

# CARE AND USE OF TOW ROPES AND STRAPS

## HOOK UP AND ATTACHMENT

The tow rope/strap should be attached as directly as possible between vehicles. Hook directly to the frame, tow hook, or class 2 or 3 trailer hitch. Do not attach directly to the bumper. A looped end may be wrapped around axle. Do not hook back onto the tow rope/strap with the hooked end. Hooks will cut through a rope/strap under tension as well as weaken the strength of the rope strap. Sharp edges can cut a tow rope/strap and should be avoided. Pad or protect the rope/strap with rubber hose, newspaper, or a piece of carpet.

## TOWING TECHNIQUES

Once connections are secure and the slack is taken up, apply power. The rope/strap will stretch and absorb shock and jerking. If you are towing a disabled vehicle on a road, keep the rope/strap taut. Dragging the rope/strap on a road surface will fray it and eventually wear it out.

**BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE HOOKS, THIMBLES, OR LOOPED ENDS ARE VERY SECURE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE A VEHICLE. CHECK THE CONNECTIONS EACH AND EVERY TIME YOU ATTEMPT TO MOVE THE STUCK VEHICLE.**

Factors such as weight, traction, and horsepower sometimes prohibit a stuck vehicle from moving. Tow ropes/straps can double or triple your pulling power, but there are limitations, and you won't be able to move all vehicles.

## STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE

Clean after each use. Dirt will damage the rope/strap if allowed to work into the fibers. Extended exposure to sunlight will damage synthetic fibers and should be stored in a dry dark place such as a car trunk. Tow ropes/straps should be constantly checked for fraying, wear and tear, knots and kinks. If any of those conditions exist, the tow rope/strap should be replaced.

## WARNING

Misuse or exceeding the **SAFE WORKING LOAD OF THE TOW STRAP/ROPE** can lead to failure of the tow strap/rope. When the rope is taut or under stress, failure will cause the rope to snap back like a rubber band with great force, endangering the life

and safety of anyone in the vicinity, including the drivers of the vehicles. All persons, other than the drivers should stand well clear. Condition of the strap/rope, the extent to which the disabled vehicle is stuck, weather, and various other factors should be considered in determining the proper tow strap/rope for the job. If you have any doubt about whether your towing job is within the limits of the TOW STRAP/TOW ROPE, DO NOT USE.

- Securely attach only frame to frame.
- Do not use this tow rope/tow strap with any other tow rope/strap.
- Do not use any attachments such as chain or wire rope to the tow rope/strap. Such attachments can break, or become unattached while the tow rope/strap is under tension resulting in a recoil reaction endangering anyone in the vicinity.
- Never exceed safe working load (safe working load is 1/6 of breaking strength).
- Do not use to lift objects.
- Do not attempt running starts.