

Toolbox Talk

Tirfors (Hand Winches)



Tirfors can be used for either lifting or pulling. To lift the tirfor can be either anchored to the ground or above the load. It can also lift via a pulley block. To pull, the tirfor can be used as a direct pull along the ground, pulling down trees or pulling up a post with the cable going up and over a pulley on a tripod.

Safety

These machines and their sundry items must always be operated by experienced personnel who have been trained in their use.

When using a tirfor always ensure:

- That all items being used are in good condition and are fit for purpose
- The correct PPE must be used, particularly when handling cables.
- You have a clear operating area and plenty of space.
- You should never overload the tirfor and always use the correct handle.
- You must avoid dropping the tirfor.
- Never step over the cable if it has a load on.
- If pulling down a tree only operate the tirfor as directed by the chainsaw operator.

Loose Kit

This is the term for all of the other items of kit need when setting up and operating a tirfor.

- Tirfor with correct handle
- Cable stowed in its tyre
- Snatch block
- Heavy chain—used to anchor tirfor or wrap around stump
- Short chain with hook
- Bow shackles
- Flat slings

General care and use:

- Only use the correct cable. Tirfor cables are of a different construction to other types of lifting cables
- Some tirfors have shear pins fitted. Always carry a spare.
- If any malfunctions arise the tirfor should be taken to a competent repair specialist.

Key Links:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/treework/safety-topics/winches.htm>

Care of Kit

- Clean and Oil the cable
- Re-coil the cable into the tyre/spider by reversing the method used to extract it and by starting with the plain end.
- Clean and Oil the tirfor—make sure the cable release lever is in the engaged position.
- Check all slings and hang them to dry if wet
- If a broken strand of wire is found these can be cut with a suitable pair of cutters.

Key Points:

- Never step over a cable if under load
- Always check your tirfor before using it for any malfunctions
- Always use the correct cable
- Always pack your loose kit
- Maintenance of your tirfor is really important.