



Winch Launch Emergencies

Real and planned.

Real situations.

In most emergencies the **CABLE BREAK IMMEDIATE ACTIONS** are

Power – Off **Drive** - Neutral **Brake** – Hard on

The vital reaction to all these situations is as follows:

Immediately the glider detaches pull the drive lever to neutral, at the same time releasing the throttle lever and applying the brake hard (blue lever) allowing the cable to drop to the ground.

Be aware the glider may land ahead or turn. Do not attempt to retrieve the cable.

If the winch involuntarily starts to lose power without any mechanical distress open the throttle further to try and maintain the climb as high as possible.

If power still fades keep a close eye on the glider to spot the point at which it releases, then immediately pull the drive lever to neutral and apply the brake.

If the power fails with obvious mechanical trauma stop the launch and winch immediately to avoid any further damage.

If the glider signals 'too fast'(rapid yawing) reduce the throttle slightly and continue the launch.

If the signal is repeated reduce the throttle again. The glider may choose to abandon the launch in which case treat it as a cable break.

If the cable becomes hung up on the glider immediately operate the guillotine to cut the cable.

Launch Training Simulations:

Note: These are normally initiated by a brief from the launch point.

1. Ultra-low-level cable break.

A normal start to the launch but you are asked to cut the power after 4.5 secs (3 secs to open the throttle then 1.5 sec power).

Immediately **Power** – Off **Drive** - Neutral **Brake** – Hard on,

2. Low level cable break.

A normal launch until the glider reaches about 150 – 300ft at which point either the instructor pulls the release, or the winch power is chopped as described above by prior arrangement.

Immediately **Power** – Off **Drive** - Neutral **Brake** – Hard on,

3. Mid height cable break.

A normal launch until the glider reaches the requested height usually about 500ft at which point either the instructor pulls the release, or the winch power is chopped as described above by prior arrangement.

Immediately **Power** – Off **Drive** - Neutral **Brake** – Hard on,

Be aware the glider may land ahead or turn.

4. Gradual loss of winch power.

The instructor will request a gradual loss of power from an approximate height. Close the throttle completely over about 5 seconds; too slow and momentum in the drum will negate the effect.

Keep a close eye on the glider so that as soon **as** the cable is release pull the drive lever to neutral and apply the brake hard as above.

5. Too fast signal and abandon launch.

The instructor will request a 'too fast' winch launch. Carry out a normal launch and use the Winch Assist meter to achieve the correct climbing speed of the glider.

Richard Peake - Winchmaster