

Safety Bulletin No. 10/2016

PARKING OF VEHICLE AND TRAILER COMBINATIONS

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Applicable to	All Electricity North West Commercial Vehicle Drivers

A near miss has been reported of a vehicle and trailer mounted generator rolling backwards whilst parked uphill with the vehicle hand brake applied. Although the combination only rolled back a very short distance before it was held by the gears (the driver had correctly put the vehicle in gear when parking) the near miss has highlighted a potential risk.

Where possible, vehicle combinations should only be parked on level ground or facing downhill.

The reason for this is when a combination is parked uphill on a slope only the rear axle on the towing vehicle has the brakes applied. This is sufficient to hold the combination weight on level ground but may not on a steep slope. If parked facing downhill the action of the trailer rolling into the back of the vehicle will activate the trailer brakes giving a minimum of total of two braked axles.

If it is not possible to park combination on level ground or facing downhill trailer wheel chocks must be used.

In all cases vehicle handbrakes should be fully deployed when parked and vehicle left in a low gear.



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