How to unreel, uncoil and store wire rope

THE RIGHT WAY TO UNREEL AND UNCOIL A WIRE ROPE

There is always a danger of kinking a wire rope if you improperly unreel or uncoil it. You should mount a reel on jacks or a turntable so that it will revolve as you pull the rope off. Apply sufficient tension by means of a board acting as a brake against the reel flange to keep slack from accumulating. With a coil, stand it on edge and roll it in a straight line away from the free end. You may also place a coil on a revolving stand and pull the rope as you would from a reel on a turntable.

THE THREE STAGES OF KINKING

1. The start: A rope should never be allowed to accumulate twist as shown here because it will loop and eventually form a kink. If this loop is removed before being pulled down tight, you can normally avoid the kink.

2. The kink: By now, the damage is done, and the rope must not be used.

3. The result: Even if the wires do not appear badly damaged, the rope is still damaged and must be replaced.

If a twist develops, remove the twist from the rope before a kink can form.

CORRECT WAYS TO UNREEL AND UNCOIL WIRE ROPE

HOW TO STORE WIRE ROPE PROPERLY

We recommend you store your wire rope under a roof or a weatherproof covering so that moisture cannot reach it. Similarly, you must avoid acid fumes or any other corrosive atmosphere – including ocean spray – in order to protect the rope from rust. If you’re storing a reel for a lengthy period, you may want to order your rope with a protective wrap. If not, at least coat the outer layers of rope with a good rope lubricant.

If you ever take a rope out of service and want to store it for future use, you should place it on a reel after you’ve thoroughly cleaned and relubricated it. Give the same storage considerations to your used rope as you would your new rope.

Be sure to keep your wire rope in storage away from steam or hot water pipes, heated air ducts or any other source of heat that can thin out lubricant and cause it to drain out of your rope.