

OEX Suggested Recovery Gear

Below you will find the list for the three **main recovery kits** and an outline for three **kits of essential equipment**.

Choosing your recovery gear is as important as choosing your vehicle. To be a safe 4wd operator you always assume failure; as such you will be relying on this equipment to keep moving while protecting your vehicle as well as your life. In this list pieces of equipment are repetitive. We firmly believe that for each mode of recovery its kit needs to be in a separate bag to prevent misplaced equipment. Separate bags allow you to grab what is needed fast without the confusion of sorting a buch of various equipment.

Kinetic Rope Kit

- **1** Kinetic rope-essential that it is a true kinetic rope with 30-40% stretch and not simply a tow rope. Should be 1" thick with a breaking strength of at least 28,000lbs. They come in either 20' or 30' lengths, but 30' is always preferable.
- **2** Tree Straps/Slings. We use 2" and 3" straps of varying lengths, but the rating is really what we are concerned about. You want a rating of at least 20,000lbs that is clearly written somewhere on the strap.
- **2** D Shackles rated at a minimum of 9,000lbs

Winch Kit

- **3** Tree Straps
- **3** D Shackles
- **3** Pulley Blocks. Pulley blocks should be rated at a minimum of 7,000lbs.

Hi Lift Kit

- **3** Tree Straps
- **4** D Shackles
- **1** Winch Extension. Winch extension should always be synthetic line with a rating of at least 20,000lbs. They come in varying lengths, but have at least 50'.
- **1** Chain. We like chain for the Hi Lift because of its adjustability but make sure you get the right type of chain. Must be heavy duty with a rating of at least 7,000lbs. Most chain from the hardware store is rated around 2,000. Chain is heavy so try to keep your length to around 10ft.
- **1** Wheel lift attachment for the Hi Lift jack. Rated at 5,000lbs this is an extremely valuable piece of equipment.

Beyond these three kits, there are other essential pieces of equipment that you should have at your disposal while driving in marginal terrain. For our purposes we divide these into three main categories which are:

- 1) Common sense items
- 2) Additional recovery tools, and
- 3) Field repair items

Common Sense Items

- First aid kit...we all learned it in boy scouts but it will save your life
- Communications-especially if you're out there alone.
- Maps/GPS
- Spare tire
- Air down tabs as well as the ability to air back up
- Tire pressure gauge
- Lug wrench to fit your wheels – four sided are good.
- WD40 or similar

Additional Recovery Tools

- Gloves
- Shovel
- Axe
- Sand ladders (carpet squares as well, if available.)
- Pull pal-used as a ground anchor for winching if no adequate trees

Field Repair

- Tool Box. At least a driver with a set of sockets, set of wrenches, screwdrivers, lug wrench, vice grip two sizes, and pliers.
- Tire repair kit including patches, adhesive, plugs, reamer tool, glue, and plug tool
- Valve stem remover
- Ether or starting fluid-used to set bead on a tire
- Ratchet straps
- Hose clamps
- Piece of inner tube-multifaceted, commonly used along with a screw to plug a hole in a radiator, oil pan, gas tank and repair tie rod ends.
- Roll of towels
- Duct tape
- Electrical tape
- Rubber gloves