AORSI Instructor Guide

Course Title: Vehicle Recovery Operations (RECV)

Duration: 8 Hours (hands-on training required)

Audience: Off-road operators, recovery team members, and instructors

Course Overview

This course prepares participants for safe recovery operations when vehicles become stuck, disabled, or overturned. Focus is on safe use of recovery gear, winching, and teamwork. Participants gain hands-on experience in recovery techniques while learning how to minimize risks to people, vehicles, and the environment.

Learning Objectives (Instructor Notes)

- Identify recovery equipment and its uses. (Tip: Provide gear inspection activity).

- Perform safe winching and towing operations. (Tip: Run field demonstrations).

- Understand anchor points and rigging safety. (Tip: Use calculations and drills).

- Apply decision-making in real recovery scenarios. (Tip: Facilitate team-based field practice).

Module 1: Recovery Equipment Overview (Winches, Straps, Jacks, Boards) (2 hours)

- Teach winches, straps, jacks, traction boards, safe working loads.

- Course Design Suggestion: Gear handling stations with instructor review.

- Exercise: Create checklist of essential recovery gear.

- Reflection: Why are equipment limitations as important as uses?

Module 2: Rigging Safety & Load Calculations (2 hours)

- Teach rigging, anchor points, pulleys, dampers, load force calculations.

- Course Design Suggestion: Hands-on rigging drills with line pull calculations.

- Exercise: Calculate line pull for a 5,000 lb vehicle stuck in mud (25% resistance).

- Reflection: How does using a snatch block change winch load?

Module 3: Self-Recovery vs Assisted Recovery (2 hours)

- Teach differences, risks, and coordination requirements.
- Course Design Suggestion: Field scenarios for self vs assisted recovery.
- Exercise: List three advantages of assisted recovery.
- Reflection: Why is communication critical in assisted recovery?

Module 4: Field Scenarios & Case Studies (2 hours)

- Analyze recovery incidents (success/failure lessons).
- Course Design Suggestion: Group discussions on case studies.
- Exercise: Develop recovery plan for overturned vehicle on slope.
- Reflection: How can studying past incidents improve future performance?

Final Assessment

Task: Participate in a recovery drill demonstrating safe winch, strap, and anchor use in realistic conditions. Perform safety checklist review. Written exam includes:

- What is the purpose of a recovery damper blanket?
- How can improper anchor point selection increase risks?
- When is self-recovery preferable to assisted recovery?
- What calculation determines proper winch line pull?
- Why is teamwork vital in recovery scenarios?

Instructor Preparation Checklist

- Set up recovery gear inspection stations.
- Prepare field site for recovery drills (mud, slopes, obstacles).
- Provide calculators/tools for rigging load exercises.
- Collect case studies of recovery incidents for discussion.

Suggested Timing

- Introduction – 15 min
- Module 1 – 120 min
- Module 2 – 120 min
- Module 3 – 120 min
- Module 4 – 120 min
- Final Assessment – 45 min
- Wrap-up & Questions – 20 min