



# SAFETY ALERT

**HAND HAZARD WITH ATV WINCHES**  
**CATEGORY: OTHER (ONSHORE)**  
**CONTACT LEDCOR HSE FOR MORE DETAILS**

## **Summary of Events:**

An employee was attempting to pull out an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) winch cable when the winch hook became stuck between the winch rollers. The employee placed their finger inside the winch hook in attempt to loosen the winch cable. During the extraction attempt, the winch retracted resulting in the employee's index finger getting caught between the hook and the two rollers.

## **Major Contributing Factors**

- Safety straps attached to the winch hooks were lost and were not replaced
- Inadequate design/size of equipment –Replacement hooks were too small which allowed them to be retracted between the rollers
- Inadequate attempt to assess risks –Workers involved acknowledged that this was unplanned work, but did not stop to consider hazards and appropriate controls
- Finger in line of fire –Worker placed right index finger in the hook which was connected to an energized source (the winch)
- Lack of experience –Worker has not had sufficient experience in troubleshooting winch equipment to perform it correctly
- Lack of situational awareness –Worker did not understand hazards presented by the energized source creating a pinch point
- Improper attempt to save effort –Workers accepted that safety straps kept falling off and did not replace them once lost
- Inadequate development of standards –No current standard created by either company to account for minimum required safety devices on winches.

## **Immediate Preventative Measures**

- All winches should have a stopper behind the hook to prevent the hook from being able to being pulled back into the winch.
- A safety strap should be attached to the hook when pulling the rope from the winch.

