

March 10, 2009

TOWING

**Purpose/Application:**

Safely towing/pulling another vehicle.

**PPE**

- Safety glasses
- Gloves (leather)
- High visibility vest
- CSA hard toe boots
- Hard hat

**TRAINING****TOOLS/EQUIPMENT**

- Emergency roadside kit
- Tow sling
- Radios

#	Job Steps	Hazards	Control Measures
1	Ensure your safety at all times	Oncoming traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IF IT IS NOT SAFE do not attempt to tow or pull any vehicle and call a tow truck</li> </ul>
2	Communicate steps with all personnel	Incorrect or inadequate information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensure all personnel involved are competent and understand the task at hand</li> </ul>
3	Set out Emergency Road Side Kit (signals, flags)	Traffic, slopes and ditches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use ample warning lights around the pick-up area</li> <li>▪ Avoid the use of flares in case of fuel leaks</li> <li>▪ Turn on disabled vehicle flashers (4 way flashers)</li> <li>▪ Set safety triangles and/or send additional personnel to flag down traffic on corners or hills</li> <li>▪ Unload all excessive loads and unhook trailer before towing</li> </ul>
4	Hook up tow straps to both tow hooks on the front of the unit being towed or wrap the tow straps around the axle	Flying debris, pinch points, injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use ONLY tow straps, never use chains, shackles, trailer balls, nylon rope or wire cable</li> </ul>

#	Job Steps	Hazards	Control Measures
5	Drive ahead slowly until strap is tight	Flying debris, pinch points, injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assign signal person and determine the signals to be used (i.e. verbal, hand or radio)</li> <li>▪ Do not stand between the vehicles ensure signal man is two times the length of the sling you are using away from the vehicle being towed</li> </ul>
6	Proceed to tow the vehicle	Flying debris, pinch points, injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No authorized person should be in the area</li> <li>▪ The signal person gives the go ahead to proceed with the tow</li> <li>▪ DO NOT try to jerk the stuck vehicle out; use a continuous steady pull</li> </ul>

**Additional Precautions:**

- Never exceed the load rating of the strap
- Always select vehicle anchor points that exceed the strap loading rating
- Never stand between, in front of, or behind of the vehicle during recovery
- Never stand near or step over the strap during vehicle recovery
- Always move bystanders away from either end and between both vehicles before pulling
- Never store strap in direct sunlight, UV light can damage the strap
- Never pull strap over sharp edges or abrasive surfaces
- Always inspect strap for damage before each use. If the strap is cut, frayed, abraded or separated; the strap is damaged. If the red thread is visible; the strap is damaged. CUT UP ALL DAMAGED STRAPS
- Never use a damaged strap; damaged straps have reduced load capacity
- Never attempt to repair a damaged strap
- Always replace a damaged strap
- Never use a recovery strap for lifting, hoisting or winching
- Never attach a strap to a vehicle steering, drive train or suspension components
- Never use a winch hook as a recovery strap anchor
- Never expose the strap to acid or temperatures above 180 degrees F
- Never attach the strap to the body of the vehicle
- Never tie knots in the strap or tie the straps together

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- The recovery strap stretches when pulled then retracts to help free a stuck vehicle
- Line up the pulling vehicle as directly as possible in front of, or behind the stuck vehicle
- Fully uncoil the strap and attach it to the pulling vehicle and stuck vehicle. Heavy-duty receiver hitches and tow hooks are preferred attaching points. Choose a substantial point such as the frame, if these are not available.
- When the area between the vehicles is safely clear of people and objects, pull the vehicle ahead slowly to take up the slack in the strap. Ensure the strap is not twisted, tangled or knotted, and then drive forward. The strap will stretch several feet and help free the stuck vehicle. If possible use the stuck vehicle's power to assist in the recovery.
- If, after several attempts, the vehicle remains stuck, consider pulling from the opposite direction. If severely stuck, it will require a tow truck or larger vehicle.

**Straps Break Strength**

- 1" wide strap is 6,400 lbs.
- 2" wide strap is 14,400 lbs.
- 3" wide strap is 21,600 lbs.
- 4" wide strap is 30,000 lbs.

**REFERENCE/REGULATIONS** ▪ Owners Manual

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Revised by:	1. _____	2. _____	Date:	_____
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