Cable Pulling Hazards:

A common task on site is the installation of electrical cables in cable tray. This can be accomplished with the use of mechanical aids such as pulleys, snatch blocks and tuggers. While incidents related to pulling cable are rare, there are hazards associated with the activity that should be considered during the planning and risk assessment stages for the work.

Safety Considerations:

1. Have a communication plan for personnel involved with the cable pulling. Discuss the plan for the work with the employees so people understand the steps for the work and their role. Radios, hand or audible signals should be used for communicating instructions to the group.
2. Remember, pulleys/snatch blocks are lifting devices in this application. Ensure connection points and supports are rated for the loads that will be applied during the work. Have the components (i.e. pulleys) inspected annually to ensure they are fit for service and will be maintained during their life.
3. Pre-use inspections should be completed for the equipment.
4. Pulley locations should have adequate lighting to help position the equipment and monitor the alignment during the work.
5. Pulleys should be tethered in place in the event of them becoming dislodged while overhead. Remember, they can follow the path of the cable and may contact workers if not properly secured.

Hazard Analysis/JSA/JHA:

Using the above, discuss the work with the crew to understand the hazards associated with the work and how to mitigate them to prevent injury.