

TREE TRIMMING OPERATIONS, 16VAC25-73

16VAC25-73-60. H. Specialized units; I. Equipment-mounted winches.

H. Specialized units.

1. The items contained in subsection A of this section shall always be included in the review of this section.
2. Off-road and tracked vehicles shall be operated at the proper speed and in the proper gear relative to the operating environment and the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines.
3. Deadman controls on towing equipment for brush hogs and similar implements shall be used and maintained in good working condition. If the deadman control is malfunctioning or not operational, the equipment shall be removed from service and tagged until it has been repaired or discarded. When deadman controls were not provided by the manufacturer, the worker shall disengage the power source to the rotary or cutter head before dismounting.

I. Equipment-mounted winches.

1. The items contained in subsection A of this section shall always be included in the review of this section. Damaged equipment mounted winches shall be removed from service and tagged until repaired or discarded.
2. Operators shall wear the appropriate personal protective equipment during winch operations, including eye and head protection.
3. The winch cable/synthetic line shall be inspected daily for broken or worn strands, bird caging, major kinks, and other defects. Damaged cables shall be removed from service and tagged until repaired or discarded.
4. Cable hooks and attachment points shall be inspected for damage. Damaged hooks or attachment assemblies shall be removed from service and tagged until repaired or discarded.
5. All mounting bolts and hardware shall be inspected for loose or missing components. The winch shall not be used until complete repairs are made to damaged or missing bolts and hardware.

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16VAC25-73-60. H. Specialized units; I. Equipment-mounted winches, CONTINUED.

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6. Operators shall be aware of the dangers of load or cable breakage and ensure that all personnel remain clear of the recoil area in the event of load or cable breakage.
7. All winch operators shall be properly trained and be aware of the inherent dangers associated with winch operations.
8. Operators shall be aware of the winch cable at all times during extension and ensure that it does not become a hazard to personnel or machinery.
9. Winch systems and cables shall be used only as intended and instructed by the manufacturer.
10. The winch shall never be used with personnel, including the operator, within the span of the winch cable and the winch.
11. Pinch point hazards develop during winching operations; therefore, all operators involved in the winching operation shall constantly be aware of such hazards and stand clear of these areas.
12. All loads shall be pulled in such a manner as to avoid angles that may result in tipping, cause the vehicle to become unstable, or result in unintended movement of the vehicle.
13. Pulling loads from the side requires special equipment and techniques. Therefore, loads shall be pulled in line with the winch unless the winch is properly equipped with a fair lead and the operator is trained to pull loads at an angle.
14. The operator shall ensure that the vehicle supporting the winch is secured to avoid unintended movement.
15. The operator shall ensure that all rigging points comply with 16VAC25-73-90 D.
16. To ensure precise communication, an effective means of communication shall be established and used with all workers involved in the winching operations (see 16VAC25-73-90 D 14).