



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

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## 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.**