

No. 98-01

Subject:

HR-1 Helicopter Rappel Harness

Distribution:

All DOI Agencies using the HR-1 Rappel Harness .

Discussion:

The U.S. Forest Service experienced two incidents recently where the gate on the Forge Craft model #3144 safety lock hook did not lock after attachment to the decent control "Sky Genie." Inspection of the two defective hooks revealed that the cap and plunger can be rotated to a position where the cap hangs up on the hook body. The spring pressure on the cap and plunger is not sufficient to pop the cap and plunger back in place leaving the gate unlocked.

Recommendation:

Inspect the safety lock hook on the HR-1 rappel harness prior to each use utilizing the following procedure:

1. Mark the cap on the plunger with a pencil.
2. Position the mark on the cap to the rivet that the gate pivots on.
3. Rotate the cap and plunger 360 degrees around the rivet, stop every 1/8th turn and depress the cap and plunger to the stop on the hook body, checking that the cap does not hang up on the hook body leaving the gate unlocked.
4. If the cap hangs up or sticks anywhere during the procedure, allowing the gate to remain unlocked, remove the harness from service.

HR-1 rappel harnesses with defective safety lock hooks can be repaired. Send defective harnesses to the following address:

Missoula Technology & Development Center (MTDC)

Attn: George Jackson

Building #1

Fort Missoula

Missoula, MT 59801

The possibility exists that the cap and plunger on the defective safety lock hooks were damaged during operational use. Please care for the harness like the piece of critical safety equipment that it is. If you have questions or comments contact George Jackson at MTDC, 406-329-3967.

Note: This information was provided by the USDA Forest Service as Safety Alert WO 94-03.

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