

# SKY CLIMBER®

*"Access Innovations Since 1955"*

## WIRE ROPE



**WARNING** *Wire rope is an expendable item. It begins to wear when it is put into use. Do not use kinked, bird-caged, excessively worn or damaged wire rope. Such use may result in injury or death to yourself or others.*

### *Wire Rope Handling and Storage*

- ❖ Always wear gloves to protect your hands when working with wire rope.
- ❖ Store wire rope in a coil or on a spool.
- ❖ Protect rope from physical abuse, inclement weather, and corrosive materials.
- ❖ Do not drop wire rope from any height.
- ❖ Uncoil wire rope carefully to avoid kinking or inducing a twist.
- ❖ Do not uncoil by tossing coil over the edge of a structure.
- ❖ Avoid dragging wire rope in dirt or around objects that could scrape, crush, bend or damage it.
- ❖ Galvanized wire rope specified by Sky Climber, LLC is lubricated at the factory and under normal conditions does not require further lubrication.

### *Wire Rope Rigging*

*Always use correct size and type of rope clamps. Wire rope will slip through oversize clamps. Undersize clamps will damage wire rope.*

- ❖ Use only 5/16 inch J-type wire rope clamps with a minimum of three clamps spaced from 2-4 inches apart.
- ❖ Do **NOT** use U-type clamps which can crush wires and reduce wire rope strength.
- ❖ Torque J-clamps to 30ft.-lb. at first loading. Check for tightness at the start of each work shift.  
**Clamps do loosen with use!**
- ❖ After all J-clamps are placed, test for 100% proof load. Retighten clamps to specifications.
- ❖ Use a 5/16 inch thimble and a 5/8 inch shackle.
- ❖ Use insulated thimbles when welding from platform.
- ❖ Wire rope must support 6:1 safety factor.
- ❖ A properly made 5/16 inch wire rope will have, depending on type of construction, a breaking strength ranging from 6,700 to 12,500lbs. (Sky Climber recommends the use of wire rope with strength greater than 10,500 pounds).
- ❖ Rig from the top of structure. Allow an extra 10 feet of wire rope to reeve hoist. Store extra rope on roof neatly coiled, tied, and protected from the weather.
- ❖ Wire rope must be rigged to remain vertical with suspension points directly above the hoist entrance guide or lead-in device.
- ❖ CAUTION: If the wire rope length is less than required to LAND the platform on a safe surface, after reeving the hoist, loop the bitter end of the wire rope and secure with a J-clamp. Failure to do so may result in personal injury or death. Remove J-clamp before de-reeving hoist.



### **Wire Rope Replacement**

- ❖ Wire rope is critical to safe and trouble-free operation.
- ❖ Replacement rope shall be to Sky Climber’s specifications. Use of wire rope obtained from sources other than those specified by Sky Climber could result in serious personal injury, property damage, and/or equipment breakdown.

### **Four Wire System**

Four Wire Systems can be used when it is necessary to protect workers where platforms, canopies or other obstructions are above them (vertical lifelines cannot be used). Contact your Sky Climber representative when Four Wire Systems are needed.

## **STEEL WIRE ROPE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Recommended Wire Rope**

Sky Climber has found the 5/16”, (8.0 mm) 5-strand wire rope to be the most effective for trouble-free operation. Please use only that rope which is recommended by the manufacturer.

### **Product**

5/16” (8.0 mm) 5 x 26 WS, PFC, G, XIP, RRL, performed, break strength of at least 10,500 lbs.

WS	Warrington Seal	PFC	Polypropylene Fiber Core
G	Galvanized	XIP	Extra Improved Plow
RRL	Regular Right Lay Steel		

Similar construction should be used for a 2,000 lb. rated hoist but breaking strength must exceed 12,000 lbs.

### **Compliance**

Use only the specified wire rope with the correct diameter and specification in a Sky Climber Hoist. If further information is needed, please contact Sky Climber at 740-203-3900 or 800-255-4629. All wire rope used must conform to Federal Specifications RR-W-410P Type 1, General Purpose, Class 2. The supplier should provide a Certification of Breaking Strength proving a minimum strength. The wire rope **MUST** have a breaking strength at least six (6) times the rated load of the hoist (6:1 Design Safety Factor). This rope is resistant to abrasion and crushing with medium fatigue resistance.

## ***Tipping and Braising***

Braze wire rope tip by applying braze to approximately 1/2 inch of tip (do not exceed 3/4 inch) and let it glow to all of the individual wires. It is very important to let the rope AIR COOL Grind the tip to a taper, but not a point. Tip should resemble a pencil with the lead broken off.



## ***How to Check for Proper Wrapping***

Cut 50 to 100 feet from your new spool of specified wire rope. Braze both ends and run it through a hoist 10 times (no load needed). Check if the strands are separating above or below the hoist. If they DO appear to be opening, then the strands are improperly wrapped and will result in hoist jamming. Return the spool to your supplier.

## ***Quality***

Wire rope must be of good quality and free of damage or defects (see Wire Rope Inspection in this manual). The wire rope must be inspected every day by a competent person.

## **WIRE ROPE INSPECTION**

### ***Field Inspection***

Inspection **must** be performed by a competent person.

### ***Inspection Frequency***

Inspect **ALL** wire ropes at the start of each work shift and after any occurrence that could affect a wire rope's integrity. The entire length of the wire rope should be inspected.

### ***Wire Rope Replacement (mandatory)***

Wire ropes **MUST** be replaced if ANY of the following conditions exist.

- ❖ Any physical damage which impairs the function and/or strength of the wire rope.
- ❖ Kinks that might impair the tracking and/or wrapping of the wire rope around the drum or sheave of the hoist.
- ❖ Six randomly distributed wires broken in one rope lay, or three broken wires in one strand in one rope lay.
  - Although, OSHA regulations allow some broken wires, Sky Climber recommends that wire rope be replaced if a single broken strand is found.
- ❖ Loss of more than one-third of the original diameter of the outside wires due to abrasion, corrosion, scrubbing, flattening, or peening.
- ❖ Heat damage caused by a torch, or any damage caused by contact with electrical wires.
- ❖ Damage caused by improper grounding when welding from a suspended platform.
- ❖ Evidence that the secondary brake has been activated during an over speed condition and has engaged the suspension rope.

**Examples of wire rope defects that require the wire rope to be replaced**

**Broken or damaged tips**



**Broken strands**



**Crushing**



**Kinking**



**“Milking”**



**Heat, Chemical or Electrical damage**



**Bird caging**

