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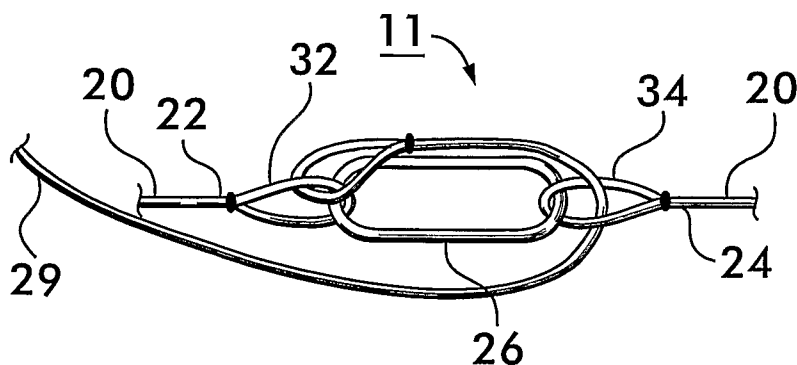
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(54) Title: SLING WITH PREDICTABLE PRE-FAILURE WARNING INDICATOR



(57) Abstract: A pre-failure warning indicator (11) is provided for use with a sling (10). The pre-failure warning indicator (11) triggers at a point that is predictable within a relatively narrow range, thereby increasing the possibility that a damaged sling (10) is removed from use. The pre-failure warning indicator (11) includes a dedicated strand of material (20) that is placed in close proximity to the load-bearing core yarns (17) of the sling (10) but remains separate and independent from the core yarns (17); the ends (22, 24) of the dedicated strand are connected via a sacrificial "ring" (26). A warning fiber (29) having an end that is visible to operators/riggers works in conjunction with the sacrificial strand (20) and the ring (26). The ring (26) is designed to fail when the sling (10) is subjected to a specifically chosen condition (e.g., excessive weight). The failure of the ring (26) causes the warning fiber (20) to withdraw from the rigger's view thereby warning the rigger that the sling (10) was subjected to the specifically chosen condition and may be damaged.

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