

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 77
Issued 04/09/2015

Recovery of Vehicles

Incident

This alert has been issued following an incident where a heavy vehicle had become bogged and the team were attempting to pull it out using a chain. The chain snapped and nearly hit the vehicle operator. This could have resulted in a serious injury.

Actions

All are reminded that:

1. When travelling down access tracks, ensure they are passable. This may require a physical inspection of the immediate area on foot before proceeding through in a vehicle.
2. Where it is known there are poor access tracks and the risk of getting a vehicle 'bogged' is high, consideration should be given to carrying the appropriate rescue equipment in the vehicle or at least have it available in a local provisioning centre.
3. The Plant Business Unit advises that the appropriate rescue equipment is as follows (when utilising a second vehicle for recovery):

- a. **4WD Light Vehicles – Heavy Duty snatch strap with load rated shackles as per example below:**



Snatch Strap Kit

Stock Code: WNRMSSK

Item	Description
Snatch Strap	60mm (8,000 kg) x 9m long Snatch Strap made from 100% high stretch (27.5%) nylon. Straps are rot and mildew resistant and have reinforced eyes.
Shackles	2 x 16mm Grade S bow shackles. 3.25 tonne WLL.
Bag	Canvas pouch features: Loops to attach and retain shackles Strap to retain snatch strap Velcro closure

- a. Heavy rigid vehicles – Heavy Duty 6m x 50T rated Kevlar Recovery Strop and load rated shackles as per sample below:



Strop Capacity (tonnes)	Bogged Vehicle Recovery Gross Vehicle Weight to be recovered (tonnes)			Towing of Vehicles Gross Vehicle Weight to be recovered (tonnes)			Weight (kg) Length 6m	Weight (kg) Length 10m
	Lightly Bogged Slippery Conditions	Medium Bogged	Severely Bogged	6° Incline 10 - 1 Slope	9.5° Incline 6 - 1 Slope	14° Incline 4 - 1 Slope		
30	60	30	20	120	80	50	11	16
50	100	50	35	200	130	80	13	20
70	140	70	50	270	180	120	16	25

The following points should also be considered when recovering a vehicle:

1. A shovel may be needed to clear the path of the bogged vehicle in order to assist its recovery.
2. Never exceed the breaking strength (load rating) of the equipment being used – do not use lifting or load binding chains for vehicle recovery purposes.
3. Always attach recovery equipment to a secure structure on the vehicle preferably a load rated recovery point.
4. Ensure the recovery equipment is not twisted or knotted before use.
5. Always drape a heavy bag, blanket, rubber mat or tarp over the recovery strap during use to reduce any unintentional rebound.
6. Keep spectators away from the immediate area and perform the recovery in a slow, controlled manner.

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the safety alert has been distributed and discussed.
3. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert, please speak directly to your Plant Coordinator, Team Manager or WHS Advisor for any further advice.
4. Further information can be found on the [Plant Sharepoint](#) site (internal only).

Further information

All safety alerts issued can be [found here](#).