

# Hill Stall Recovery

## Introduction

- a) Always try to succeed in a hill climb first go – select best gear, revs, momentum, line of travel.
- b) But, how do you recover safely if you are driving up a steep slope and you lose power or traction or you need to stop, or you are going down a steep slope and you need to stop??
- c) There are some differences depending on whether you have a manual or automatic vehicle.

## Recovery procedure

### a) **MANUAL** –

- Foot on brake. Stall engine
- Keep foot on brake in gear
- Apply handbrake
- Turn off ignition
- Make sure wheels are straight and it is clear behind
- Clutch in. Put in reverse low. Engage hill descent controls if available.
- Foot off clutch (place under pedal)
- Release hand brake
- Release foot brake. (Vehicle should hold in gear)
- Look behind
- Turn ignition on (do not touch foot pedals)
- Back down. NO accelerator. NO clutch. May have to feather brake.

### b) **AUTO** –

- Stop the vehicle using the foot brake
- Leave the engine running
- Put the hand/park brake on
- If you need to get out of the vehicle - release the foot brake and let the transmission take up the slack before putting into “P”. NOTE: Putting straight into “P” can lock up the transmission!!! If the transmission locks up you need to release it by taking the strain off with a light pull by a winch or vehicle/snatch strap.
- If you do not need to get out of the vehicle put into “N” - NOT “P” to prevent lock up and keep foot on brake especially if handbrake is not reliable
- Turn off ignition
- Check behind and wheels straight
- Start engine (should start in “N” or “P”)
- Select Low Reverse (use hill descent controls if fitted)
- Release hand brake
- Gently release foot brake
- Back down, feather brake, no accelerator.

**Practice! Practice! Practice!** Action needs to be automatic. When the time comes you will not have much time to think.