**Replacing wire on equipment**

***Training/instructions***

* Plan work, including positioning the wire
* Check the weather to decide whether it is appropriate to replace the wire at sea
* Check whether there is the danger of falling overboard
* When changing the wire on jacking legs, move the vessel into deep water where the legs can be lowered to provide a good working height
* Instruct in lifting technique and working positions
* Instruct in working at height
* Instruct in winch operations
* Make fast and secure the gear on which the wire to be replaced
* Ensure you have a good place to work considering any unintended tension on the wire
* Install barriers round the working area

***Accidents and injuries***

* Injury to feet and legs from stepping on kinked ropes/wires
* Risk of injury from hawsers that break/backlash
* Cuts and scratches due to frayed wires. These can lead to the risk of blood poisoning
* Burns to hands and jammed fingers when easing off hawsers
* Falling overboard

***Illness***

* Wear and tear due to heavy lifting, pushing and hauling

***Prevention***

* Plan work and assess whether there is a better way of doing it
* Ensure good communications and agree any signals between winch and crane operators and others
* Use lifting gear and equipment to move wires
* Check lifting gear and equipment
* Block access to the working area
* If there is the possibility of falling overboard, install safety protection seawards
* Ensure the wires are placed so as to give a good view of the item
* Use the right tools
* Shield against wire backlash
* Use suitable clothing and safety equipment
* Proper wire stowage

***Personal protection***

* Life jacket or immersion suit
* Safety line
* Helmet
* Safety shoes
* Gloves
* Glasses

***Aids***

* Use the correct tools
* Lifting gear
* Possibly a trolley

***More reading***

* Ergonomics
* Physical conditions
* Sector guidance - Moving about Aboard