Crane, Lifting & Rigging

BEST PRACTICES

NEVER GAMBLE WITH YOUR SAFETY!

DO NOT BE A RISK TAKER
HAVE A SAFETY PLAN

Good crane operation and rigging requires having a plan. Below are some "best practices" for safe Lifting and Rigging

- Operators must be determined by their company to be competent, and in some cases certified, to perform the lift.
- The sling angle must be taken into account (60°, 45°, 30°). Always check your rigging chart.
- Rigging hardware that will be used must be inspected and free of deformation, cracks, excessive nicks, etc.
- Center of Gravity (COG) must be determined and accounted for. Always do a test lift.
- Slings that will be used must be inspected and free of tears, cuts, nicks, abrasion, etc.
- Know your proximity to the load. Where are you standing when the load is suspended? **Never** stand under a load or in close proximity.
- Choose the right hardware and slings for the application based on the rating and working load limit (WLL).
- Sling protection must be used on all types of slings. Use pads, guards and sleeves to protect against cutting and abrasion.
- The total load weight needs to be known prior to the lift. Make sure to include below-the-hook devices (lifting beams, spreader bars, etc.).
- Environmental conditions (extreme temperatures, wind, moisture, etc.) must be taken into account before lifting the load.
- A rigger must decide the best hitch for the task at hand. The goal is to have proper support and connection to the load.
- Every item used to make a lift must have all the correct identification (manufacturer's name, working load limit, serial number, etc.)
- The load must be structurally sound and free of obstructions in order to be lifted.

Should you have questions or concerns about the Lifting or Rigging please contact EH&S (412) 624-9505 or safety@pitt.edu

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Registration