

Working Up High Where the Steel Comes Together

If you are connecting steel, you already know your job is one of the most exposed positions on the whole site. You are up high, you are reaching for a piece coming in on the crane, and for a few seconds you are depending on bolts that are not all the way in yet. So let us talk through how we keep that work as safe as it can be.

Start with the load before it ever leaves the ground. You should know the rigging is right, the piece is what you are expecting, and the path it is coming up is clear. If something looks off with how it is rigged or how it is flying, you have every right to stop and sort it out. A piece coming in crooked or spinning is a problem you fix on the ground, not in the air.

Keep your communication tight with the operator and the signal person. One signal person, clear hand signals or clear radio talk, no guessing. When you are guiding a piece in, the operator needs to know exactly what you need. Mixed signals up high get people hurt.

Mind your bolts. A piece is not yours to trust until it is connected the way the plan calls for. Do not unhook and do not climb out onto something that is not properly secured. The temporary connections are there for a reason, so use the number of bolts the job requires before you move on.

Watch your footing and your fall protection. Decking, beams, and connections are not flat sidewalks. Know what is solid under you and what is not. Use your fall protection per our site plan and keep yourself tied off where required. If you are working off a piece that is not fully secured, that is exactly when a slip turns into a fall.

Stay out from under the load and keep the area below aware. Pieces shift, tools drop, bolts get knocked loose. The people working below you are counting on you to control what is in your hands, and you are counting on them to stay clear of your swing radius.

Talk it through before the lift. The best connecting crews plan the sequence before the steel flies. Everybody knows what piece is coming, where it is going, who is doing what, and what the signal is to stop. Thirty seconds of talking beats a bad surprise at two hundred feet.

The bottom line is that connecting is skilled, deliberate work. We do not rush it, we do not freelance it, and we do not trust steel that is not secured yet.

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Sign-Off Sheet

Date: _____

Job Name: _____

Competent Person Name: _____

Competent Person Signature: _____

Topic: Working Up High with Steel

Attendees:	