

Loss Control Tool Chest

CAR DOLLIES USE

Car dollies are used for moving inoperative vehicles around service or repair operations. They are convenient because they are easy to install and allow vehicles to be moved in or out of tight places. Not to be confused with trailer dollies used to tow vehicles, car dollies are placed under each vehicle wheel and designed for moving vehicles around within an operation.

Typically disabled vehicles are towed or delivered to a service / repair operation. Once installed under each of the disabled vehicle's wheels, car dollies allow easy movement of the vehicle to the desired storage or service bay.

Car dollies have wheels which typically rotate 360 degrees. The ability to move in any direction makes them desirable as well as a potential exposure for crushing feet when unexpected employees pushing the vehicle, fail to pay attention and the dollies run over their feet. There have been incidents involving crushed and broken toes from these devices. To reduce the injury exposure of these devices the following should be taken into consideration.

Preferred procedures include:

- 1. Training and communication for employees using car dollies on the proper use and exposure, including the unexpected change of direction and potential crushing effect of the dollies.
- Powered vehicle movers or devices designed for such tasks are preferred over manual efforts.
 When powered devices are not available, there should be multiple employees, one at each corner of the vehicle, used to minimize potential strains for push/pulling vehicles.
- Employees should not stand or walk near the vehicle's wheel openings. The dollies can become
 potential crush exposures. Always be aware of any change of direction that can occur due to the
 360 degree mobility.
- 4. <u>Absolutely</u>, no service or repair work should be allowed with car dollies or any mobile device left holding a vehicle in place. Unexpected or inadvertent vehicle movement can occur if these devices are left in place while work is performed, causing serious injury including death. Approved hoists or jacks with protective stands or appropriate safety devices need to be in place prior to any work under a raised vehicle.