

Towing the Skandic

While grooming the trails, sometimes the Skandic will become stuck. Below is the proper method for removal of the sled using the 2019 Can-Am Defender. Following these steps will ensure safe removal under most conditions. **It is imperative to realize you are stuck before becoming incredibly stuck. Once you lose forward momentum, stop!**

Stopping after losing forward momentum will ensure that it is easier to recover the sled and Ginzu unit under less strain. Continuing with self-extraction may result in digging deeper off the trail or becoming wedged up against a tree or log, making a recovery more complex.

1. Under the seat of Sled 1 is a four-foot by one-inch webbed strap and clevis/pin. Remove from the seating area and place on the bumper area of the sled as pictured below.



Never attach a tow rope or sling to the ski, as these are not designed lifting or tow points from the manufacturer.

2. Disconnect the Defender from the Ginzu if you need to maneuver to face the sled and move into position about 15 to 20 feet away.
3. Put the Defender winch into free-spool mode by turning the unlock dial located on the winch unit's passenger side.
4. Pull the cable out and attach the winch line hook as pictured below. Connecting in this manner will ensure the safety latch does not take any strain.



Towing the Skandic

5. Re-engage the free-spool lock on the Defender winch and remove slack in the line by slowly backing up the Defender. Never use the winch itself to take up the slack unless you have someone keeping tension on the line, as winching with no pressure may result in bird caging the winchline on the drum and possible line damage.
6. If lowered, raise the knives of the Ginzu. Once the line is tight, use the winch controller to remove the mired sled slowly.
7. Unless the winch is under heavy load, the sled driver should not assist using the throttle, as this will result in slack on the winchline and possible bird caging, as mentioned above. The sled driver can use minimal throttle to assist, ensuring the line does not slack if the winch pull is hard.

Do not winch with the Defender in Park, as this may result in damage to the transmission. Use the brakes of the Defender to hold it in place.

8. If it is impossible to use the front bumper of the sled due to its position, disconnect the Ginzu and winch out of the way using the Defender. Use the same steps as above. Attach the strap to the rear hitch or ball of the sled, and follow the same winching techniques.
9. Once extracted, remove the winch hook from the clevis and have the sled driver keep tension on the winching the rest of the cable onto the drum. Always hold the winch hook to keep pressure on the line; never allow the cable to slide through your hands. Signal the Defender driver when the winch cable is close to becoming tight (hook close to the fairlead) so they can adjust the control to bring the hook onto the fairlead gently.
10. Replace the strap under the seat, and continue grooming operations.
11. If the sled needs to be towed back to the shop, attach the strap in the same manner. Use a tow strap attached to the Defender's rear hitch; never use the winch to tow.

Towing the Skandic