

SAFE WORK PRACTICE SWP-48

Revised: October 2024 PIPE HANDLING

PURPOSE/APPLICATION

To protect workers from injuries associated with handling pipe on pipeline right-of-ways, plant sites, pipe yards and stockpiles.

PPE • Strike Minimum Requirements

TRAINING • New Worker Orientation

HAZARDS & CONCERNS • Falling Pipe

Falling Pipe
Personal Injury (Crush injuries)

Pinch Points
Traffic

Equipment Damage



PRECAUTIONS

THE DOs

- DO Maintain an orderly job site.
- **DO** Ensure the equipment (cables, slings, hooks, tag lines) is in good operating condition.
- **DO** Ensure that cables and slings are rated to the full capacity of the load.
- **DO** Use tag lines to control loads. For large, heavy, or complicated pipe configurations multiple taglines may be required.
- **DO** Make sure you are visible to the equipment operator at all times.
- **DO** Set up spotters or ribbons/signs to control traffic and limit congestion.
- **DO** Use a clear pre-determined communication system (e.g. radios, hand signals, etc.) when handing pipe.
- **DO** When manually handling pipe (small diameter only), pick up and lay down the pipe in unison.
- **DO** Ensure everyone in the areas stays clear of the load when handling pipe by mechanical means.
- **DO** Keep your feet and hands clear of the area when the pipe is being lowered or picked up.
- **DO** Keep the pipe racks in an orderly and safe condition and the space around pipe racks shall be kept clear of obstructions. Verify pipe racks are level.
- **DO** Use supports or strips between the layers of stacked pipe.
- **DO** Use pins or chalks to keep pipe from rolling in the rack.
- **DO** Perform all rigging of pipe in accordance with SWP-54 Rigging.
- **DO** Operate all equipment in accordance with SWP 44 Mechanical Mobile Equipment Operations.
- DO Set up pipe according to SWP-89 Using Jacks and Stands and/or SWP 81 Cribbing and Pipe Cones.
- **DO** Ensure that the pipe is secured before removing strapping or securement.

THE DON'Ts

DON'T Handle pipe in the dark or in poor lighting conditions.

DON'T Jump off pipe loads, trailers, racks, or stockpiles.



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DON'T Stand between pipe and equipment and/or the ditch/trench/bank of an excavation.

DON'T Walk under suspended loads.

DON'T Put fingers or hands into the ends of the pipe when moving it.

DON'T Park vehicles near the loading or unloading areas.

DON'T Walk on pipe racks that have not been secured.

DON'T Lift the pipe by inserting the forks inside of the pipe; this can damage the forks.

DON'T Load the last two inches of a stringing/sorting (pelican) hook, they are rated to be fully inserted in the pipe.

REFERENCES / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Strike SWP 54 – Rigging

Strike SWP 44 – Mechanical Mobile Equipment Operations

Strike SWP 81 - Cribbing and Pipe Cones

Strike SWP 89 – Using Jacks and Stands

REGULATIONS

Alberta OHS Code

Part 14: Lifting and Handling Loads

British Columbia OHS Regulation

Part 12: Tools, Machinery and Equipment

Saskatchewan OHS Regulation

PART 14: Rigging

Manitoba OHS Regulation

Part 7: Storage of Materials, Equipment, Machines, and Tools



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Demonstrating: Tag line use, spotter/communication with crane/clear line of sight with operator/rigging.

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