

Plant and Equipment – Vehicle Recovery

Warning

You cannot undertake this activity in the rail corridor unless you have completed a pre work brief and work site protection plan.

Reference should also be made to the [Protocol for Entering the ARTC Rail Corridor](#) and the [Business Rules for Working in the ARTC Rail Corridor](#)

Minimum Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements must also be met in line with the [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Work Instruction](#).

Work Activity:	Plant and Equipment – Vehicle Recovery (including recovery of mobile plant)			WMS No: WHS-WI-010
Coverage:	ARTC employees, and contractors directly managed by ARTC			Version No: 1.0
Developed by:	Corporate Work Health and Safety Manager	Approved by:	Executive General Manager Enterprise Services	Date Approved: 6 May 2016

<i>What are the tasks involved?</i>	<i>What are the hazards and risks?</i>	<i>What are the control measures?</i>	<i>Related Documents</i>
Plan the work	Attempting vehicle recovery without specialist assistance where required	<p>Assess the vehicle, its load, and its location.</p> <p>Identify a safe vehicle recovery method</p> <p>Get specialist assistance for heavy vehicles and/or where detailed risk assessment is required (such as where a vehicle is on its side)</p> <p>If required, leave the vehicle secure for recovery at a later point.</p>	Vehicle Instruction Manual or User Guide
Recovery of bogged vehicle (without recovery equipment)	Uncontrolled vehicle movement	<p>You may be able to recover a vehicle without recovery equipment if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lower tyre pressures - check that vehicle wheels rest on solid ground - remove soft ground from around vehicle wheels - use traction aids to improve traction - reduce weight of vehicle (or load on vehicle) - accelerate vehicle slowly <p>Do not attempt to recover a vehicle by manually pushing it.</p> <p>If no forward progress is made stop vehicle, apply handbrake and re-think the plan. Apply following sections if recovery equipment (including snatch straps) is needed.</p>	

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<p>(if required) Identify suitable recovery equipment and recovery points</p>	<p>Unsafe recovery equipment used Unsafe recovery points used</p>	<p>Access suitable rated recovery equipment, such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a power winch, or - heavy duty snatch straps or kevlar recovery straps with load rated shackles. <p>Note: Do <u>not</u> use chains.</p> <p>Do not exceed the rated capacity of recovery equipment</p> <p>Do not use hi-lift jacks or hand winches for recovery operations.</p> <p>Identify recovery points on the vehicle using the relevant related documents. Do not use bull bars, hi-rail equipment, tow-balls or load tie down points.</p>	<p>Vehicle Instruction Manual or User Guide</p> <p>Power Winch Operation Manual</p> <p>Recovery Equipment User Guide</p>
<p>Set up an exclusion zone</p>	<p>Struck by recovery equipment under tension</p>	<p>Set up and maintain a suitable exclusion zone around the recovery area. The radius of the exclusion zone must be at least 150% of the length of the recovery equipment being used.</p> <p>Determine where a vehicle to be recovered is expected to end (and ensure the exclusion zone extends to this area)</p> <p>Confirm communication protocols between workers to apply when the exclusion zone is in effect (for example, hand signals)</p> <p>Do not allow a person entry to an exclusion zone if</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - they are not directly involved in the recovery - vehicles are moving or about to move - vehicles are at risk of rolling over or sliding on a slope - recovery equipment is under tension 	

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<p>Recovery of bogged vehicle (with recovery equipment)</p>	<p>Equipment failure Uncontrolled vehicle movements</p>	<p>Select an appropriate recovery vehicle.</p> <p>Inspect recovery equipment for a current inspection tag and any obvious defects.</p> <p>Confirm anchors are fit for purpose.</p> <p>Place a warning tag on any unsafe equipment and arrange equipment servicing.</p> <p>Remove or securely restrain any loads on vehicles.</p> <p>Do not climb underneath, sit or lie down near a vehicle unless the vehicle is effectively secured against movement.</p> <p>If the vehicle has been raised, ensure there are at least two forms of restraint that will protect workers that may be hit if one control fails.</p> <p>Place vehicles in 'park' before leaving vehicle cab</p> <p>Any workers in a vehicle must wear their seat belt.</p> <p>Avoid shock loading recovery lines (accelerate slowly)</p> <p>If a worker is required to work within the exclusion zone as the recovery line is brought to tension, then they must ensure that they stand to one side of the line (not directly over it) and do not step over or under the line when they exit the area.</p> <p>Workers involved in recovery operations must be located in a vehicle cabin (or well outside the exclusion zone) once recovery lines are under tension.</p>	

References

Standards, Codes of Practice, Guidance:

[Commonwealth Work Health and Safety Regulation](#) (Regulation 81, 82, 83, 85, and [Schedule 3](#))
[Trade Practices \(Consumer Safety Standard\) \(Motor Vehicle Recovery Straps\) Regulation 2010](#)

Training Requirements:

Use specialist contractors for heavy vehicles (4.5 tonnes or greater) or where vehicle recovery is considered to be difficult or dangerous.

Information, instruction and/or training is recommended for workers attempting to recover a vehicle. Training is available on recovering light vehicles.

Plant / Equipment / Tools:

Personal Protective Equipment

Consider additional PPE requirements as appropriate to the work, such as:

- eye protection (medium impact)
- gloves (rigger gloves).

Power Winch Recovery:

Dampers (at least two); Powered winch with remote control and snap hook (rated); Pulley blocks, where required (rated); Shackles (rated); Shovel; Traction boards or similar; Tree trunk protector strap (rated); Vehicle movement restraints; Winch extension strap, where required (rated).

Snatch Strap Recovery:

Bridle strap, where required (rated); Dampers (at least two); Shackles (rated); Shovel; Snatch strap (rated); Traction boards or similar; Vehicle movement restraints.

Note: Recovery straps must comply with the Trade Practices (Consumer Safety Standard) (Motor Vehicle Recovery Straps) Regulation 2010.

Warning Tags, Tape, and Other

Warning tags – Danger – Do Not Operate; Warning tape and/or witches hats.

Note:

- **do not use** chains
- **do not use** hi-lift jacks or hand winches

Inspection / Testing requirements:

Before use check:

- PPE to ensure correct selection and adjustment.
- Vehicle recovery equipment (for example, shackles, winches snatch straps) are fit for purpose and have a current inspection tag.