
Procedure	Effective Date	Rescinds
WINCH OPERATIONS	September 30, 2002	New

Reference		
Norwich Township Fire Department	SOG #22	Page 1 of 3

Purpose:

Establish safe working conditions and practices in the use of the winch that is installed on Engine 81 and Grassfighter 82.

Responsibility:

- I. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to implement this operating guideline.
- II. It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to train members in the application of this guideline.
- III. It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand and use this guideline as it applies to the situation at hand. Each member will use good judgement in the use of this guideline.

Foreword:

USE

The intended use of the winch on Engine 81 is to have on scene, a quick method to stabilize a vehicle, as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

The winch on Grassfighter 82 is intended to be primarily used as a means to recover itself from trouble.

SAFETY ISSUES

All devices that use steel cable as a component have the hostile ability to store enormous amounts of energy. When the cable or one of its anchor points break, the cable will snap back in an uncontrollable fashion. This recoil has been known to sever limbs as well as decapitate people who were not aware of the danger, or at least not using due caution while operating such devices. Due to this please follow the following safety precautions.

Guideline:

1. Never touch the cable or the hook while they are in tension or under load.
2. Always stand clear of the wire rope and the load during the winching operation to avoid the possibility of recoil should the cable/hook break.
3. Before attaching the remote control lead to the winch, inspect the cable to make sure the cable

has not been pinched, frayed, or damaged in any way. A shorted cable could cause the winch to start operating as soon as it is plugged in.

4. NEVER WINCH WITH LESS THAN 5 WRAPS OF CABLE STILL ON THE SPOOL. The last section of cable on the spool is painted RED. Ahead of the red section, a few feet of the cable is painted YELLOW. While extending the cable, you encounter the YELLOW section, you are at the operational end of the cable. **IF ANY PART OF THE RED PAINTED CABLE IS SHOWING, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO USE THE WINCH.** You will need to relocate the vehicle or establish a closer anchor point to allow for a shorter pulling distance.
5. Never go around an anchor point and place the hook onto the cable itself. Use an anchor strap around the anchor point and use the hook to attach to the anchor strap.
6. Never exceed the rated capacity for the winch. Using a snatch block will cut the winching load to almost half that of a straight load.
7. Use the switch intermittently to take up slack in the rigging. This will avoid shock loading the winch or the cable and causing failure.
8. Always pull in as straight as possible to avoid loading only one end of the spool.
9. Always handle the cable with gloved hands.
10. At the mid point of the winch cable, a coat or a blanket may be laid across the cable prior to the winching operation, to absorb some of the energy should a break in the line occur.

OPERATIONAL SCENARIO

When it is determined that the winch is to be used the cable should be feed out using the remote hand control. Do not place the spool in free spool.

Make the necessary attachments and when the operation is complete, rewind the cable carefully and return to station.

Upon your return to station, all of the cable should be let off of the winch spool by means of the remote winch control and use the following procedure to feed the cable back onto the spool and return winch to service.

INSTALLING, REPLACING, OR RETURNING CABLE TO WINCH SPOOLS

The cable is to be installed onto the winch spool under 500 pound load. To accomplish this the Utility Truck was used as the load while the cable was winched onto the spool of Engine 81.

The parking brake on the Utility Truck was engaged slowly until the droop of the cable between the utility truck and Engine 81 did not touch the ground. At this point the cable was winched onto the spool and was continually checked to make sure that all wraps of the cable were tight against the previous wrap and tight on the spool.

At Station 82, Engine 82 could be used as a stationary anchor point and the grassfighter pulled along by the cable being taken up on the spool. Again the parking brake should be slowly applied to a point where the droop of the cable does not touch the ground.