



Preventing Vehicle Roll-Aways

Information for Workers

For many workers, driving is the most dangerous activity they will do while at work.

This includes:

- jobs where driving is your job (for example, truck driver, bus driver, taxi, courier, tow truck operator etc) or
- just an occasional part of your job (for example, a tradie using a vehicle to pick up supplies or going from job to job).

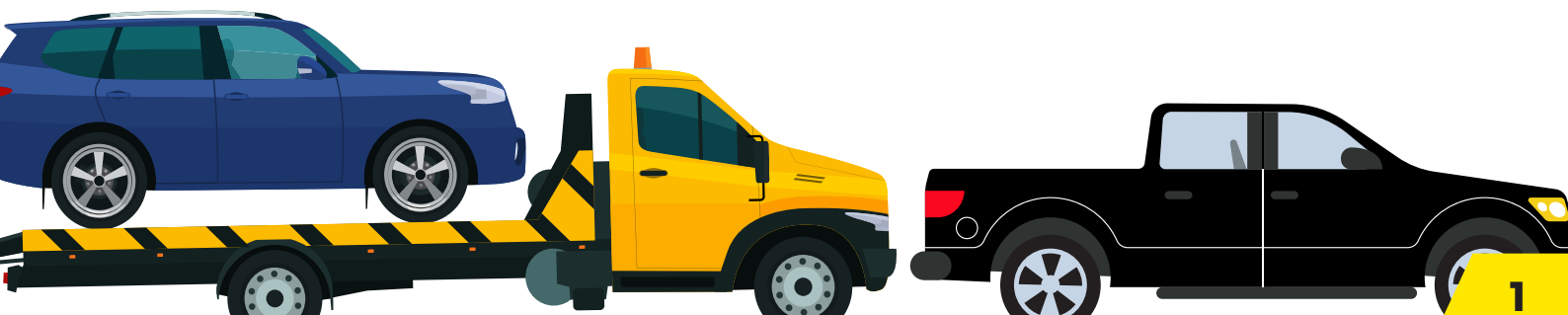
Every year, workers and members of the public suffer serious and fatal injuries because of vehicle roll-aways.

Vehicle roll-aways are preventable.

What are the causes of vehicle roll-aways?

There are many ways that a vehicle can roll-away including:

- The driver/operator not properly engaging the park brake.
- The driver/operator being unfamiliar with the vehicle and/or has not had appropriate training, instruction and supervision.
- The vehicle being left in gear.
- Not parking on a level surface, when possible.
- Poor maintenance which leads to a failure of the braking system.
- Poor braking system design that allows the brakes to be released unintentionally. For example, the park brakes may be released when the doors of a vehicle are closed without following the correct procedure.
- Loads added to or removed from a vehicle that is supported by stabilisers/ outriggers on an sloped surface.
- Forces imposed by the movement of parts of a vehicle supported by stabilisers/outriggers on a slope for example, a boom on a mobile crane.



You can prevent vehicle roll-aways

To prevent fatal or serious injuries to yourself and others, you should:

- Follow any guidance, training and instructions for the safe operation of your vehicle. Ask your employer to provide these for you.
- Park your vehicle on a flat, level and hard surface whenever possible. Sometimes a slight slope or even a pothole is enough to cause a roll-away.
- Park your vehicle in the correct gear.
 - Automatic transmission: put the vehicle in “park” (P).
 - Manual transmission:
 - Place in first gear when facing uphill.
 - Place in reverse if facing downhill.
- Turn your wheels.
 - if a kerb is present, turn away from it when facing uphill or turn towards it if downhill.
 - If there is no kerb, turn towards the point of least danger (usually the side of the road).
- Properly engage the park brake.
- Ensure the ignition is off and the keys are removed every time you get out.
- Always lock the doors when leaving the vehicle.
- Use wheel chocks, where appropriate, when the vehicle is immobilised for maintenance or when coupling or decoupling a trailer.
 - If the vehicle is undergoing maintenance, ensure the vehicle is not parked in gear.
- Report any problems to your employer immediately and ask for information about how and when the issue will be addressed. Do not continue to operate the vehicle if you think it is unsafe to do so.

Do not attempt to get into the vehicle if it starts to roll away.

Never stand in the path of the vehicle or try and stop it if it starts to roll away.

VEHICLE ROLL-AWAYS ARE PREVENTABLE

Further information

www.comcare.gov.au/safe-healthy-work/prevent-harm/vehicles-as-a-workplace



Australian Government

Comcare

