



September 7 — Rigging to the Right Point

Client's mechanic had a chain fall rigged to an 8 inch PVC pipe. Pointed that out it was dark he flash his light and said yeah, he thought that the pipe was stainless steel!!

He went and got a beam clamp and hung the chain fall on a beam to do the lift! And he installed some lights as well!!!

A client mechanic was preparing to make a lift using a chain fall that had been rigged to an 8-inch PVC pipe. The area was also dark, making it difficult to properly identify the material and determine whether it was suitable for supporting the load.

The hazard was pointed out to the mechanic, who initially believed the pipe was stainless steel. Instead of continuing with an uncertain attachment point, he obtained a beam clamp and connected the chain fall to a beam that was appropriate for the lift. Additional lighting was also installed so the work area could be properly seen.

When rigging equipment, never assume that a pipe, beam, structure, or attachment point is capable of supporting a load. If you cannot clearly identify what you are connecting to or verify that it is suitable, stop and find a safer solution.

Good lighting is also an important part of a safe lift. Being able to clearly see the rigging, attachment points, load, and surrounding area helps employees identify hazards before the lift begins.

Hazards

- Rigging to an unsuitable attachment point
- Structural failure during a lift
- Dropped or shifting loads
- Poor visibility during rigging
- Incorrect identifying piping or structural members
- Serious injury from a failed lift

Words of Wisdom

Never guess what can hold the load—know before you lift.

Pause and Think

- Do you know exactly what you are rigging to?
- Have you verified that the attachment point is suitable for the load?
- Can you clearly see your rigging and attachment points?
- What should you do if you are unsure what a pipe or structural member is?
- Are you willing to stop the job rather than make an assumption?

Closing Thought

A safe lift starts before the load leaves the ground. Know your attachment point, make sure you can see it, and never guess when it comes to what will hold the load.