

# SAFETY ALERT



## Immobilising heavy vehicles and trailers

*“Sharing incident learnings across the grain industry”*

*“A vision of Zero Harm across the grain industry supply chain”*

Every harvest, there are many incidents involving runaway trucks when appropriate control measures are not implemented to effectively immobilise the vehicle and prevent uncontrolled movement.

For example, during 2019/20 harvest two incidents included:

- A truck rolling 4 m when a grower got out of the truck and did not apply the handbrake; and
- A grower was under their truck when it moved, luckily, they were not injured.

Uncontrolled movements of vehicles can cause serious injuries or fatalities. In March 2019, there was a fatality at the Port Kembla Coal Terminal in NSW when a driver’s leg became trapped beneath the wheels of his truck, causing a large arterial bleed. The driver was trying to re-enter the cabin when the truck began to move.

Heavy vehicles and trailers can be immobilised by:

- Applying the park brake properly before getting out of your vehicle
- Knowing how to use safety features, such as handbrake warning systems
- Using wheel chocks, especially if parking the vehicle on an incline or uneven ground or doing repairs on the vehicle.

For more information see:

- GTSN [Runaway trucks safety alert](#) March 2019
- SafeWork NSW [Immobilising heavy vehicles and trailers safety alert](#) 19 Sep 2019
- SafeWork NSW [Uncontrolled movement of vehicles safety alert](#) 05 Dec 2017

### Key Lessons and Recommendations:

1. Switch off your vehicle and ALWAYS apply the park brake before getting out.
2. Install a handbrake warning system that alerts you if you forgot to apply the handbrake.
3. NEVER attempt to re-enter a moving vehicle.
4. Make sure your vehicle and all its components are safe for use prior to the commencement of the harvest season.

For further information please contact [enquiry@gtsn.com.au](mailto:enquiry@gtsn.com.au)

\*\*\* Safety Alerts are distributed by the Grain Transport Safety Network (GTSN) as general information ONLY and are not intended as specific recommendations or advice \*\*\*

V1 – July 2020