

How Flooding Affects Elevator Cables

FLOODED PITS, CABLE PERFORMANCE AND GETTING BACK TO NORMAL AFTER A STORM

Harsh weather and its aftermath can cause extensive water-related damage. Thousands of elevators (and pit components) can become flooded and therefore ruined. Some damage is obvious - some is not, but that doesn't mean it isn't there.

WET WIRE ROPE MUST BE REPLACED

When wire rope gets saturated with water, it is permanently damaged and must be replaced immediately. Wet ropes cause service problems and can conceivably cause personal injury to a passenger.

Even if a rope gets soaked just in one area, the core will wick the water to the rest of the rope and the rope integrity will degrade. The ropes will expand in diameter and get shorter, lifting both the governor and compensation sheaves. Wet ropes will impact the leveling of the car. Car motion and gravity just accelerate this process.

Soaked ropes damage sheaves - coke-bottled ropes have the same effect sliding over a drive sheave as a serrated knife going through stale bread. Trying to save the rope by after-the-fact lubrication will not repair it.

If flooding has effected your wire rope, insurance might pay for the ropes to be replaced, but most policies have a time limit for discovery and acting on flood-related damage. Act now - fast action will prevent expensive problems later.

SOAKED CABLES MUST BE REPLACED

Draka's Super-Flex® elevator traveling cable, Super-Duct® hoistway cable, and Whisper-Flex®/Super-Flex® compensating cables are rated for indoor use in standard elevator applications. The insulating and jacketing materials used in these cables are not intended to be submerged in water. In addition, contaminants present in flood waters can attack the cabling materials causing a degradation of material and overall cable performance.

In cases where cables have been submerged in flood waters, future failures should be anticipated. Therefore, these cables should be replaced immediately. Please note the limited life-time warranty on these cables is voided if the cables have been submerged or soaked.

It is in your (and your customer's) best interest to replace storm-damaged cables NOW, both for reasons of safety and insurance issues.

If there are further questions regarding this topic, please contact your Draka sales representative to further discuss the specifics of your installation.

DRAKA CAN HELP YOU FIND REPLACEMENT CABLE, ROPE AND ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS

Draka Elevator understands the needs of the elevator craftsman in this trying time. The cable, wire rope and electrical components needed to repair your customer's elevators may be in short supply.

To help you, Draka Elevator has in place a Rapid Response Team RRT). This group of elevator professionals is standing by to help you locate replacement components and get them in your hands as quickly as possible.

The Draka RRT is based at our cable manufacturing plant in North Carolina and is in contact with our distribution facilities in the US and Canada. A call to 1-877-DRAKA-EP (372-5237) gets things rolling. After 5 pm (EST), you may also call Mapin Chhoun at 469-271-4259 and Ray Miller at 323-594-6465.

The Draka factory can respond by ramping up manufacturing, putting extra shifts on line. The RRT is authorized to negotiate with our factory on your behalf to schedule production of longer lengths of traveling, hoistway and compensation cable. Our rope and component suppliers will be alerted and will stand by to deliver whatever is needed as soon as possible.

**GETTING CABLE AFTER A DISASTER
DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A CHALLENGE.**

CALL 877 DRAKA EP (877-372-5237).



The Draka Elevator Rapid Response Team (RRT) is standing by to help you get the cable, wire rope and accessories you need in the aftermath of a catastrophe.

The RRT will search our US and Canadian distribution network for the cable and components you need. They can request expedited manufacturing for larger orders of electrical and compensation cables. We can also order wire rope and components to meet expected demand.

After 5 PM (EST) you may call Mapin Chhoun at **469•271•4259** (cell) or Ray Miller at **323•594•6465** (cell) if you urgently require products, have questions or need answers.

Flooding is a problem. Getting replacement components shouldn't have to be one, too.



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