



Incident where a cow's tail caught round a technician's knee as he stood up.



The photo illustrates a not unusual occurrence, which is usually without serious consequences. However this turned into a lost time incident, as it was necessary for the technician to be evacuated with a back strain.

A similar potentially dangerous practice applies to foot loops being dragged on the floor when a rope access technician gets off the ropes. Unless stowed away a fall could result if these loops or cow's tails catch on scaffolding or other obstruction when climbing stairs.

Trainers are advised to emphasise suitable stowage of cow's tails and foot loops when not in use to prevent this happening. There are a variety of ways to do this by tucking them into leg loops or shortening them. Level 3s and buddy checking of each other should encourage this safe practice.