Winch Cable Disciplines

Please remember, if we are about to change ends and we have cables out, the first action is to contact the launch point and agree a plan to retrieve the cables back to the winch. This includes ensuring the cables are clear of any people or obstructions.

Once you have had confirmation that the cables are clear, they can be wound in at a reasonable speed. Please remember that if the parachute inflates during this process, it can be influenced by the wind and maybe blown against a fence, a tractor, or worst case scenario, a person ...

Following a cable break

As always, the first action is to drop the power, disengage the gear and brake the drum immediately. Then allow the cable and parachute assembly to fall to the ground. No attempt must be made to wind the cable in ...

This applies to all cable breaks, actual or simulated.

If the aircraft is recovering to the field to land, the last thing the pilot needs to see are objects moving on the field.

Before attempting to recover the cable, (after the aircraft has landed), we need to ensure that it is safe and sensible to do so..

If there is ANY possibility that any part of the cable or parachute could come close to the aircraft and crew, retrieving the cable must not be attempted until they have been collected by a retrieve vehicle and moved to a safe area on the field away from the run of the cable.

Please remember: **"If there is any doubt, there is no doubt".**

If you are unsure of the location of the cable or parachute, all of the above still applies, but in addition, you must contact the launch point and get them to send someone with a radio to investigate the position of the cable and they must confirm by radio that it is safe to commence the retrieve ...

Simple, obvious, common sense, I hear you cry! … But we have had recent examples where we have failed to adhere to these procedures. Please remember, we need to work as a team to ensure that, as much as possible, we keep each other safe ...

Graham Rendell - Winchmaster