CABLE PULLING
ROPE SAFETY

Rope is a very critical link in the cable pulling system. Using the wrong type of rope, using rope with the wrong breaking strength, or using damaged rope can result in the rope breaking during a cable pull. When this happens, a great deal of energy is released. This release of energy can cause injuries and damage.

Greenlee recommends that the following steps should be observed in the selection and use of cable pulling rope.

1. Select a rope with an average breaking strength at least four times the rated capacity of your puller (rope safety factor). A safety factor of 4:1 or greater is REQUIRED for pulling inside of raceways and conduit when a minimum of rope length will be exposed. Higher safety factors are recommended if the pulling rope is exposed! These safety factors are for new rope in good condition without kinks or splices.

2. Use only low stretch double-braided polyester for high force cable pulling. High stretch ropes store energy much like a stretched rubber band. If, for any reason, there is a failure of the rope, pulling grip, conductors, or any other component in the pulling system, this “stored-up” energy will suddenly be unleashed. The whipping action of a rope can cause considerable damage, serious injury or death.

3. When pulling, avoid sharp corners, edges, wedging or dragging over rough ground. Dirt and grit picked up by the rope can work into the strands reducing its pulling capacity. If there is any question, discard a used rope.

4. Inspect rope thoroughly before using it to make a cable pull. Make sure there are no cuts or frays in the rope. Remember, the rope is only as strong as its weakest point. INSPECT THOROUGHLY BEFORE USING!

5. When designing the pull, keep rope confined in conduit wherever possible. Should the rope break, or any other part of the pulling system fail, releasing the stored energy in the rope, the confinement in the conduit will work against the whipping action of the rope by playing out much of this energy within the conduit.

6. Do not permit anyone to stand in a direct line with the pulling rope. If any part of the pulling system should break during a pull, the most dangerous area is directly in line with the pulling rope.

ALWAYS FOLLOW SAFE PRACTICES