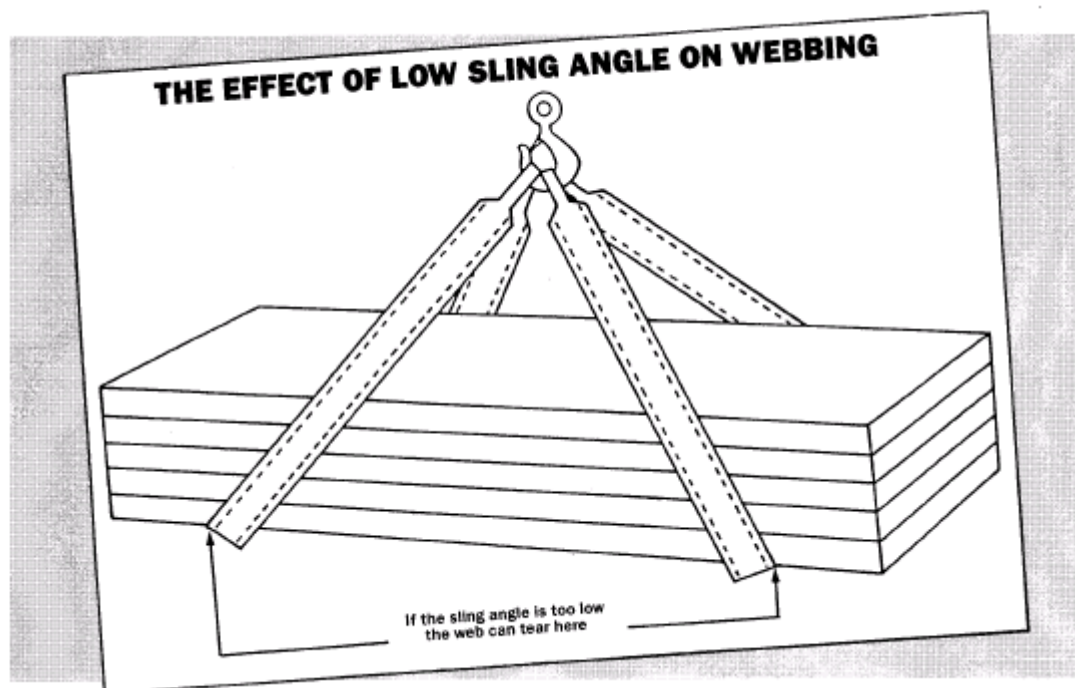


WEB SLING FAILURE NEAR FATALITY

As workers were hoisting precast hollow-core concrete slabs with synthetic web slings, one of the slings ripped and caused the slab to drop approximately 1.2 metres. The slab narrowly missed workers below. New slings were used for this job; the failure occurred on the seventh lift.

The failure was caused by a number of improper rigging procedures:

- 1) The low sling angle caused by not using a spreader bar
- 2) The failure to use softeners/sleeve wear pads to protect web slings from damage
- 3) The inadequate instruction of workers on the proper use of the web slings



Despite their inherent toughness, **synthetic web slings can be damaged** by repeated use around sharp corners and rough-surfaced loads.

When using synthetic web slings, **procedures must be developed** to ensure that rigging is done in a manner that will not affect the load capacity of the sling.

Inspect synthetic web slings regularly. Damage is usually easy to detect. Cuts, holes, tears, frays, broken stitching, worn/distorted eyes and fittings, and burns from corrosives or heat are immediately evident and signal the need for replacement. **DO NOT ATTEMPT REPAIRS YOURSELF!**