



Roll-away vehicles

Avoid a mistake, engage the brake.



Roll-away vehicles are a serious and potentially fatal workplace hazard. They can move suddenly and silently, giving little or no warning to workers nearby.

SafeWork SA is focussing on roll-away vehicles through its Safety at work is a serious job campaign because, while incidents are less frequent, the **consequences are often catastrophic.**

A momentary lapse can lead to life changing or fatal consequences.

Why roll-away vehicles matter

- Roll-away vehicles can cause **crushing, trapping or run over injuries**

- Between **2020 and 2025**, roll-away vehicle incidents reported to SafeWork SA resulted in:
 - **4 fatalities**

 - **17 serious injuries**

 - **13 incidents involving significant property damage**

- Many incidents occur during **routine tasks** such as parking, inspections, loading or maintenance

- Workers are often injured when they **attempt to stop a moving vehicle**



Government
of South Australia

SafeWork SA

Simple ways to reduce the risk

✓ Before you leave the vehicle

- Engage the park brake fully
- Leave the vehicle **in gear** where appropriate
- Turn wheels towards the kerb or verge if parked on an incline
- Use **wheel chocks** where required
- Park on **flat, stable ground** whenever possible

✓ If a vehicle starts to roll

- Do not attempt to jump into or stop the vehicle
- Move to a safe location and warn others

✓ Follow safe systems

- Follow all training, procedures and site rules
- Never take shortcuts when parking or securing a vehicle

Workers must:

- Ensure the park brake is applied every time
- Use wheel chocks where required
- Follow instructions for safe vehicle operation
- Report faults, near misses and unsafe conditions
- Only operate vehicles they are trained and authorised to use

Employers must:

- Ensure vehicles are **regularly inspected and maintained**
- Consider fitting **park brake alarm systems**
- Implement safety management systems covering:
 - Safe immobilisation of vehicles
 - Working under or around vehicles
 - Maintenance activities
- Ensure workers are:
 - Appropriately licensed
 - Trained and informed about vehicle risks and controls

Remember

- Roll-aways happen fast and without warning
- Never trust a vehicle to stay put
- Avoid a mistake – engage the brake



Safety at work is a serious job.

For more information and resources, visit safework.sa.gov.au/resources/safety-at-work/engage-the-brake or scan the QR code.



Government of South Australia

SafeWork SA