free a 2-ton truck stuck in the mud...

THIS MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU



Ball mount on rear bumper of ¾-ton pickup trying to free stuck vehicle.



Trailer ball
thrown into
windshield of
the truck
stuck in the
mud.

Incident Description

A ¾ ton pickup was attempting to pull a two-ton truck out of the mud. One end of a chain was fastened to the front guard of the stuck vehicle and the other end to a trailer ball that was mounted on the pickup bumper.

What Went Wrong

- **Tow/snatch straps are safer than chains for this type of task.**
- **Towing device was not attached to a firm/solid point on either vehicle.**

Lessons Learned

- **Avoid using chains if possible. Use a tow/snatch strap that is made for this task.**
- **Attach the tow/snatch strap to the frames of 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. Thankfully, no one was injured during this incident.**