

# Figure Eight Family

The simple Figure 8 knot is of little practical use in rescue, as it does not join ropes together or create loops for attachment of carabiners. The practical variations of the Figure 8 knot all show two parallel ropes tied in a Figure 8 knot. The figure 8 does not need to be safetied, but a suitably long tail should be left (6 inches or more). There is nothing wrong with tying safeties on a figure 8 knot, but it is not necessary. Some teams use the figure 8 family as the basis for all knots in their rescue systems. There is a simplicity to this idea, but there are real advantages to other knots, and these advantages should not be overlooked.

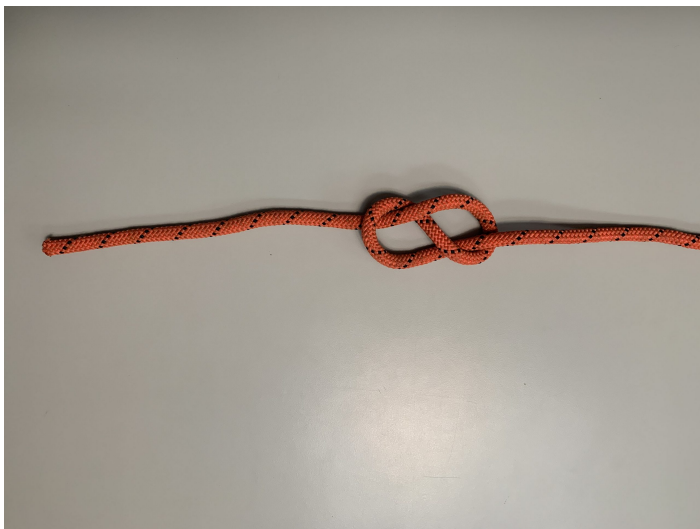


Figure 8 Knot

## **Special Considerations for the Figure 8 family of knots:**

There has been much discussion about the proper way to tie a figure 8. The most important thing about tying an effective Figure 8 is to be sure that the knot is very tightly set. A loosely tied/poorly set knot may allow loops to form as the knot comes under load. These loops can catch during the operation of a system or rappelling. Having the first bend in the load line closest to the bight will help set the knot when loaded. However, a tightly set Figure 8 knot with the ropes in any orientation will be stronger than the rope as the rope

passes over a carabiner or sharp rock edges.