

# GROUND ANCHOR GUIDELINES

## Soil Density Matters

Because the Deadman is more than a dead weight (see *what we did there?!*) and acts as a hook within the ground, soil density around the Deadman plays an important role in its capacity. The rule of thumb here is high density = high capacity. So whereas we may dig a 30" hole in soft sand (low density) to achieve ~4000lb capacity, a 20" hole in hardpack (high density) will yield similar results. So use your judgment: if the soil is soft, dig deeper!

## Ok, but my vehicle is heavier than that!

So is ours. Our company vehicle is a fully-loaded Tacoma, rolling on 35s, weighing in around 6000lb. Surprisingly, it takes far less force to recover a vehicle than you might imagine. Every situation is different, but when measuring the force required to recover our truck when it was buried to the frame (sand, level ground), we found that 1800lb (1/3 GVW) was all we needed with the vehicle assisting (light throttle), yet only 4000lb (2/3 GVW) was needed with it in Neutral. But remember: If you need more capacity, just go deeper for #beastmode! We've measured well over 8000lb in shifty dune sand by going deep.



## Angles matter, too!

We've learned that the angle of pull also plays a role in the capacity of the Deadman. Depth and soil density remaining constant, the Deadman will hold more weight when it's above the vehicle vs below. Knowing this, you can compensate for a weak angle by digging deeper (low angle), or use it to your advantage by digging a shallower hole (high angle). In our field testing, we routinely used the Deadman in as little as 18" of hardpack atop steep sandy climbs and it never budged. Every recovery situation is unique, so again, use your judgment and make adjustments based on your environment.

The Deadman is not a life-saving device. Follow all vehicle and winch manufacturer recommendations. In any recovery situation, slow down, think, and use safe winching practices.

# ROCK HUGGER™



⊘ No Abrasion    ⊘ No Slippage

To anchor to a rock, wrap the Deadman around a large rock (face in). Ensure the rock is large enough to safely take the force of the winch without moving. Situate the Deadman for the best possible hug, with the arms going over the rock and the legs going under the rock. If the rock is very large, use a winch line extension or other non-stretch strap to grab both sides of the Deadman and attach the winch line to the center of the strap. Adjust the Deadman as needed so the arms and legs have equal tension.



If the rock begins to move, immediately stop the recovery and slowly back out the line. Make sure the rock is secure before proceeding to remove the Deadman.

# TREE SNUGLER™



To anchor to a tree, roll or fold the Deadman with the arms and legs fully extended. Place him around the base of a tree and ensure that the tree is large and sturdy enough to support the winching force. Using both lines (all four loops) is recommended.

# PURE VERSATILITY

Put the Deadman to work! We've seen him used as a winch line extension, a bridle, a radiator cover, a ground mat, a fluid catch, a gurney, a hammock, a wheelbarrow -- and one enterprising fellow suggested he could even be used as a trebuchet to launch toilets! Who knew?!

In all seriousness, the Deadman gives you **options** on the trail.

**“Every recovery situation is unique,  
and conditions are never ideal.”**

Share how you've used the Deadman with the hashtag

**#DEADMANSAVES™**



**The DEADMAN™  
Earth Anchor™**

## dead·man

/dedman/

noun: deadman

1. *an object buried in or secured to the ground for the purpose of providing anchorage or leverage.*
2. *a fantastic travel partner -- the strong, silent type -- able to adapt to any given situation.*

We created the Deadman because we wanted to explore with confidence. We often found ourselves venturing solo, and with very little room to spare in our vehicle we needed recovery gear that was at once lightweight, small, and adaptable to different terrain. The Deadman was our solution to this need. With this single device, we can create a winch anchor point out of almost anything Mother Earth throws our way -- without breaking the bank or taking up precious cargo space. For us, this opened new avenues to adventure and the freedom to explore. We believe in having many different recovery tools in our recovery kit; the addition of something as versatile as the Deadman gives us options -- and since every recovery is unique, and conditions are never ideal, having options might just be what's needed to get us home.

We're excited that you're taking this journey with us, and honored that you would place the Deadman among the gear you rely on to get you home. *Thank you!*

**Bryant & Daniel**  
Founders

### Working Load Limit (WLL) Information

The Deadman conforms to the generally accepted standards of the Off-Road Vehicle Industry and has been designed around a safety factor of 3:1. Thus, the WLL of the Deadman in any configuration is Minimum Breaking Strength (MBS) divided by the safety factor (MBS / 3).



### WARNING



The Deadman loves to hug Mother Earth; he should never be used for overhead lifting or snatching a vehicle. Never ask the Deadman to surpass his Working Load Limit (WLL) or do things he was not designed for, as serious injury or death may result. The Deadman is probably the strongest member of your recovery kit; never exceed the rating of the weakest member in any winching operation. Please take care of your Deadman and never use him if he shows signs of abrasion wear, cuts, tears, holes, or frays. Protect your Deadman's arms and legs from sharp objects with proper abrasion guards. Do not use him in temperatures over 185F and be sure to give him a bath with gentle soap and water to keep him clean and healthy. Always follow safe winching practices when using the Deadman. Inspect all recovery gear for damage or wear prior to use.

# GROUND HUGGER™



For use as a ground anchor, bury the Deadman. Don't worry, he won't mind - notice he's smiling! Place his grave far enough away from the vehicle to allow room for recovery and a shallow pull angle. The walls of his grave should be vertical - the face wall plays an important role in the physics that allow the Deadman to work.



For best results, bury the Deadman face up. Keep his arms and legs out of the hole, but ensure the corners of his face lay flat on the hole floor. Orient him so he's perpendicular to the vehicle being recovered.



The minimum recommended depth is 2 feet. Soil density plays a role in the Deadman's capacity at any given depth. In soft soil (e.g. sand) a deeper hole is advised. Conversely, a slightly shallower hole may suffice in hardpack. For reference, 24" in soft sand should yield ~2500lb capacity, while 18" in hardpack might yield the same or more capacity.



If more capacity is needed, simply bury the Deadman deeper -- *challenge accepted!* His capacity is non-linear: whereas a 24" hole may yield ~2500lb, a 36" hole may yield > 6000lb in the same soil.



Once buried, link his feet (forward loops) to the winch, and his hands (rear loops) to the flat secondary loops on his feet (see photo above). While soft shackles make this process more convenient, metal shackles may also be used. **Do not use the secondary loops for any other purpose.**



For most recoveries, using the Deadman in conjunction with controlled, light throttle will deliver the best results, lessening the likelihood of your winch pulling him out of his grave prematurely. **Use safe winching practices.**



After recovery, unhook all but one hand or foot and pull the Deadman from his hole with the winch or vehicle bumper. The dirt should remain in the hole; please ensure no large holes or piles remain for the next adventurer. Tread lightly.



**WARNING** ⚠  
Never pull the Deadman by one arm and one leg. Only pull the left and right ends of the same strap.