

## Fingers Trapped by Winch Line

### What Happened?

A two-person truck crew was loading a rig mat onto a Texas bed truck.

An initial loading attempt was unsuccessful due to misalignment between the position of the truck and the rig mat. This contributed to the rig mat contacting a deck pin on the truck bed during the lift. The rig mat was lowered so the winch line could be repositioned.

During the second load attempt, the driver engaged the winch while the other crew member was still handling the winch line/deck chains.

The crew member's fingers were trapped between the winch line and truck bed roller.

The injured crew member suffered serious injuries to their index and middle fingers.

### How Did it Happen?

The truck's initial position was not centred with the load.

During the second loading attempt, the driver saw another worker from the same company with similar coveralls walking away from the rear of the truck and mistakenly thought his assistant was clear of the load and winch line.

The winch was controlled from inside the truck cab with no clear line of sight to the rear of the vehicle.

The winch was engaged without any visual or verbal communication between the crew members.

### What Did They Learn?

Accurate vehicle positioning is important for safe and effective loading operations.

Review winch truck training orientation and identify safety critical tasks.

Confirm all employees are trained and competent to perform assigned duties.

Verify all personnel are in a safe zone before lifting or winching operations begin.

### Ask Yourself and Your Crew:

How could something like this happen here?

What other actions could have been taken?

How do crew members communicate during lifting and winching operations?

How do you confirm everyone is in a safe zone before lifting?

Where is the safe zone?



## Industry Resources



- [Are You in the Line of Fire?](#)
- [Energy Wheel](#)
- [Webinars on Demand: Line of Fire](#)
- [Workers' Guide to Hand Signals for Directing Vehicles](#)

[Submit your Safety Alert](#) and help industry by sharing lessons learned from an incident.

### SHARE AND COLLABORATE

Energy Safety Canada (ESC) works collaboratively with industry to share information aimed at helping companies of all sizes improve safe work performance.

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