

Bungee Cord Safety

This common everyday tool is found in almost every home, shop, truck, and business.

People use them to tie down and secure all sorts of items due to its easiness to use.

The potential for strap failure resulting in serious personal injury is always present.

We all know we would never use equipment and tools for any task for which they were not intended and the **bungee cord** is no exception!

Bungee cords are often stretched well past its designed limit and are rarely thrown away unless it breaks or the ends become loose. But then again, we could always tie a knot in it to keep it for just one more job. Right? Wrong! Stretching a bungee cord beyond its design limit or tying knots in it to extend its use is simply not acceptable. Such practices subject the user (and the equipment where it is used) to injury or physical damage.

When a bungee cord breaks or becomes dislodged from its affixed point, it is usually under tension. This causes an uncontrolled release of energy, resulting in the launch of small projectiles (the metal hooks on the ends) through the air until contact is made with another object. Typical targets are the employee's face, eyes, arms, and head.

How accidents usually happen:

- A hook slips from your hand when being stretched
- A hook slips from the attachment point
- The attachment point fails
- The hook straightens out
- The cord breaks
- The hook detaches from the cord

Preventing Injuries

- Pay attention when stretching the bungee cord over a load
- Check the hook ends and see that they are securely fastened
- Never extend any type of cord beyond its length capacity
- Keep your face and other body parts out of the cord's rebound path
- Inspect the equipment frequently and if you have damaged ones dispose of them

We suggest wearing approved eye protection when attaching and releasing bungee cords of any size.

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