

SAFETY FLASH: WINCHES

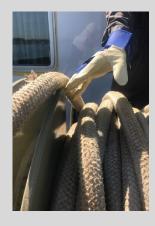
GOOD PRACTICE

- Frequent checks and maintenance on the state of the winches.
- Only let instructed personnel carry out the operation.
- Let others around you know what you are going to do and inform them about the dangers.
- ◆ Determine the safest place on board for you to operate the winch. Think of moving parts, obstacles, and that the rope can break (snapback zone).
- ◆ Provide a control by means of deadman switch. The button must be pressed to get the winch moving. When the button is released, the winch stops. Push-to-run.
- Be alert to the correct use of suitable PPE. Also think of the right size.
- Have enough turns of the ropes next to each other in order to have a good power distribution on the tension drum.
- Decouple the winch after usage.
- Execute a LMRA.





Be alert when winches are rotating. A finger between a rope that is being pulled tight can cause for permanent injury. It can even lead to a fatal accident.



BAD PRACTICE

- Not giving instructions about the activation of the winches.
- Quickly readjusting the rope.
- With your hand or fingers near the rotating ropes.
- Laying the rope over each other.
- Not having your attention focused on the work.
- Bad or no communication.
- Not wearing PPE.
- Wearing loose clothing (open coat, vest, loose sleeves, etc.) or hair.

ACTION QUESTIONS:

- How does the winch work?
- What is a safe 'way' for the rope?
- How does the winch work onboard? What are the dangers? For example with an automatic winch.

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