



HOW TO AVOID DROPPING BACK-UP DEVICES

Recent occurrences have led to this advice being offered.

The back-up device is the only part of personal rope access equipment that needs to be removed from the harness or cow's tails during work.

With care dropping these devices is avoided by the following common methods:

Petzl Shunt: Before removing the shunt from the rope, remove the karabiner and carefully push the cam through the body to other side of the rope and replace the karabiner through the cam. [See photo 2]

In this position the base of the cam prevents the rope from being removed from the shunt, so the shunt cannot fall if the karabiner is reattached in this way. The shunt can only be removed from the rope by pulling down on the cam to fully open the rope channel.

After the shunt is reattached it grips the rope without being held, so the karabiner can be removed and replaced to load the cam normally.



Photo 1
Shunt loaded correctly

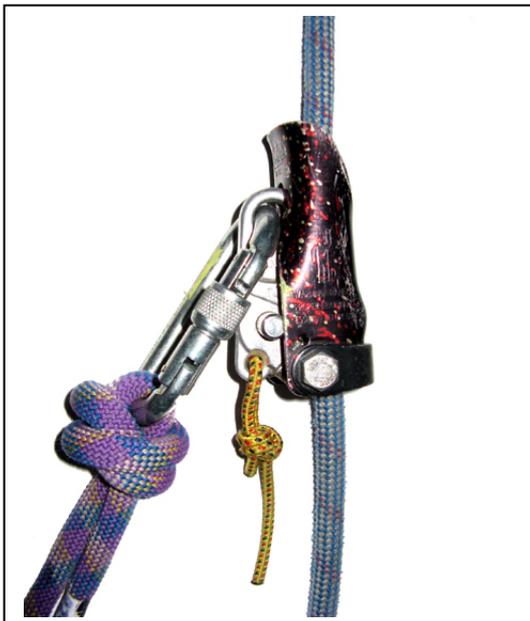


Photo 2
Shunt retained by karabiner to prevent dropping.

Warning: This is dangerous if accidentally loaded in this way.

If the user is distracted part way through the above sequence it is possible to overlook this incorrect loading, especially if using a thick rope.

Always confirm correct loading by a tug on the cow's tail / lanyard.

ASAP B71 (copied from Petzl website: www.petzl.com)

When the ASAP MUST be secured to avoid dropping it

For some work situations, it is obligatory to secure tools and equipment to prevent them from being dropped. It is possible to attach the ASAP to the OK TRIACT with a keeper cord.

Warning: using a keeper cord makes the device more difficult to handle and increases potential dangers and possible misuses.

Installing the keeper cord (fig. 1)

Tie one end of the keeper cord to the lower hole of the ASAP (identified as #7 in the *Nomenclature* section of the Instructions for Use). The knot of the keeper cord must be tied as close as possible to the device to keep the size of the loop to a minimum. Make a loop at the other end of the cord and connect it to the OK TRIACT karabiner. The loop must be tightened on the body of karabiner so that it stays in place close to the ASAP attachment holes. The cord must be short: once in place, it should be no longer than 11 cm. It's possible to use an elastic cord to make handling easier, as long as it's no longer than 11 cm when it's not stretched. When attaching the ASAP to the rope, run the keeper cord along the backside of the device (the side opposite the toothed wheel). Once the OK TRIACT karabiner is connected to the ASAP, the keeper cord must not be able to reach the toothed wheel.

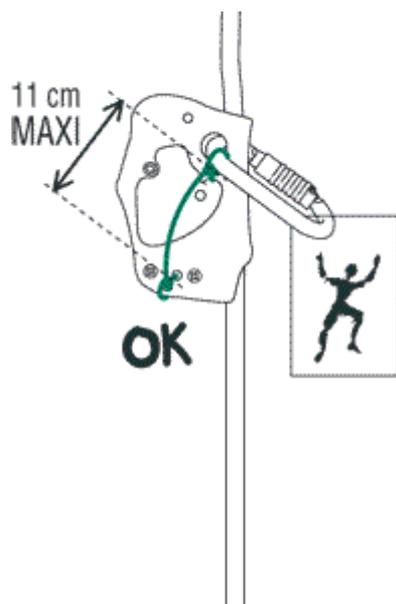


Fig. 1

Warning danger (fig. 2)

- If the keeper cord is longer than 11 cm when tied to the device.
- If the keeper cord is on the wheel side of the ASAP.

There's a risk that the keeper cord may get jammed in the toothed wheel, causing the ASAP to malfunction.

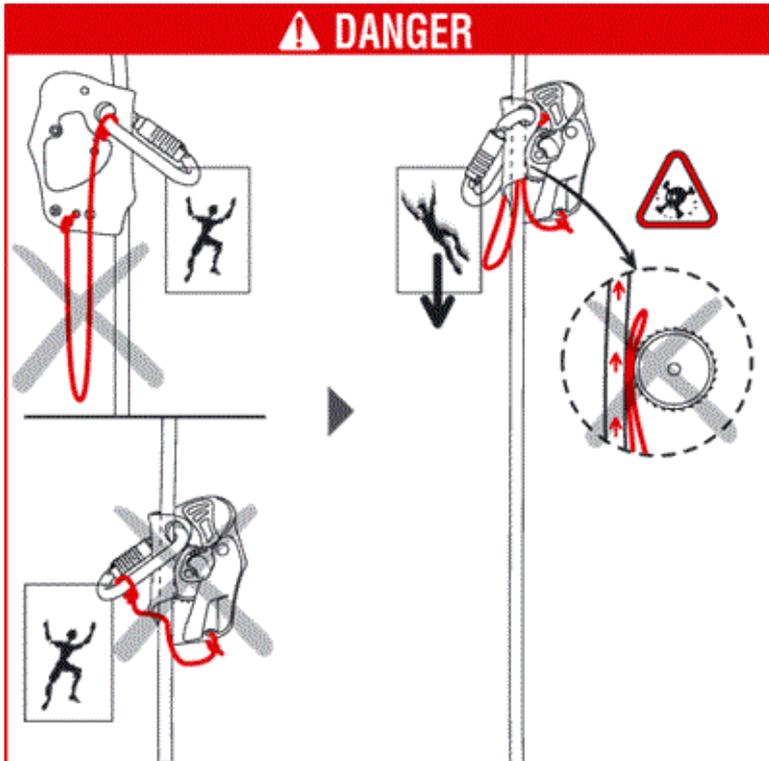


Fig. 2

WARNING: when using the ASAP, the OK TRIACT karabiner must be clipped through the 2 attachment holes and the rope must run inside the karabiner. IF NOT, DANGER OF DEATH (fig. 3).



Fig. 3

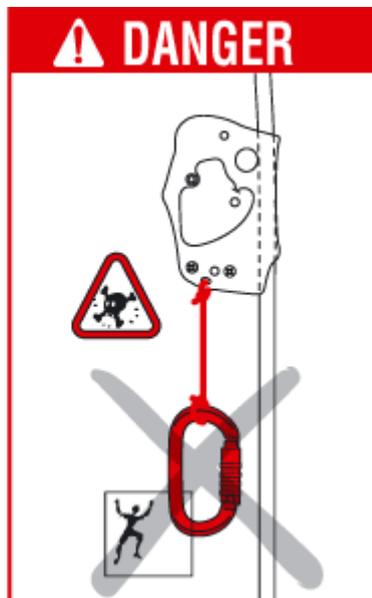


Photo 3

Photo 3: Shows an alternative where the lanyard karabiner is placed in a small loop of cord in the lower hole to prevent dropping the ASAP as it is removed. Warning: this is obviously dangerous if the ASAP is loaded by this karabiner from this loop.

Information is non-exhaustive - refer to the Instructions for Use and other ASAP EXPERIENCE documents.