

# SAFETY ALERT

## Uncontrolled Vehicle Movements



"Sharing incident learnings across the grain industry"

"A vision of Zero Harm across the grain industry supply chain"

**Uncontrolled vehicle movements or "Vehicle Roll-Aways" caused when a vehicle is not correctly immobilised, result in many serious injuries and fatalities each year in Australia.**

Uncontrolled movements can occur with any type of mobile plant from cars and light vehicles to forklifts, trailers, trucks, and heavy machinery.

One frequently identified situation in the grain industry is when drivers leave the cabin while on a grid to tip, without first applying the park brake. This moment of inattention or deliberate decision to gain a few seconds in tipping time can result in life changing consequences.

---

### Key messages

---

**No matter how busy the situation appears to be, always take the time to work safely.**

- Never leave the cab without the park brake applied – the ground slope may not always be obvious!
- If a vehicle is fitted with a park brake alarm, ensure it is operational. Consider retro-fitting a park brake alarm to vehicles that do not have them already installed.
- Ensure vehicle braking systems are well maintained.
- When leaving a vehicle unattended, ensure it is secured on level ground whenever the situation allows.
- Consider the use of wheel chocks when parking on a slope or at any time when conducting vehicle maintenance.
- Ensure each vehicle is equipped with suitable chocks and operators are trained in the correct placement of chocks.
- Provide training to vehicle operators when assigned to an unfamiliar vehicle.
- Conduct regular toolbox talks to remind workers of the control measures to prevent vehicle roll-aways.
- If you see a moving vehicle without a driver, stay out of its path and warn others.
- Do not chase or attempt to re-enter a vehicle if it has started to roll as you may be seriously injured or killed.

Further information regarding the use of chocks and vehicle immobilisation can be found in the below Safe Work Australia fact sheet:

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-09/Prevention%20of%20vehicle%20roll-aways%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.docx>

---

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

September 2023