Banned and Restricted - Self-Recovery of Vehicles

Vehicle and plant self-recovery can cause serious injury or death. Failed recovery gear can release stored energy and become high-speed projectiles.

Stuck vehicles and plant can wait. A serious injury or fatality cannot be undone.

Primary Risks & Hazards to Spot



- **Damaged or non-rated recovery gear**
- **Straps, shackles or hooks becoming projectiles**



- **Bogged or immobilised vehicles and plant**
- **Uncontrolled movement or rollovers**



- **People in the line of fire**
- **Rushed or improvised recovery without clear direction**

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Where might this happen in our work environment?



Bogged vehicles: vehicles stuck on muddy access tracks may need recovery.



Immobilised equipment: plant or equipment cannot move safely in a yard or operating area.



Mobile plant recovery: improvised methods or attachment points can cause uncontrolled movement.

Where else?

Where could a vehicle or plant become stuck in our work area?

What can we check to protect?

1 Is the recovery planned?
Engage a third party for all recoveries, with competent, authorised people. Do a task-based risk assessment and apply all controls first.

2 Is the gear approved?
Use approved points and suitable, inspected, task-rated gear. Never improvise methods or attachments.

3 Is everyone clear and safe?
Set exclusion zones and keep everyone out of the line of fire. Stop immediately if conditions change or recovery cannot be completed safely.

If a vehicle became bogged today, what would be your first action?

Social Infrastructure & Citizen Services

Your safety comes first

The SI&CS Health, Safety and Wellbeing Team is here to help.

You don’t have to work through a safety concern alone.

Ask for support when:

You’re unsure

We can help you understand a hazard and discuss a safer way to work.

Something happens

We can help with hazard, incident and near-miss reporting and next steps.

You need support

We can work with you and your supervisor or manager to address health, safety and wellbeing concerns.

Do you know who is your HSW Business Partner?

Stop if the work is unsafe

Pause the task and move to a safe place. Speak up if something feels unsafe or you are unsure.

Notify your supervisor or manager

Report hazards, incidents and near misses promptly, even if no one is hurt. Explain what happened, where it is and who may be at risk.

Do not continue unsafe work

Keep the task stopped until the risk is addressed and your supervisor or manager confirms a safe way forward. Ask for help if you are unsure.