



SAFETY NEWS

December 2017



Climbing Equipment Inspection and Maintenance

When properly cared for, climbing equipment will allow the maximum in comfort and safety and last for many years. Most serious accidents have resulted from the improper inspection and care of climbing equipment.

The care, inspection, and proper use of safety equipment is the responsibility of the user; therefore:

- Take proper care of equipment at all times.

- Use equipment for its intended purpose.
- Inspect climbing equipment before and after each use.
- Properly dispose of equipment unsafe for use.
- Never make modifications to equipment.
- Select body belts, climbers and positioning devices rated for the appropriate weight of the individual.
- Leather parts should be properly maintained by regularly cleaning and reconditioning the leather to extend its life.

Climber Inspection

Climbers must be inspected, maintained, and replaced by the user at regular intervals. That interval should be dictated by the amount of use the product receives rather than a set time frame. Inspection is extremely important due to the rigorous use of leg irons and gaffs. Leg irons should be replaced, and gaffs should be maintained or replaced at the earliest signs of wear. Assuming that all inspection criteria is met, manufacturers recommend that all climbers be replaced when the original gaff and one replacement set of gaffs has been worn out from normal use.

Gaff Inspection

Climbers are designed and intended to be used for ascending, descending, and maintaining the working position on poles. The gaffs must be sharp, properly sized and shaped to get the best climbing performance from the climbers. Improperly shaped gaffs can cause cut outs, accidents, and injury. If a cut out or unusual “feel” occurs while climbing, inspect the climbers immediately. Obtain a gaff gauge to identify proper length, width, thickness, and tip profile of the gaff.

Personal Protective Fall Arrest Climbing Device

Prior to use, carefully inspect equipment for indications of wear and / or deterioration. The inspection should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- All straps are free from defects including kinks, knots, cuts, cracks, burns, abrasions, broken strands or stitching, excessive wear, chemical exposure, and ice / mud / snow buildup.
- Ensure component assemblies are clean and free of any debris.
- Ensure wear guard is in the correct location and not excessively worn.
- Inspect hardware for electrical burns, cracks, deformation, excessive corrosion, loose attachment points, improper latch movement or spring tension on the snap.
- Check the entire length of both straps, inspecting from snap to snap (attachment points).



Buckingham Buckgrab rope length adjusting device inspection notice.

**See attached inspection notice.*

Work Zone Crash

A local distribution crew pulled over to establish a work zone at the designated work site. Before employees had a chance to set up proper cones and barricades they were struck by a vehicle. The collision nearly missed an employee who was standing on the top step of his vehicle. The driver damaged the door and fender of the construction vehicle before fleeing the scene. All employees are safe and the driver has been identified.

This incident is a good reminder to be attentive both in the air and on the ground.



Missouri Valley News & Updates

As the workload and holiday season pile up, it can be tempting to let yourself fall behind with school work. While you may reassure yourself that you will spend two days cramming right before your test, this is not the most effective way to study. Last-minute cramming may allow you to pass a test, but you will not remember the material for long. Research studies have confirmed that study sessions spread evenly over a long period of time improves long-term retention.

It is the responsibility of each of us to make sure we are preparing ourselves to become the most competent journeyman lineman that we can be.