

## WINCHING at GRL with COVID19

Please refer to **CGC Bio-Security Protocols** for general additional anti-COVID19 requirements for operations under COVID19 restrictions.

**NOTE: WDs are required to attend daily (& anti-COVID) briefing** before any other activity. This note expands the general protocols & gives specific advice for WDs.

Essentially, the club's advice to WDs boils down to working practices which conform to the current government guidelines/instructions – and this may change and enforce changes to the club's current interpretation..

This advice summarises into,

- minimising your contact with anything,
- sanitising anything that you touch that might have been touched by someone else
- maximising separation between people – minimum 2 metres – additional personal protection required when the minimum distance cannot be maintained.

Generally the winch activity can maintain the required separation so no face protection is mandated. Nothing should prevent anyone using face protection if they feel the need.

There will only ever be one person in the winch and/or towout vehicle. So currently there cannot be any WD or cable towout training.

No activity should compromise the normal gliding safety practices.

### Working Practices

The day starts with the anti-COVID daily briefing – see **CGC Bio-Security Protocols**

The WD activity is already semi-isolated. We just need to formalise and extend this together with some changes in the role to minimise the risk of receiving or passing on any infection.

In this current situation, members should regard protective equipment as an essential personal equipment for gliding. WDs should get, and carry with them on site, their own (disposable) comfortable gloves, hand wash (gel or water & soap) and a rubbish bag.

In normal operation, WDs will remain at least 2 metres from all other members – think “personal bubble”.

Preferably, WDs will wear (disposable) gloves from the moment they get out of their car until they are back in the car to return home. If you don't have your own (disposable) gloves, some can be found in the office, failing that from the Romney Hut or winch. Before putting the gloves on, sanitise your hands and let them dry.

Gloves isolate the WD from the world and vice-versa.

For winching work mechanics specification are advised; thinner food gloves are too flimsy; such blue disposable gloves are on workbench in Romney Hut.

Wipe down the gloves periodically to remove any externally-acquired contamination.

Any change in gloves will be put straight into their personal rubbish bag which they take with them through the shift.

WDs will wipe all equipment surfaces that they will touch before touching and again if anyone else touches the same surface(s). EVERYTHING the WD touches should be regarded as potentially contaminated – even with gloves on, wipe down before use. That includes areas such as the vehicle door structures which may be used to lean on. With the WD wearing gloves, wiping down the strops each time they return to the winch is unnecessary but if the WD does handle strops, then wipe down hands.

Do not touch your face unless you've just washed your hands – coloured gloves help.

If situations occur in which the 2 m. rule has to be broken, the WD and the others involved will all wear the appropriate face protection.

WD does DI of winch & MF135 before towing out the winch with the MF135 as usual. Inspect the cable assembly up to the hook for the strop & strops on the back of the Hilux. Post launch, the WD collects the cables, checks the strop weak links & load the cables, then towout & unload the cables at the launchpoint.

(At each end of the day, there will be one “dead” movement to re-position the vehicle for the WD with the previous driver on the back of the Hilux.)

The LM may prefer to designate a launchpoint person as the towout driver who will then check weak links, load, towout & unload cables; discuss this with the LM.

The WD, as cable towout driver, should not feel any urgency rush about on the airfield.

WDs do not need to complete the shadow Winch Launch Log.

Do everything with measured attention.

### **Lunch & Loo breaks at the winch.**

Requires glove removal (into the WD's rubbish bag) and re-gloving. May take opportunity to wash hands with gel or, if the WD has taken a bottle of washing water & soap to the winch, a water wash.

Need to assume that the water/gel/soap bottles may be, and treat as, contaminated.

### **Your Clothes**

Treat as possibly contaminated. If clothing is removed it should go into your rubbish bag. Later re-clothing should be with a new item using clean hands and re-gloving.

### **Abnormal Situations**

Too many and varied to prescribe for all, so apply the same thinking to avoid closeness and ensure clean surfaces before touching them.

In any failure situation at the winch where social distance is compromised, all people involved MUST wear some face protection – face masks are kept in the winch.

### **End-of-the-Day**

Agree sequencing to return equipment to Romney Hut with LM. With no bus “in line”, temporarily, the two Hilux may not be sandwiched between winch & bus.

Having put keys away – breathe sigh of relief.

CWD: John Shannon 17/06/2020