

TOOLBOX SAFETY TRAINING

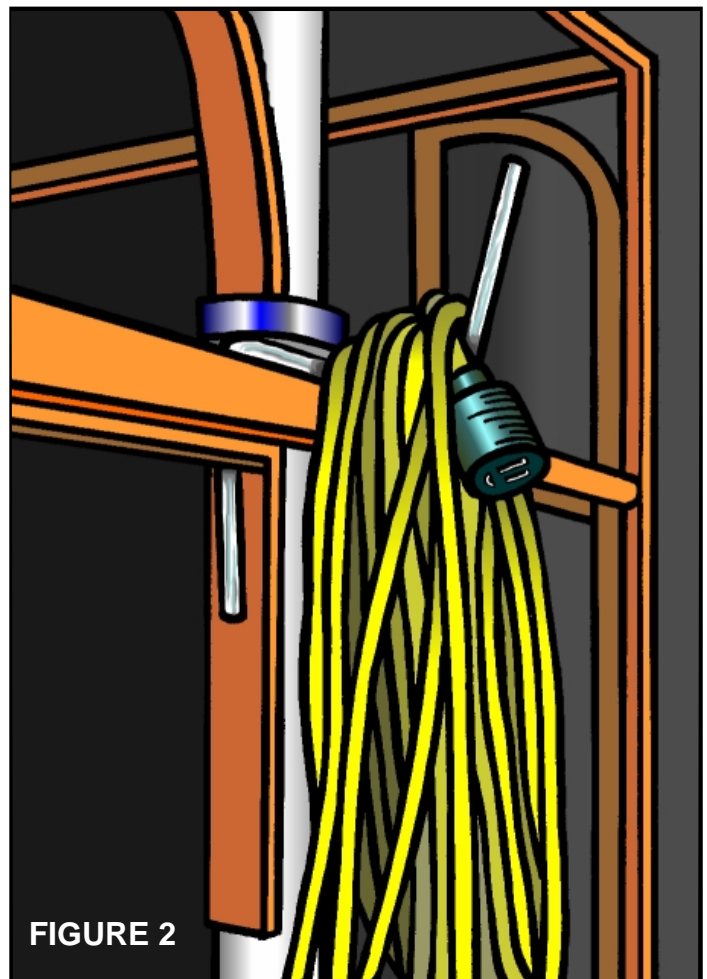
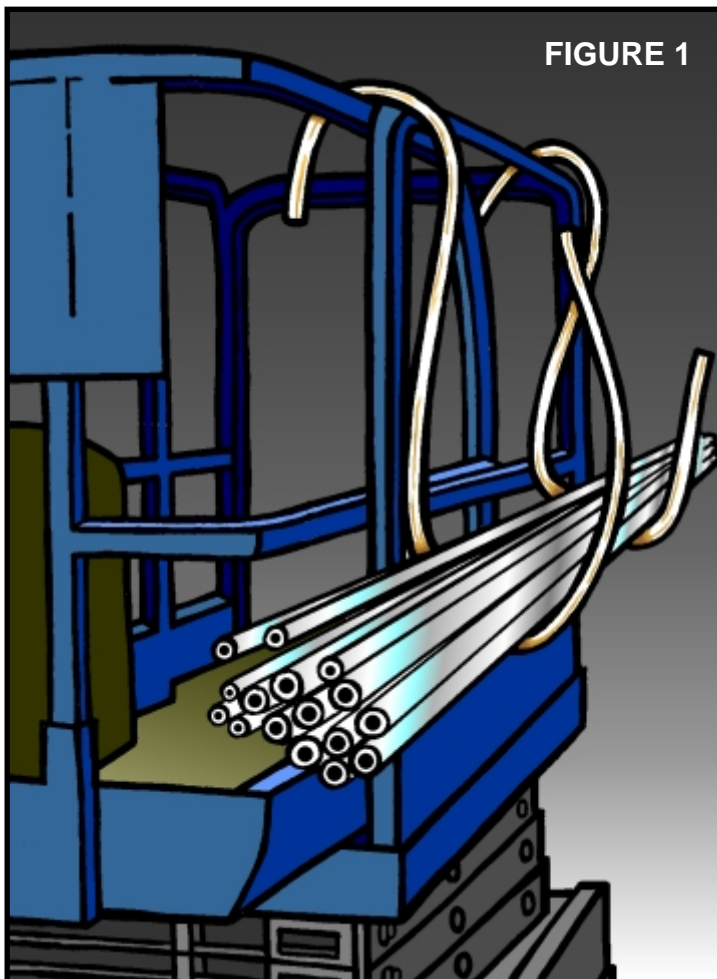
Company _____ Location _____ Date _____

Vol 17 - No 11 SCISSOR LIFT MODIFICATIONS

Scissor lifts are widely used in the construction trade. They enable employees to rise higher and with more material than a ladder; they also allow the use of both hands while providing a stable platform. Like all tools they must be used within the parameters set by the manufacturer.

Figure 1 shows the bending of a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch pipe in a hook/cradle fashion to facilitate the carrying of pipe; putting the pipe on the outside of the lift in this illegal fashion creates a great hazard to those below if the pipes were to slip out of their flimsy cradle. In addition all of that side weight compromises platform stability. Figure 2 shows the addition of an all-thread rod fashioned into a hook for an extension cord, and a piece of PVC pipe taped to the frame to serve as a cordless drill holster. Again the possibility of these modifications failing or breaking could cause great injury to those below.

Modifying lifts without the written consent of the manufacturer is prohibited and voids warranties as well as manufacturer responsibilities. Likewise, OSHA takes a harsh view on equipment modifications and has fined many contractors for this type of infraction.



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