

Toolbox talk - Rigging Safety Tips (Part 1)

Here are some safety tips for some of the common mechanical construction industry rigging applications.

- Never tie two or more slings together.
- Always connect two slings with an appropriate-sized shackle.
- Never attach a sling directly to a lifting lug. Always use a shackle.
- Likewise, never run a sling through a set of lifting lugs or eyebolts. Doing so creates too much tension on the lugs or eyebolts.
- Never choke below the threads on synthetic web slings.
- Take wire rope slings out of service immediately if they become defective. A wire rope is defective if there are five or more broken wires in one rope lay and/or three or more broken wires in one strand of one rope lay, (a rope lay is the length along the rope where one strand makes a complete revolution around the rope).
- Some companies have established a policy that wire rope is defective when a single wire breaks. Check with your supervisor about your company's policy before using wire rope slings.
- "Never saddle a dead horse." When using wire rope clips be sure to attach the wire rope clips with the inside curve of the U-bolt up against the very end (dead end) of the wire, and the inside of the U-bolt clip (saddle) up against the live end of the wire.