

## **SECTION 7.0**

### **OPERATING OPTIONAL WINCHING SYSTEM**

### OPERATION - WINCHING

(SOURCE RULE'S OWNER MANUAL)

Your STO-AWAY Power crane is an effective tool for pulling your vehicle or another vehicle out of trouble, or winching a load closer to you so that you may then lift it.

If you are stuck:

1. First search for a suitable anchor point to which you can attach the winch cable. (A 6' anchor strap could be helpful, if the anchor point is of great distance away). Try to look for an anchor point directly in front of the winch and not at an angle.
2. Set up the crane for a normal crane operation, as described in the previous Section 3.1.
3. Attach the optional Sto-Away Power crane winching block to the receiver hitch.
4. String the cable throughout the winching block.
5. Power out the cable to the anchor point, and attach cable, maintaining tension on the cable at all times.
6. Start winching by turning the winch on momentarily, until you can feel movement of the vehicle. **CAUTION:** Do not leave the switch "on" if you feel no movement at all. Your winch is powerful but it must be used with reason and caution.
7. Once the vehicle breaks free, continue winching until you regain traction. Do not hold the winch at stall. Keep the winch "on" at an average load for more than 30 seconds at a time. Wait a few minutes before using again. Winch motors are designed for intermittent use and this will prevent overheating under maximum loads.
8. After unhooking the cable from the anchor point and removing the winching block. Keeping tension on the cable, power it back onto the winch drum.
9. Return crane to the stored position.

## LIFTING CABLE AND WINCH PERFORMANCE

(Source - Rule Manual)

### CABLES

When powering in or powering out without a load, the cable should be kept taunt in order to prevent cable snarling. To avoid personal injury, do not place fingers through cable hook, eye, or thimble while holding tension on the cable. Never use a worn or frayed cable. Cables deteriorate with use; when the cable shows any sign of wear, replace it immediately with an appropriately rated cable.

### CABLE LENGTH

Any winch has greater mechanical advantage when operating with fewer wraps of cable around the drum. In a typical example; i.e.; a Rule 42 series winch will pull/lift 4200 lb. on first layer, 3300 lb. on the second layer, 2800 lb. on third layer, and 2400 lb. on the fourth layer.

With this in mind, reducing the cable length to the minimum required for a particular application will increase the pulling/lifting power of the winch. If the **STO-AWAY** is equipped with a 50' cable, and the crane may only need 25', it is clear that approximately 25' of cable remains on the winch drum at all times. The winch, in this case, is operating on the third and fourth layers and therefore lacks the mechanical advantage it would enjoy were the overall cable length reduced by 25' or 20'.

To reduce the length of cable, first remove the cable from the winch drum by unwinding the cable completely and unscrew the set screw in the drum. After determining the desired cable length, wrap the cable with heavy tape (at the point to be cut) to prevent the wire strands from unwinding. Cut the cable with a metal cutting hacksaw after securing the cable in a bench vise or similar clamping device. Remove the tape, insert the end of the cable into the winch drum and tighten the cable clamp set screw.

