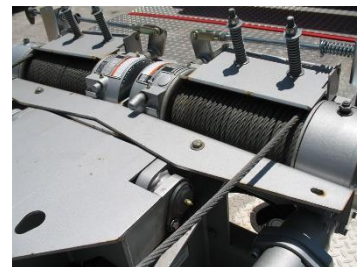


INTRODUCTION

The winch is a critical component of a tow truck. Employees who use winches properly can perform their duties with minimal chances of accidents or injury. When following the safe work practices contained in this lesson, employees can contribute to the overall safe operation of winches.



HAZARDS

The following are hazards that employees may be exposed to when operating a winch:

- Cuts on hands from barbs on cable
- Snapped cables hitting an employee
- Entanglement
- Burns
- Death

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

The following personal protective equipment should be used by all employees when operating a winch:

- Leather work gloves
- Safety glasses
- Safety toe work boots
- Reflective vest



SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Inspect the cable for frays or kinks prior to winching.
- Never walk behind, or stand in front of, a vehicle while it is being winched.
- When winching, keep hands away from cable drum and the fairlead.
- All bystanders should be a minimum of 50 feet away from the winching operation.
- Never stand beside a winch during operation.
- Never attach a winch cable around the bumper or to a tow ball.
- Ensure that the shackles, hook and clevis are securely fastened before applying power.
- In order to keep the winch from overheating, winch in short bursts.
- Never allow the cable to completely unwind from the winch.
- There should always be a minimum three full cable wraps around the drum before winching begins.
- Do not overtighten the winch.
- Never use a winch for transporting or as a securing device. It is only to be used for loading and unloading.
- Never exceed the limits of the cables of the winch.



CONCLUSION

When employees take part in safe work practices, they contribute to the overall safety of the company. Following these safe work practices will ensure that employees are as safe as possible.