

# Tractor Trailer – Parking Areas

## AgSafe Safe Work Procedure

### Parking Areas

Wherever practical, parking areas should be provided for all vehicles using the workplace - including private vehicles.

The type of parking area will depend on what vehicles are used at the workplace (including visiting vehicles), where they go and what they are used for.

Parking areas should be placed in safe and suitable locations.

Parking areas should:

1. Be clearly signposted
2. Be Firm
3. Be Level
4. Be well lit (if possible)
5. Not be slippery

Drivers leaving parked vehicles should not have to cross potentially dangerous work areas.

### Parking

What's the problem?

Carelessly parked vehicles are responsible for many of the injuries and deaths that result from Vehicles at Work accidents.

This guidance should be followed to help avoid problems.

### Guidance

Vehicles should be parked on firm and level ground, in a designated parking area if one is available.

People in charge of a workplace should consider parking areas. Areas should be:

1. Level
2. Firm
3. Well lit
4. Clearly marked, with safe walking areas

Where vehicles have to be parked on a slope, they should:

1. Be parked facing up or down the slope, never sideways on.
2. have their brakes applied
3. Be left in gear (when it is safe to do so).
4. Wheel-chocks must be used when necessary.

Drivers must **NEVER** leave their vehicles without making sure that the vehicle and its trailer are secure with the brakes on.

1. People in control of workplaces where trailers are parked must make sure that drivers know trailer brakes **MUST** be used. Vehicle brakes are **NOT** designed to make trailers safe. Warning signs and instructions to drivers are some ways to help make sure that trailer brakes are used.

A vehicle should not be left unless the brakes have been firmly applied, the engine stopped, the starter key removed, and any mounted equipment lowered to the ground. Remember:

1. Brakes **ON**
2. Engine **OFF**
3. Key **OUT**
4. Equipment **SAFE**

Always secure the keys of vehicles left parked in workplaces overnight, at weekends, or when they are being left for long periods

Are parking brakes always used on trailers and tractive units to prevent unwanted movement, e.g. when coupling vehicles?

It is important to make sure that vehicles do not move when they are parked (and during loading, unloading and other operations) so that people who might be working on or around the vehicle are protected.

Systems to prevent vehicles from moving can be built into the design of the vehicle or be site based.

Vehicles should have suitable and effective brakes, both for general service and for parking.

Drivers sometimes use the emergency brakes as parking brakes when they uncouple the tractor and semi-trailer units, because they have to disconnect anyway. This should never be allowed to happen. Air brakes should never be applied solely by disconnecting the hose. The emergency brakes should not be relied on to secure a semi-trailer.

Although the actual brakes on this sort of system are the same for both the parking and emergency brakes, the control mechanism is very different, and emergency brakes should never be relied on to secure a semi-trailer.

Reconnecting the hose will free the brakes immediately, leaving the vehicle free to move with the driver away from the cab. These accidents are called 'vehicle runaways' and can mostly be prevented.

Making sure that both the tractive unit and semi-trailer parking brake controls are used is the most effective way of making vehicle runaways less likely.

People in control of workplaces where trailers are parked need to make sure that drivers are aware that both tractive unit and semi-trailer parking brakes should be used when parking. Drivers' behavior should be supervised and monitored.

Trailer parking brakes are there because they need to be, and must be used every time a vehicle and trailer are parked. You should consider signs, instruction and any other measures to make sure this happens.

Please use the following **Safe Work Procedures** as a guideline to building your own safe work procedures.