

Yesterday we successfully and safely lifted an 85,000 pound section (the load) of a Defueling Structure and placed it on the ground. Today we started to lift the same section approximately 12 inches in the air to relocate it 20 feet closer to our shearer, to allow the shearer clear access to demolish the section. Just after the load had been lifted up off of the concrete pad, and while we were performing an inspection to verify that all conditions were acceptable before continuing on with the lift, one of the rigging shackles ripped through the rigging hole that we had torch cut on a vertical structural steel member. The 85,000 pound load wobbled as the remaining 3 slings adjusted to the abrupt load transfer, and then steadied out. We immediately lowered the load back down to the concrete pad and terminated the lift. **NO ONE WAS HURT.**

The initial investigation has identified that the location chosen to torch cut the rigging holes in the structural steel did not provide sufficient structural strength (metal) to withstand the stresses of the 85,000 pound load. The Ironworker rigging supervisor that we hired for the project, with 30+ years Ironworker experience, admitted that he selected the rigging hole location based on the shackles that he had, and the size limitations that these imposed, rather than on locations mandated by validated engineering data to ensure sufficient structural strength to safely lift the load. The craft foreman had questioned the rigging supervisor regarding the strength of the structural steel to safely lift the load, and was told by the rigging supervisor that it was acceptable, and that he had verified the structural steel's load capacity with the crane operator and crane oiler (he had not, and it was not the crane operator's and oiler's responsibility contractually to evaluate / approve rigging criteria). Please note that the rigging supervisor deliberately chose not to relay this safety concern to myself or the Project Manager.

Further questioning of the rigging supervisor by me identified that he realized and admitted that he failed us all, but that he did not have the courage, integrity, or professional responsibility to raise his inadequate and unacceptable performance to XXXX standards that have been clearly stated orally every day, every pre-lift brief, and documented in our project-specific work plans. This was a deliberate act of commission on the Ironworker rigging supervisor's part to withhold information from management that would have provided management the opportunity to resolve and correct these issues to ensure a continued safe working environment for our employees. Please note that this was also a deliberate act of commission on the Ironworker rigging supervisor's part to not adequately locate the rigging holes consistent with the load, but with the rigging shackles that he had. The Ironworker rigging supervisor never communicated that different rigging equipment was required.

When we came home tonight I told the rigging supervisor that my opinion was that he should immediately vacate the house that we are sharing, and he agreed (he will be gone by tomorrow). The Project Manager has imposed a stop work order on all rigging activities, initiated a First Notification, is currently evaluating the rigging supervisor's continued project status, and has obtained independent engineering services to design and specify our four remaining lifts while the investigation continues.

This event has identified areas for improvement in our lifting and rigging procedure that I believe can be readily incorporated to provide Projects validated engineering data to determine adequate structural strength requirements when rigging holes are torch cut in metal for demolition, providing the Project Safety Professional and Project Manager clear guidance on lifting loads.

Please recognize that I am understandably incensed right now, as trust in an individual that I considered a friend from a prior successful XXXXX project was misguided, however I firmly believe that the words "skill of the craft" need to be forever banished from our lexicon. XXXX performs too much demolition work to not ensure that the means to independently verify rigging criteria are clearly available to the

Safety Professional and the Project Manager. The consequences of depending solely on one individual to perform his job, without our clear understanding of the engineering criteria that he should have learned in his apprenticeship and through on-the-job training to safely perform demolition work activities, are too high.

We could have killed people, we could have seriously injured people, and we could have destroyed a good working relationship with a client that has been very supportive of our efforts to date. All three negative outcomes are unacceptable to me personally, professionally, and are in complete contradiction with everything that XXXXX has worked so hard to achieve. One rogue person, acting independently, applying (or in this case not applying) his specialized training and knowledge, could single-handedly have destroyed the efforts that literally thousands of XXXX employees successfully strive for every day to achieve.

As President Ronald W. Reagan said, "Trust, but verify." I will work with {the PM} to ensure that the necessary validated engineering data is incorporated into our lifting and rigging procedure to never place anyone at risk again from similar circumstances. Go home and hug your loved ones, and be thankful that you have the opportunity to do so. I want to continue to ensure that I provide that same opportunity to our employees.