



October 20 — Rig It Right Before You Lift

Another contractor was wanting our crew to fly a piece of conduit for them using a half hitch. They did not have it properly choked

The rigging was removed and a qualified rigger came and choked the strap properly then work resumed.

Learning: The Rigging Has to Match the Lift

Rigging is one of the most important parts of any lift because the rigging is what connects the load to the lifting equipment. In this observation, another contractor wanted our crew to fly a piece of conduit using a half hitch, but the strap had not been properly choked around the conduit.

The crew did not simply continue with the lift. The rigging was removed, and a qualified rigger was brought in to properly choke the strap. Once the rigging was corrected, the work resumed.

This is an important reminder that **getting the load connected to the lifting equipment is not the same as having the load properly rigged.** The way the sling or strap is positioned and secured needs to provide control of the load throughout the lift.

A good lift starts with looking at the load and asking how it needs to be rigged before anything comes off the ground. If the rigging doesn't look right, or there is uncertainty about how the load should be secured, stop and get the right person involved.

This observation also reinforces the importance of respecting the role of a qualified rigger. Rather than trying to make a questionable setup work, the crew brought in someone qualified to correct the rigging. **The lift was able to continue because the problem was addressed before the load was lifted.**

Taking the time to rig the load correctly is part of the lift not something to figure out after the load is already in the air.

Hazards

- Improperly choked rigging
- Load movement during lifting
- Rigging slipping or losing control of the conduit
- Dropped or uncontrolled load
- Struck by exposure around a lifted load

Words of Wisdom

A lift is only as controlled as the connection between the load and the lifting equipment. If the rigging isn't right, stop and get it right before the load leaves the ground.

Pause and Think

- Is the load properly rigged for the way we are going to lift it?
- Is the strap or sling positioned and secured correctly?
- Could the rigging slip or allow the load to move?
- Do I have the knowledge and qualification needed to make this rigging decision?
- If something doesn't look right, am I willing to stop the lift and get help?

Closing Thought

Don't make the lift and hope the rigging holds. Take the time to rig it correctly before the load ever leaves the ground.

See Something • Say Something • Do Something