



SHARP START



October 12 — Respect the Tension

16ga red oxide coil strap was broken, which holds enormous amounts of tension.	Lifted the coil with the crane & properly disposed of the old band & put a new one & properly secured it.
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Don't Underestimate Stored Tension

A 16-gauge red oxide coil strap was found broken. While the strap itself may not look substantial, the observation points out an important detail: **the strap holds enormous amounts of tension.**

When a strap or band is under tension, a failure can release that stored energy suddenly. A broken or damaged strap should not be treated as something that can simply be handled or removed by hand without considering what could happen when the tension is released.

The crew controlled the situation by using the crane to lift the coil. The damaged band was properly disposed of, and a new band was installed and properly secured.

The important lesson is to recognize **stored energy that may not be obvious just by looking at the equipment.** When we see a damaged strap, cable, chain, or other component that has been holding a load or tension, we need to stop and think about what could happen when that control is removed or fails.

Before working around a tensioned component, understand what it is holding, how it could move, and how the energy will be controlled. **Don't put yourself in the path of something that could suddenly release.**

Hazards

- Stored tension in the coil strap
- Sudden release of stored energy
- Broken or failed strap
- Stuck-by hazard
- Unexpected movement of the coil
- Serious injury from released tension or shifting material

Words of Wisdom

Stored energy doesn't have to look dangerous to be dangerous. When a strap, chain, or other component is holding tension, respect what it is controlling and make sure the load is secured before you remove or replace it.

Pause and Think

- What energy is stored in the strap or band you're working around?
- What could happen if the strap fails or the remaining tension is released?
- Where would the strap or load move if something let go?
- Is the load properly supported before removing a damaged component?
- Are you positioned outside the potential line of fire?

Closing Thought

A small strap can control a tremendous amount of energy. Know what you're working around, control the load, and stay out of the path of anything that could suddenly let go.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something