

# Safety Alert

## Vehicle Immobilisation

1 June 2021

### Background information

As part of the A27 Arundel bypass scheme, ground investigation (GI) & survey works were being undertaken on the golf course, within the grounds of a hotel. Access had been granted to the hotel carpark to enable work vehicles to park during the surveys.

At the end of the shift, the driver moved their vehicle (50m) closer to the hotel reception to sign out. As it had been a wet day, the driver had placed their coat over the driver seat to keep themselves and the seat dry (as shown in the picture).

Whilst in the reception area, signing out, a member of the hotel staff entered and informed the driver that their vehicle had rolled backwards approx. 4 metres into a bush, at the front of the hotel.

Fortunately there were no injuries and no damage caused, however there was potential for personal injury, damage to vehicles and or the hotel.



### Investigation Findings

- It would appear that the vehicle handbrake had not been engaged, or fully engaged. The driver believes that the coat may have prevented them from effectively engaging the handbrake.
- The vehicle was subsequently checked and the handbrake was found to be working correctly.

### Lessons Learnt

- Never cover any safety or control devices of a vehicle.
- Ensure the parking brake is fully engaged prior to exiting your vehicle.