



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.