

Theatrical hands (flymen), Swing Stage, Crane, Wire Rope Fabricators, and Sailboats are a few of the trades that have people with the job title "rigger". Although each trade has different skills associated with a rigger, they all work with rope and hardware to lift, secure, hold and move.

Theatrical riggers or flymen are famous for their ability to walk narrow banded steel decking in the dark. Securing and lifting loads such as scenery is one of their most common functions. From time to time they may have occasion to rig an actor for a flying stunt. The ability to tie various knots and the purpose of each is essential.

Riggers in the suspended scaffold or swing stage industry set up powered platforms to raise and lower personnel to some of the most difficult access areas of any structure. Many rig high-rise commercial buildings for trades like window cleaners and glaziers as a daily business. Knowing the formula for determining the correct amount of counterweights is crucial. Riggers in this field need understand the idea of balance. Yet as a matter of safety they strive to construct their support systems with a 4 to 1 imbalance in their favor. They make daily decisions about what is or is not a structural anchor. They must be able to choose the right mix of available equipment for any job that they are assigned.

Crane riggers are generally responsible for securing loads for lifting. They work hand in hand with crane operators to insure that whatever product is being lifted will not suddenly release and crash to the ground. They use slings with multiple legs and chokers throughout most of their day and they know the inspection procedure for each one. They know many different ways to hook up steel in preparation for flying. These riggers must be able to calculate and determine where the center of balance in odd shaped items lies to correctly rig it before the lift. In many wire rope fabrication shops, the term rigger is associated with the journeyman level of rope and sling fabrication. These riggers are well versed in Flemish eye construction, splicing and seizing. Terminations of various shapes, sizes and construction are their specialty. Mastering poured sockets and wedge sockets is necessary in order to be an accomplished rigger in a wire rope fabrication facility.

On a sailboat the term rigger usually applies to the person high up in the sails. Riggers here climb ladders (rungs on a post or nets) that can start off going up and change to a 30° angle and back during the same climb. Weather does not usually get them out of their assigned task - it is just part of the job. They are excellent at tying knots.

As you can see the term "rigger" may be different depending on the type of occupation. They all share a common responsibility: being able to evaluate the rope. The rope may be made from many different materials, manila, poly-dac, poly-pro, cotton or steel. Riggers must know how to inspect, handle and care for whatever rope they use.

## Did You Know?

- Power Climber maintains a stolen hoist list.

## Tips and Tricks

- Make contact with every customer of yours at least every six months if they have not contacted you. This should be done to make sure that they are scheduling routine service on their fleet of equipment.

For questions or comments, contact Customer Service at 1-800-560-CLIMB (2546) or [customerservice@safeworks.com](mailto:customerservice@safeworks.com).