Care and Maintenance

Wire Rope is lubricated during manufacturing so that the strands - as well as the individual wires in the strands - may move and adjust as the rope moves and bends. No wire rope can be lubricated sufficiently during manufacturing to last its entire life. That's why it's important to lubricate periodically through the life of the rope.

The surface of some ropes may be covered with dirt, rock dust or other material during their operation. This can prevent field-applied lubricants from properly penetrating into the rope, so it's a good practice to clean these ropes before you lubricate them.

The lubricant you apply should be light-bodied enough to penetrate to the rope's core. You can normally apply lubricant by using one of three methods:

- **Drip it on the rope**
- **Spray it on the rope**
- **Brush it onto the rope**

Your rope's service life will be directly proportional to the effectiveness of the method you use and the amount of lubricant that reaches the ropes working parts.

A proper lubricant must reduce friction, protect against corrosion and adhere to every wire. It should also be pliable and not crack or seperate when cold - yet not drip when warm. Never apply heavy grease to the rope because it can trap excessive grit which can damage the rope. Nor should you apply used "engine oil" because it contains materials that can damage the wire rope.

Wire Rope Sling Storage and Handling

Wire Rope slings should be kept in an area where exposure to water, extreme heat or corrosive fumes, liquids and sprays are non-existent.

Slings should also be kept out of the way where they may get ran over by vehicles or kinked.

Slings should never be left beneath loads or laying where they could be possibly damaged.

Wire Rope Sling Temperature

Wire rope should be protected from extreme temperatures. Steel core (IWRC) slings should never be used at 400° F or more and never below -40°F.

It is not always easy to spot when wire rope has been damaged by heat. The most visible signs are loss of lubrication, discoloration and fusing of the wires.

If there is even the slightest suspicion that a sling was exposed to heat then it should be removed from service immediately.