

## DuPage County Environmental, Safety, Health & Property Loss Control Program Vehicle Hydraulic Lift Safety

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**Purpose:** Provide knowledge on how to safely operate a vehicle hydraulic lift.

### **General Safety:**

- I. It is important that you know what your lift and adaptors load limit is. Be careful that you do not overload the lift and if you are unsure what the load limit is, you can either contact the manufacturer and ask, or check the manufacturers name plate where the information should be posted.
- II. The center of gravity should also be followed closely to what the manufacturer recommends
- III. Always make sure you have proper overhead clearance. Additionally, check that attachments, vehicle signs, and antennas are not in the way.
- IV. Be sure that prior to the vehicle being raised, the doors, trunk, and hood are closed securely
- V. Prior to being raised, make sure there is no one standing closer than six feet from the lift.

**Placing Vehicle on the lift:** When it comes to placing the vehicle on the hydraulic lift, you need to consider the following safety precautions:

- ✓ Make sure the ignition is off, the doors are closed, overhead obstructions are cleared, and the transmission is in neutral.
  - ✓ Double check that the automatic chock devices are in position and then when the lift is raised, observe the chocks.
  - ✓ Put pads or adaptors in the right position under the contact points that have been recommended.
  - ✓ The lift should be raised just until the vehicles wheels are about one foot off the ground.
  - ✓ If contact with the vehicle is uneven or it appears that the vehicle is not sitting secure, carefully lower the lift and readjust.
  - ✓ Never move the lift quickly at the top. Instead, raise it very slowly for about one foot.
  - ✓ Any mechanical locking devices should be locked or jack stands used.
  - ✓ Take a minute to consider potential problems that might cause a vehicle to slip, i.e., the vehicle has some type of heavy cargo.
  - ✓ Pay attention when walking under a vehicle that is up on the hydraulic lift.
  - ✓ Be sure you wear the appropriate safety gear when working on a vehicle held up by a lift.
- For instance, you need safety goggles to provide protection from leaking fluids, a hard hat should something fall and steel toed shoes.
- ✓ Before you enter the vehicle, always make sure it has been completely lowered to the ground

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### **When lowering a vehicle:**

- ✓ When the lift is being lowered, make sure everyone is standing at least six feet away.
- ✓ Be sure there are no jacks, tools, equipment, etc. left under the lift
- ✓ Always lower the vehicle down slowly and smoothly
- ✓ If needed, remove the chocks and adjust the arms or other types of supports

**Finally, when you do use your hydraulic lift, there are specific things that you should avoid, which include the following:**

- ✓ **DO NOT** Jam the dead stick control open
- ✓ **DO NOT** Leave the controls while the lift is still in motion
- ✓ **DO NOT** Work on the vehicle when being raised or lowered
- ✓ **DO NOT** Lower the lift down onto supporting jacks
- ✓ **DO NOT** Rock the vehicle while on the lift
- ✓ **DO NOT** Lower the vehicle until people, materials, and tools are clear
- ✓ **DO NOT** Use wooden blocks