

What do you think of flat tyre blocking as a technique?

Darryl Dhu - 7 May 2012

I was wondering what people's thoughts were on flat tyre chocking during stabilisation. I have come across different groups that have been taught to flat tyre chock all the time. My personal opinion is that flat tyre chocking be carried when necessary, not as standard practice, mainly due to interference with accurate incident investigation (i.e. we can inform of tyres we deflated but we can't tell what pressures were in those tyres) and also the restriction of any relocation thereafter. I am just after other peoples thoughts on this issue.

Darryl Dhu
QFRS Auxiliary Fire Fighter
Mines Rescue Trainer/Assessor

Tony Yelland - 7 May 2012

I saw at least one team in Tassy use it to bring the vehicle down on the cribbing. In a comp a while ago pre-set pressure adjustors were used so that vehicle could still be relocated after cribbing removed. If this was used on the road starting pressures would not be known. In our area to flatten tyres is an option only.

Dave Stackhouse - 9 May 2012

Hi Darryl

This practice has been widely used in various agencies around the world particularly within America. It has also been debated as to should we or should we not for a variety of rationale, including the points you have highlighted. What it comes down to with modern vehicle extrication decision making on any technique, is what process within the OIC's plan will work best to achieve the best result for the efficient extrication of the casualty. (given some limitations from within your agency protocol or SOP's requirements).

Personally I would avoid this process (flat tyre chocking) as it could limit my choices, extrication is all about choices or percentages of success when working through your plan. I use the word avoid as I would not discount it if I felt it would aide my percentages such as an extrication in place with an under ride (truck v car) where I could take pressure/loading off the dash or A pillar roof rails etc. quickly if needed. The down side is this could impede any relocation if that option was taken.

So to sum up evaluate any and all techniques, match them within your experience and training for your mental toolbox to put in place the 100% percentage plan to the situation you and your team are faced with.

Cheers

Dave Stackhouse
ARRO Technical Committee

Darryl Dhu - 10 May 2012

Thanks for the feedback Dave. I don't understand why some trainers push it so much, it does give you a very stable working base, but for reasons that I have highlighted as well as your detailed feedback I'm going to stick to what I do now, that is, use it only if necessary.

Cheers
Darryl