

# ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR 4WD VEHICLE

Going out into the bush with a four wheel drive (4WD) vehicle is a favourite pastime all over Australia. Because of the country's massive size and diverse environments to be found, there is always something new to explore. This pastime isn't without risks though and every year many people who are unprepared for operating their vehicle in remote locations become stranded and need to be rescued.

There are a number of essential items that all off road motorists should equip their vehicles with, so that they can extricate themselves from dangerous situations.

Below is a brief list of some of the most useful safety items you should equip your vehicle with. It is by no means an exhaustive list and you should consult a professional about any other pieces of equipment you think you may need.

## **UHF Radio**

One of the first pieces of equipment you should have as a serious off road driver is a UHF radio. In the remote areas of Australia, there is little to no mobile phone service and as such your options for communication are very limited. UHF radios fill this communication gap and allow you to contact other vehicles and emergency services, even in remote locations. These radios can even be useful for highway

driving, as you can communicate with other road users and get real time updates on road conditions.

Before your trip, you should always ensure your radio is in working order and that you are aware of local emergency frequencies.

### **Recovery Gear**

Having a full complement of recovery equipment is essential for any off road adventure. Not only can you get yourself out of a sticky situation, you can also help others in need if you come across them.

How much you spend on this equipment is up to you and there is a wide range of choice. At the bare minimum, you should have a recovery strap and a winch. With these two items, you can get out of almost any predicament you may find on the back trails of Australia.

### **Bullbars**

Bullbars are not often seen as a piece of safety equipment, but having a quality one may indeed save your life one day. It is an unfortunate fact that a large number of animals are killed every year on Australian roads. While animals are clearly affected, collisions between vehicles and animals can also result in injury or even death for humans.

By fitting a bullbar, you can greatly reduce the chance of an accidental collision with an animal proving fatal - damage to your vehicle will also be reduced

significantly. The small one time investment for a bullbar could be the best decision you have ever made.

### **Professional Installation**

With all the safety equipment listed above, it is important that you pay the little bit extra for professional installation. By using a professional installer, you can guarantee that the equipment is suited to your vehicle and will work as advertised when required. For more information on 4WD safety equipment, contact your local accessory stockist today.

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