

IT'S ALL ABOUT FOOD SAFETY!

February 2016

Spring is here, sort of, and although the snow may be gone, we are not released from the responsibility of safely transporting food orders. **Please note these YEAR ROUND guidelines are REQUIRED for the safe transport of the food you receive from us, from the time of pick-up at the Food Bank or tailgate site, to its arrival at your facility.** The utmost concern is that of the client receiving the food, who may already be in poor health. We all want to give folks safe and wholesome food.

Loads in open trailers or beds of pickup trucks must be covered and strapped in place NO MATTER WHAT THE WEATHER. Make sure the people picking up your order are aware of this and come prepared with tarps and rope, bungee cords, etc. to secure your load. We do not have these materials at the Food Bank and shrink wrap is not strong enough. **If your driver comes unprepared to strap and cover the order, we will not release the food to him or her. This includes orders being picked up at tailgate sites.**

In addition to rain, in an open vehicle the possibility exists for bird droppings, bugs and road debris to come in contact with the load, damaging cases and creating unsanitary conditions. We want product stored at your agency to be clean and free from possible contamination. This is why any load transported in an open trailer or truck **MUST BE COVERED AND SECURED IN PLACE REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER.**

If you are picking up with an open trailer or pickup truck, **the trailer or bed must be free of debris such as leaves, dirt or trash.** If the trailer or bed is not clean upon arrival, you will be asked to clean it off in the parking lot before entering our building or the tailgate site's building. A clean vehicle reduces the chance of contamination. If we feel the trailer or truck is not clean, we will not release your order until the situation is resolved.

Be sure the vehicle is large enough to safely hold your food order. Overloaded vehicles can be a hazard on the road to your driver and others. If your order is too large for the vehicle sent to pick it up, you may have to make a second trip for the rest of your order!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us.

Thanks!

Patty Parker
Director of Agency Relations
(269) 441-4437

Jim Rowe
Food Safety Manager
(269) 441-4435