

Forkway Risk Assessment – RA 009



Task/ Activity	This assessment covers Forkway Engineers recovering immobilised equipment.			Persons Exposed		
Location	Forkway locations and customer sites throughout the UK and Republic of Ireland.			Forkway Employees	Customer Employees	Members of Public
Name of Assessor(s)	Westley Hawkins (Regional SHEQ Advisor)	Date of Assessment	12/04/2024 (V2)	1 - 2	May be in area	May be in area
		Date of Next Review	12/04/2025			
Stop and Think						
Before undertaking any task/ activity it is essential that you have read and understood all of the control measures in this document and are satisfied that the control measures herein are suitable and sufficient. If you find the control measures are not suitable and sufficient, contact your line manager before proceeding.						
The personal protective equipment required at all times throughout the task is Safety Boots, Overalls, Nitrile Gloves and Safety Glasses. Where additional PPE is required it will be identified at the relevant points in this risk assessment, supporting risk assessments, supporting safe working methods and relevant COSHH assessments.						

Hazard	Initial			Control Measures	Residual		
	Likelihood	Severity	Rating		Likelihood	Severity	Rating
1. Striking pedestrians or other vehicles when towing;	3	5	15	Persons operating the equipment being used to tow and the immobilised equipment must be fully trained and authorised to use the equipment. Another Forkway Engineer must be used as the second person, customer employees or other third parties must not be used. Prior to use the operator must familiarise themselves with the controls and follow the manufacturer's operating instructions on towing/ recovering immobilised equipment. Agree route and method between both operators before starting recovery. Ensure there is a means of raising alarm available on both pieces of equipment before starting in case something goes wrong, e.g., horn, or similar. Avoid work in areas with high volumes of vehicle or pedestrian movements. Where this cannot be avoided, discuss with customer contact and ensure others in area are warned of towing operation. Stop towing operation immediately if persons come in close proximity. Slowest speed setting must be selected, and caution must be taken.	1	5	5
2. Crushed between immobilised equipment and equipment being used to tow;	3	5	15	As above. Ensure no person is positioned in between the immobilised equipment and equipment being used to tow at any point during the towing operation. Stop operation immediately if someone enters this position. Both the immobilised equipment and equipment being used to tow must be isolated with keys removed and parking brakes applied when attaching, adjusting or detaching towing link.	1	5	5
3. Immobilised equipment becoming detached from	3	5	15	Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions on towing/ recovering immobilised equipment. If the instructions are not available, contact your line manager. Ensure a tow link as recommended by the manufacturer is used and is attached between the correct securing points for towing. Inspect tow link before starting to ensure it is free from	1	5	5

MULTIPLY THE LIKLIHOOD AND SEVERITY TO GET THE RISK RATING

Likelihood - (5=Very Likely, 4= Likely, 3= Possible, 2= Unlikely, 1= Highly Unlikely)

Severity - (5=Very Severe, 4= Severe, 3= Moderate, 2= Slight, 1=Negligible)

0- 5 = Low Risk - No Action Required.

6-15 = Medium Risk - Ensure adequate controls are in use.

16-25 = High Risk - Stop operation and implement adequate control measures

Hazard	Initial			Control Measures	Residual		
	L	S	R		L	S	R
equipment being used to tow and striking persons or objects;				defects. Inspects securing points on equipment to ensure they are free from defects and structurally sound. If they are attached to chassis by bolts, ensure bolts are in place, tight and free from defects.			
4. Immobilised equipment colliding with equipment being used to tow;	3	4	12	As above. Use a solid tow link where possible. Ensure there is an adequate distance between immobilised equipment and equipment being used to tow. Slowest speed setting must be selected, and caution must be taken. Person operating immobilised equipment must keep foot over brake pedal. Agree hand signals that will be given by operator of equipment being used to tow to identify when he will be starting or stopping/ slowing.	2	4	8
5. Loss of control of immobilised equipment steering, brakes, etc. leading to striking persons or objects;	3	5	15	Check steering and brake functionality before starting. If steering or brakes are defective, contact line manager before proceeding. A more specific assessment and method of working may be required.	1	5	5
6. Loss of traction from equipment used to tow leading to loss of control and striking persons or objects;	3	5	15	Ensure equipment being used to tow is of a suitable capacity and power rating to tow the immobilised equipment. Assess ground conditions before starting for anything which could cause loss of traction (ice, snow, slippery contaminants, etc.). If any of these are present, do not proceed until they have been removed. Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions on towing/ recovering immobilised equipment. If using a lift truck to tow, install a load of approximately half the rated capacity to increase traction. Keep load as low as possible. Avoid towing on steep gradients.	1	5	5
7. Overturning of immobilised equipment or equipment being used to tow;	2	5	10	Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions on towing/ recovering immobilised equipment. Ensure raised components are lowered before moving equipment. Where this cannot be achieved a specific risk assessment will be required. Ensure a tow link as recommended by the manufacturer is used and is attached between the correct securing points for towing. Keep tow link as low as possible. Avoid towing round sharp bends. Stop operation immediately if any sign of potential overturning becomes apparent. Seatbelts must be worn at all times throughout the task.	1	5	5
8. Immobilised equipment or equipment being used to tow sinking or ground giving way;	3	5	15	Towing must only be undertaken on firm level ground. Ensure ground conditions are strong enough to hold capacity of both the immobilised equipment and equipment being used to tow. Do not attempt operation on soft/ weak ground conditions. If work in these locations cannot be avoided, contact your line manager before proceeding. Continue to dynamically assess ground conditions throughout task and remain vigilant for anything that may change the ground's load bearing capacity (heavy rain, etc.).	1	5	5
9. Recovering equipment where the load is still attached;	3	5	15	A specific risk assessment should be undertaken before attempting to recover equipment where the load is still attached. Load should be removed where possible before recovery of equipment.	2	5	10

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