

Towing and Recovery Vehicle Loading and Transport

Objective

Discuss the procedures involved with loading and transporting Hybrids and BEVs.

Loading

The securing of an electric vehicle remains the same as that of a conventional vehicle but make sure no rigging is in contact with high voltage cable or components. ALWAYS assume the vehicle has power and high voltage exists. There is no guarantee that the high-voltage system, airbags, or fuel pump are disabled.

Do not attempt to recover and/or load vehicle for transport until all information has been gathered and the vehicle has been secured and disabled.

When loading the vehicle onto a flat-bed winch the vehicle up onto the deck in neutral. Use skates and slides if the vehicle will not go into neutral.

If it is necessary to turn the vehicle on to place it in neutral be certain that no other problems exist. If the vehicle is dead or there is no fob key the vehicle may be equipped with a shift lock over-ride. This may be located near the shifter or on some models may be located beneath the cup holders. In most cases the over-ride can be accessed by using a screw driver and removing the plug.

Structural damage can expose HV wiring and components.

Always be aware of dislodged HV cables or components when loading or unloading an electric vehicle.



Transport

Never assume that all electric vehicles should be towed the same way.

Never tow an EV with drive wheels on ground. Always tow with a deck or with dollies. Towing with drive wheels on the ground may cause electrical fire.

Decking is the preferred method of transporting most electric drive vehicles.



Warning

If you detect smoke, sparks, flames, gurgling popping or hissing noises, especially during transport or from a vehicle with a damaged Li-ion battery immediately pull over and exit the truck. Immediately call the fire department or 911.

In all cases, avoid contact with the ORANGE or BLUE cables, as they house high-voltage wiring. Some wiring for the high-voltage electrical system runs under the vehicle.