Office of Fair Trading



easy steps for recovery (snatch) strap safety

- 1. Always follow product instructions. The recommended minimum breaking strength of the strap is twice the gross vehicle mass (GVM) of the lighter of the two vehicles. By law, recovery straps must provide safety warnings and safe use instructions.
- **2.** Always check that the strap is not damaged before use.
- 3. Make sure that you only attach the recovery strap to a point on the vehicle that is suitably rated for use with the strap or connect it using a Standards compliant shackle with a working load limit greater than the strap's stated minimum breaking strength. A standard tow ball or vehicle tie-down point is not designed for this purpose. Attaching the strap to these vehicle points or components that could break off can cause injury or death.



- **4.** Do not use a recovery strap for lifting or conventional towing.
- 5. Drape a recovery damper, heavy bag or blanket over the strap during use to reduce any unintended rebounding.
- 6. While the strap is being used, have bystanders move away from the vehicles to a distance of at least 1.5 times the length of the unstretched strap. Rebounding straps have killed people standing nearby.
- If you are likely to use recovery straps, obtain certification from a nationally recognised four-wheel-driving training course.

For more information on product safety, visit **www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au** or **www.productsafety.gov.au**.

www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au