

Re: Trailer Safety

Dragging tow chains can and have sparked fires, and this is preventable. We at the Redwood Valley MAC agree with community member Gizmo Henderson, who has formulated a solution for fire prevention, as stated below. Mr. Henderson strongly suggests as a matter of public safety and California State responsibility, that all ball-type drawbar-style trailers sold in CA require a sticker that directly reflects CA Vehicle Code section 29004, paragraph C., and a best-practices towing and trailer safety “you-tube” type video easily played on your devices, along with a paper pamphlet handout in English and Spanish.

The video should be required to be watched at every point of sale. Pamphlet handouts should be mandatory for every traffic stop by CHP, when involving a ball-type drawbar-style trailer. Pamphlets should also be made available at CHP, DMV, and local libraries. We believe that a three-pronged educational approach, video, pamphlet, and sticker, is a necessary step for our essential fire safety. Our last determined trailer chain fire was in September of 2023 and less than a mile from Cal Fire HQ on the 101 Ridgewood Grade south side, with multiple ignition points, and resources spent extinguishing the fire and trying to locate the vehicle.

Furthermore, take into account the psychological effects, not just the monetary, that a trailer-chain fire would have on a small community whose residents have already endured a catastrophic fire event from something we believe is mostly preventable. Please implement these programs with the utmost expediency in 2024/2025.