

## Tying Basic Knots

We won't spend a lot of time dwelling on learning to tie knots just due to the many different applications of knots, and that this is not a knot tying manual. That said I wanted to include some basic knots. I would recommend learning to tie a bowline as it can be a common knot used in rescue situations. I've tied many bowline's on a military climbing ropes, clipped on a snap link, and snapped it into a "donut ring" in a helicopter, and out the door we went. I just can't say enough good things about a bowline. It is easy to learn and you can tie one in just a few seconds. I will say this: Use the correct type of rope for the application. If you're a boater there are other knots that are commonly used, so again use the correct knot for the correct application. Also insure that the rope's strength will support the load, and know the rope's limitations and stretch factors.



Overhand Knot



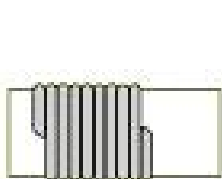
Figure-Eight Knot



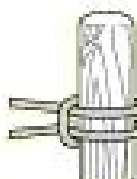
Granny Knot



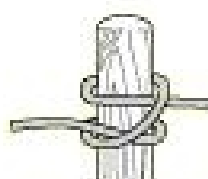
Square Knot



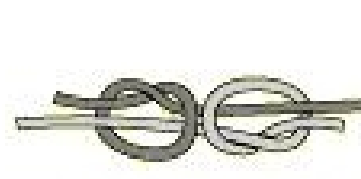
Common Whipping



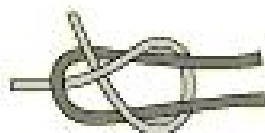
Cow Hitch



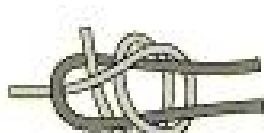
Clove Hitch



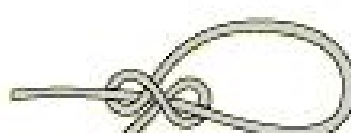
Fisherman's Knot



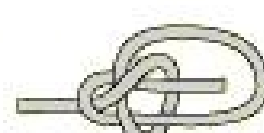
Sheet Bend



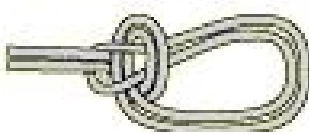
Double Sheet Bend



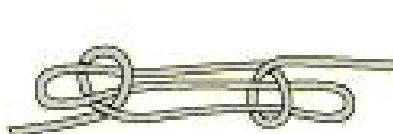
Running Bowline



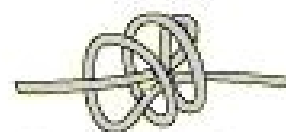
Bowline



Bowline on a Bight



Sheepshank



Heaving Line Knot

## Care of Ropes

Store your rope in a bag or case that will protect it from dirt, temperature extremes, UV rays, liquids, and chemicals. I like to store my ropes in a deployment bag for ease of access and use. Dirt acts as microscopic crystals that when pressure is added it cuts the ropes fibers. Never stand on a rope as this can damage the rope. Ropes should be secured at each end preventing unbraiding. Use approved methods when cutting ropes, i.e. use a good tape (depending on the rope type) and wrap the tape around the spot you wish to cut the rope before cutting. This prevents the rope from unraveling or un-braiding before you have the opportunity to seal the rope's end (this works well with cutting braided steel cable such as electric winch cables). Don't store your rope with crampons or ice axes. If you use your rope for rappelling, mark the middle so that during descent you know how much rope is left (common sense dictates that you have enough rope to rappel and more at the end to belay).