



# *Safety Advice 01-1999 (AUS)*

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## **CAPSTAN WINCHES**

While working with a truck mounted Capstan to raise equipment to the top of a transmission tower during insulator replacement work on a line, a line mechanic operator of the Capstan had his clothing caught and this drew his finger into the Capstan before it could be stopped.

The accident resulted in the top portion of the victims middle finger on his right hand being severed and he was hospitalised for 8 days.

The key investigation report recommendations were:

- (a) That a review be undertaken to ascertain the possibility of having all vehicles with truck mounted capstan hoists fitted with a safety guard, to prevent any part of any person becoming inadvertently entangled.
- (b) That an alternative driving mechanism for the operation of the capstan winch be investigated and subsequently fitted to all trucks fitted with mounted capstans, ie foot pedal of the deadman type.
- (c) That a review be undertaken to assess the benefits of a kill switch being mounted directly beside the capstan, which immediately shuts down all mechanisms when pushed.