



SHARP START



August 14 — Every Lift Begins with an Inspection

While preparing for the shutdown on a boiler. Had an employee gather rigging and noticed he grabbed a steel choker that was fraying.

Red taped the choker and explained the importance of inspecting our rigging before every use

A successful lift starts long before anything leaves the ground...

...it starts with inspecting the equipment that will carry the load.

While preparing for a boiler shutdown, an employee gathered the rigging needed for the job and noticed that one of the steel chokers was frayed. Instead of assuming it would be "good enough," the employee recognized the damage and removed it from service before it could be used.

Rigging equipment is exposed to heavy loads, sharp edges, weather, and daily wear. Damage often develops gradually, making it easy to overlook if inspections become rushed or routine. A few broken wires or signs of wear may seem minor, but they can be early indicators that the sling has reached the end of its safe service life.

This observation is a great reminder that inspections are one of the most effective ways to prevent incidents before they happen. Taking a few extra moments to carefully examine rigging before every lift protects employees, prevents equipment damage, and ensures every lift begins with confidence that the equipment is capable of doing the job safely.

Hazards

- Failure of damaged rigging
- Dropped loads
- Struck by hazards
- Pinch and crush injuries
- Equipment damage
- Using worn or defective lifting equipment

Words of Wisdom

The safest lift isn't the one that goes as planned it's the one that started with confidence that every piece of rigging was inspected and ready for the job.

Pause and Think

- When was the last time you found damaged rigging during a pre-use inspection?
- Would you recognize the warning signs that a sling or choker should be removed from service?
- Are inspections ever rushed because the crew is eager to get the job started?
- If you found damaged rigging, would you feel comfortable removing it from service immediately?
- How do our inspections help protect everyone involved in a lift—not just the person operating the equipment?

Closing Thought

Every safe lift begins with a simple decision: take the time to inspect before you lift. The few minutes spent checking your rigging today may prevent the incident that never happens tomorrow.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something