



SAFETY FIRST:
Don't use under-rated chains or rope, which can snap and smash the windshield or cause serious injury.

HI-LIFT JACK:
Essential for raising the vehicle out of the mud.

BRANCHES AND ROCKS:
Jack up the tire, and fill the hole with debris.

COME-ALONG:
Hook this self-ratcheting device onto two recovery straps.

In Too Deep

How to get a truck unstuck **BY PETER B. MATHIESEN**



WHEN YOU'RE BURIED in the mud on a logging road, do you pull out your cellphone and call for help? Of course not! At least, not if you're a total outdoorsman. All you need is a few cheap tools and a little know-how.

[1] LOAD UP First, always carry the following gear in your rig: a Hi-Lift jack, a self-ratcheting strap called a "come-along," two 2-inch-wide recovery straps (one 10 feet long, the other 30 feet), and two shackles to secure the straps. You should be able to get all of this stuff for about \$100 from a store like recoverygear.com.

[2] LIFT IT UP To get out of the mud, start by jacking up the sunken tire with your Hi-Lift jack. You may need to put logs or rocks in the mud to provide a sound foundation for the jack. Make sure the jack has direct contact with the frame. Once the tire is free, fill the void with every loose log or rock that you can cram in there. Set the truck back down on the newly created landfill, and put some more debris in front of the tire. If luck is on your side, you'll have enough contact to drive out of the predicament.

[3] STRAP THE TRUCK If you're still stuck but have a tree, boulder, or another truck to connect to, it's time to use the come-along. Connect your short tow strap to the truck's Class III receiver in the rear or a tow hook in the front. If neither are accessible, use the frame. Never attach to a bumper, unless you want to tear it off.

[4] HOOK TO THE ANCHOR Hook the come-along to the tow strap, and then hook the opposite end of the come-along to your other tow strap and secure it to your anchor. Never wrap the come-along directly around a tree or another vehicle's frame because that can damage it and make it prone to failure. If your tow straps don't have loops, you may need to create fastening points with the shackles.

[5] GET CRANKING Once you're hooked up, slowly work the come-along and watch the truck emerge from the mud.