



Safety Alert

Winch Grooming

11 June 2014

Perisher operates four dedicated Winch Grooming Machines (Winch Cats). Winch Cats can operate on medium to steep terrain using a large winch and rope mounted on the back of the machine to attach to anchor points at various locations throughout the resort.

The winch and the rope assist the machine to climb uphill and therefore groom on medium to steep slopes. Winching operations generally take place at night and early morning but may, in special circumstances, be carried out during normal lift opening hours.

During winching operations the winch rope can be extended up to 1000 metres in length. At times, the Winch Cat operator will be unsighted and unable to see the full length of the rope.

During winching operations the winch rope will at times be under tension and taut, however please be aware that it will move and whip vertically and horizontally at great speed.

WARNING

BEING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A WINCH CAT OR THE WINCH ROPE DURING WINCHING OPERATIONS COULD CAUSE INJURY OR DEATH.

**WINCH CATS MAY OPERATE ON ANY RUN AT PERISHER
WINCH ROPES MAY CROSS OVERSNOW ROUTES**

ALL OVERSNOW VEHICLE AND SNOWMOBILE OPERATORS NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF WINCH CAT AND WINCHING OPERATIONS OCCURRING AND THE EXTREME DANGERS INVOLVED BEING IN AND AROUND THESE OPERATIONS.

Winch Cat operators will notify all Perisher two way radios when winching operations are in progress and will install signs and flashing orange lights at major oversnow route crossing points. All winch cats are fitted with flashing lights and a flashing orange light will be installed at the anchor point when the winch rope is connected.

Any oversnow vehicle or snowmobile operator who is authorised to cross a route where winching operations are taking place must never approach a Winch Cat or a winch rope when it is operating.

Wait at the crossing point until you make visual or radio contact with the Winch Cat operator and then only cross the route when the operator gives you clear indication that it is safe to proceed.

The Office of Environment and Heritage issues all oversnow vehicle permits and operator licenses to operate on designated oversnow routes and Perisher would like to take this opportunity to remind all oversnow vehicle/snowmobile operators that all other access to the ski area requires Perisher's prior authorisation.

Hayley Giles
Safety Officer