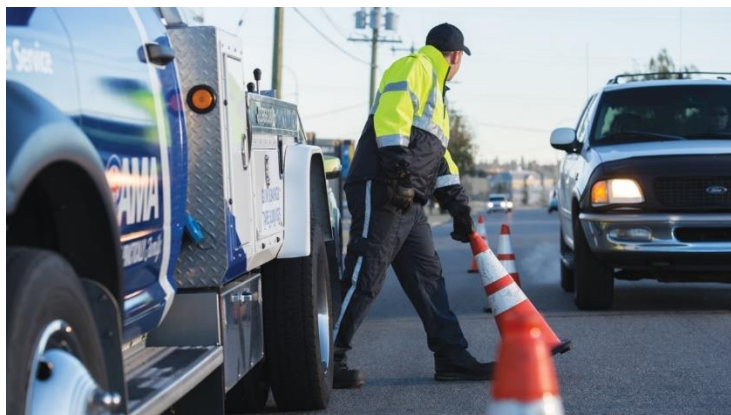


## INTRODUCTION

Wheel lift is a method of towing that utilizes a large metal yoke that can be fitted under the front or rear wheels of a vehicle, thus drawing the front or rear end of the vehicle off of the ground with a pneumatic or hydraulic lift so that it may be towed. This method of towing is often preferred over traditional hook-and-chain towing as it is less likely to cause damage to the towed car's frame and bumper. Following the work practices in this lesson will help employees lessen the chances of being hurt while performing their job duties.



## HAZARDS

Wheel lift towing presents several hazards to employees, including the following:

- Being hit by a passing vehicle
- Tripping
- Being hit by the towed vehicle while loading or unloading

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Employees should wear the following personal protective equipment:

- Work gloves
- Reflective vests or jackets
- Safety toe work boots
- Safety glasses



# TOWING SAFETY – WHEEL LIFT

## SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Turn on auxiliary lights so passing motorists can see you, especially at night.
- Set the PTO on the tow truck before beginning the lifting operation.
- Never use the wheel lift to lift people.
- Never attempt to tow more than for which the equipment is rated.
- Never tow a vehicle without the tie straps installed.
- Ensure that the safety chains are in place before towing.
- Periodically inspect the wheel lift system for damage or evidence of pending failure.
- Do not lift a vehicle while another person is under the vehicle being lifted.
- Set the parking brake on the vehicle to be towed and use wheel chocks to block both the front and the rear of the trailing end tires before beginning the lift.
- After the vehicle has been lifted, do a walk-around inspection before towing.
- Always walk around the vehicle being towed, never step over the lifting equipment.



## CONCLUSION

While using the wheel lift method to tow vehicles may expose employees to several hazards, the chances of an employee being hurt can be minimized by following the safe work practices contained in this lesson.