



HAZARD ALERT

"Improper Towing Practice Leads to Vehicle Damage"

Background

Two nylon straps were connected together with a metal clevis to pull a truck out of a mud hole. The trucks were orientated tailgate to tailgate, and the nylon straps were connected to the trailer hitch ball on each truck. Upon towing, the nylon strap that was on the truck in the mud hole failed at the connection point on the metal clevis and snapped.

Result

This incident had the potential to cause serious injury. The metal clevis connecting the two nylon straps shot forward, made a small hole through the tailgate on the pulling truck, and damaged the tailgate handle.



Safety Services recommends the following control measures:

Winching / Towing – Vehicle Breakdowns

In the case of vehicle breakdowns, EnCana recommends that a qualified tow truck service (or equivalent) be used whenever possible to tow vehicles. However, when it is necessary to attempt towing yourself, EnCana expects that vehicle recovery activities will be conducted in a manner which ensures personal safety and prevents property damage.

- When a vehicle breaks down, park it with all wheels off the main roadway, if possible
- One reflector shall be placed approximately 30 metres (100 feet) in advance and the other approximately 30 metres (100 feet) to the rear of the disabled vehicle

- Only approved towing apparatus (tow ropes, straps, tow bars) shall be used and the towing apparatus shall be connected to an appropriate anchor point such as a heavy hitch or a tow hook. The anchor point must be capable of withstanding stress in excess of the rope or strap rating
- Do not use tow ropes or straps with metal parts (tail chains, eyelets, or clevis), either as an integral part of the strap or as an add-on
- Do not allow anyone to stand near or in between either vehicle or the tow rope or strap while the vehicles are in motion
- Never take more than a 2 metre (6 foot) running start
- No vehicle with defective breaks should be moved by any company personnel. Where public hazard exists, the vehicle should be moved under its own power only under the direction of the area supervisor or a transport representative
- All incidents involving Company motor vehicles or equipment must be reported to the supervisor

For further information contact:

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