



human energy®

forklift safety

rigging below the tines

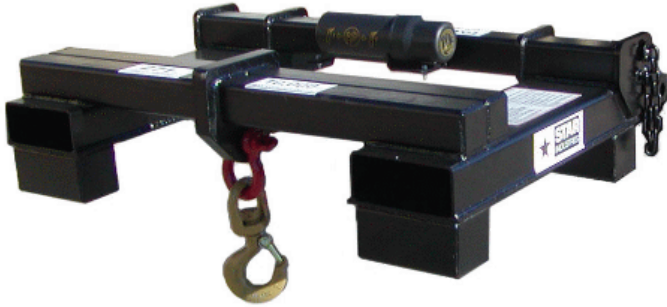


what happened?

Within the last two months, EMC has had two incidents involving improper rigging of chokers directly to the tines of a forklift.

- While loading a 55-gallon drum into the back of a transport trailer, the steel cable drum grabber slipped along the fork tine causing the drum to contact the front windshield of the forklift.
- Chokers were attached to lifting pad-eyes on a steel plate and laced on the tines of the forklift. As the plate was lifted and rotated, the steel cable slipped off of the forklift tine resulting in an injury to a workers foot.

Example: Forklift Lifting Apparatus



Imaged accessed at www.starindustries.com on 10/4/2017



what did we learn?

Free rigging is the direct attachment to or placement of rigging equipment (slings, shackles, rings, etc.) onto the tines of a powered industrial truck for a below-the-tines lift.

Directly rigging chokers/slides to the tines of a forklift is prohibited. This type of lift **does not use an approved lifting attachment** and can result in the load sliding towards the operator or cause the load to slide off and fall.

Always use the right equipment for the job and inspect prior to use - there is always time to do it right.

Are these safeguards in place and functioning at your site?



what are the safeguards?

Administrative

- For any lift below the tines of a forklift **always** use an approved forklift lifting apparatus.
- Verify forklifts are inspected and used within the manufacturers specifications on the instruction plates, tags, or decals.

Engineered

- Use a Forklift Lifting Apparatus that has been approved by either:
 - The forklift manufacturer, **or**
 - A Qualified Registered Professional Engineer that has performed a safety analysis and addressed any safety and/or structural issues prior to granting approval. Additionally, the forklift information plates must be changed accordingly.



additional resources

OSHA Standard Interpretations

1999 – 10/22/1999 - Forklifts: free rigging requires manufacturer approval

OSHA – Materials Handling and Storage

1910.178(a)(4) and 1910.178(o)(1)