

The Ski Club of South Africa (Matroosberg)

2015 : Use of the Ski Lifts : **Safety Rules** : 2015

The Matroosberg Ski Lifts are, indeed, wonderful pieces of equipment ... but ... they have the potential to injure (or even kill) somebody. Please do minimise this risk, by following the simple instructions below.

1. Make sure you know the position of, and how to operate, the **Emergency Stop buttons**. They are positioned on every pylon, and at the Ski Lift Motor.
2. It is every skiers responsibility to be aware of other skiers getting into trouble on the Ski Lift !!!
3. **If you see an incident ... hit the Emergency Stop button immediately ... do not hesitate !!!**
4. Make sure that the rope (affixed to your Ski Lift Attachment) is of **the correct length**. There are many ideas of what that should be ... **5.5 metres** is what we have found to be an ideal length (after many years of trouble-free lift use of the Matroosberg ski lifts).
 - a. **If your attachment rope is too short:** You'll put enormous pressure on the cable and wheels ... possibly even damaging them by pulling the cable off the wheels.
 - b. **If your attachment rope is too long** (and if the snow is too high up the pylon): You will run the risk of your rope twisting around the cable ... with obvious results !!
5. Make sure that the rope (affixed to your Ski Lift Attachment) is of **the correct length**. There are many ideas of what that should be ... **5.5 metres** is what we have found to be an ideal length (after many years of trouble-free lift use of the Matroosberg ski lifts).
 - a. **If your rope twists around the cable or your attachments becomes stuck in the wheels:**
 - i. Do not try and pull it or yank it ... just move to the nearest emergency stop and stop the lift.
 - ii. It is far better to stop the Ski Lift immediately ... rather than run the risk of damaging the cable or (worse still) pulling the pylons off the mountain !!!
6. Make sure your rope has no knots in it ... and that your attachment and belt is of the correct type.
7. Always keep the "nutcracker" out in front of you when going up the Lift. If it is released, and catches any clothing or inside a glove, you will be pulled up the mountain, with disastrous consequences.
8. If you see any damaged or worn parts of the Ski Lift... report this to the Duty Officer immediately.
9. Please take time to learn how to tension and de-tension the Lift. Also, how to start and restart motor.
10. **As with most things in the Ski Club, there are procedures to be followed before ... and at the end of ... each skiing session, i.e:**
11. Before skiing the Ski Lift cable must be tensioned.
12. After skiing (each day) the Ski Lift cable must be de-tensioned.
13. After skiing (each day) the motor must be run dry. This is to prevent sludge forming in the carburettor.
14. The Ski Lift motor battery must be taken down to the hut, and put on charge, at the end of each weekend. If this is not done the battery will be rendered useless and another R800 have to be spent (on a new battery) !!!
15. At the end of each weekend ... always check that the Ski Lift motor protective doors are securely shut... using whatever is available to secure these. The power of the wind in a storm has often ripped them open.

Make sure the unused fuel container is disconnected from the motor, tightly sealed and is put under cover, in the fuel dump, and that all the tools have been put back in the toolbox and returned to the security of the Ski Equipment Hut.

Always be cautious (the two most dangerous things on the mountain are carelessness and ego).