



## KEEP SAFE

A Monthly Publication for Texas Electric Cooperatives

September 2011

### Wire rope clips. “Never saddle a dead horse!”

“Never saddle a dead horse” simply means that when using your wire rope clips, the U-bolt is ALWAYS over the DEAD part of the cable and NEVER on the part of the cable that will see the load applied to it. In other words, NEVER have the U-bolt over the load side of the cable.

When working with wire rope, it is extremely important that guidelines are followed. There are two specific procedures to be followed when terminating a connection and applying U-clips. They are as follows:

#### Termination

Any time the wire rope needs to be attached to a hang point that would cause the cable to sharply bend, a device called a *thimble* must be used.



Thimbles simply guide the cable into a natural curve shape and offer a degree of protection to the cable in the loop. To secure the end of the rope, wire rope *U-clips* are used. These clips provide an effective means for terminating cables, but must be used properly to be fully effective. The above description shows correct and incorrect methods for applying these clips.

#### Applying U-clips

The correct sequence for applying U-clips to a piece of wire rope is described below:

1. Turn back the appropriate amount of cable from the end of the piece being worked on. This amount varies with the diameter of the wire rope, but is typically from 12 to 18 inches.
2. Apply the first clip nearest the very end of the cable. Always leave a couple of inches of extra cable beyond the clip. Be sure to apply the clip properly, the U-bolt goes around the *dead end* of the cable, (the U-bolt tends to squeeze or crush the strands of wire as it is tightened, this is why the U-bolt should never be placed around the “live” side of the wire rope) while the saddle goes around the *live end*. Tighten the nuts on the U-clip evenly, and to the torque recommended by the clip manufacturers.
3. If a thimble is being used, insert it into the loop, and then apply the second clip in the same fashion as the first, but only finger tighten the nuts.

(Wire rope clips continued from page 1)

4. Apply additional clips evenly between the first two clips. Two clips are usually sufficient for wire rope under ½ inch, **but three or more are often used for safety**. Wire rope of diameter ¾ inch or greater requires four or more clips. (Check manufacturer's specifications.)

## September - Get ready to stay or ready to go

*Being prepared is often the difference between survival and loss in a natural or human-made disaster. This September — National Preparedness Month — take one Saturday to develop a plan of action and collect the vital items you'll need.*

### Know what to do in an emergency:

- Pick safe places in your home where you can go in case of a tornado, an earthquake or other emergency.
- Put a list of emergency numbers next to each phone, and tell your children what each number is for.
- Give everyone a list of in- and out-of-town gathering places, along with phone numbers for in- and out-of-town contacts.
- If you need to evacuate your home, do not leave pets behind unless absolutely necessary. Plan ahead so you know places that will allow pets.

### Prepare for two types of emergency situations:

- **READY-TO-STAY** (stuck at home for days): In a plastic tub or special cabinet, store a kit that includes three gallons of water for each family member and canned food for at least three days.
- **READY-TO-GO** (requiring relations): In a strong backpack or duffel bag, prepare a supply that includes one gallon of water per family member per day, food that does not have to be refrigerated, a flashlight and extra batteries, and a first aid kit with needed medications.

For a complete list of items for both kits, visit [www.mysafehome.org](http://www.mysafehome.org).

### Finally, if you want back-up power in case of an electrical outage, you have two options:

- Permanently installed automatic standby generators — the safest way to provide backup power.
- Portable generators — effective, but can produce dangerous carbon monoxide. Only use a portable generator outdoors, and follow the safety rules in the owner's manual carefully.

— Home Safety Council  
For more home safety tips, visit [MySafeHome.org](http://MySafeHome.org)

5. Tighten all clips to the recommended torque. Apply the load and re-tighten the clips. This re-tightening is important, as wire rope tends to shrink in diameter as load is applied. If being used for safety purposes such as a lifeline, the clips should be checked every day prior to use to ensure the clips have not become loose.

### Install Clips Correctly

Right



Wrong



Wrong



Remember, "Never Saddle a Dead Horse"

## 2012 TEC Loss Control Scholarship Application

*Now Available on TEC's Website*

This scholarship is available to the sons and daughters of electric cooperative, municipal and contractor employees participating in TEC's Loss Control services.


Applicants must be a 2012 graduate of a Texas high school or receiving a GED equivalent the same academic year a scholarship is awarded.

Postmark deadline - January 13, 2012

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# Texas Electric Cooperatives

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## **2011 TEC LOSS CONTROL SCHOOLS (35 Schools)**

Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Merkel)	January 11-14
Metering (Gonzales)	January 18-21
2 Day Transformer (San Augustine)	January 26-27
Transformer (Livingston)	February 8-11
Metering (Lubbock)	February 15-18
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (San Augustine)	February 22-25
Advanced Pole Climbing (Gonzales)	February 22-25
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Tahoka)	March 1-4
Troubleshooting (Greenville)	March 8-11
Transformer (Gonzales)	March 29-April 1
Metering (Merkel)	April 5-8
Basic Pole Climbing (San Augustine)	April 5-8
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (McGregor)	April 12-15
Hotline 1-4 (Henderson)	April 25-29
Basic Pole Climbing (Gonzales)	April 26-29
Underground (Quitman)	May 2-6
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Gonzales)	May 10-13
Transformer (Tahoka)	May 17-20
Hotline 1-4 (Merkel)	May 23-27
Digger Operation and Safety School (Merkel)	May 23-27
Metering (McGregor)	June 7-10
Basic Pole Climbing (Tahoka)	June 7-10
Underground (Gonzales)	June 13-17
Metering (Livingston)	June 21-24
Troubleshooting (Livingston)	July 26-29
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Greenville)	August 16-19
Underground School (Levelland)	August 22-26
Hotline 1-4 (Gonzales)	August 29-Sept 2
Digger Operation and Safety School (Gonzales)	August 29-Sept 2
Underground (McGregor)	September 12-16
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Livingston)	September 20-23
Hotline 1-4 (Levelland)	September 26-30
Underground (Merkel)	October 3-7
Regulator Recloser Capacitors (Decatur)	October 11-14
Hotline 1-4 (Livingston)	October 24-28