

What Is Supporting Your Equipment?

You may recognize Picture 1 from the November 2012 and January 2013 issues of the Beacon. It shows an obvious example of badly supported piping. But, problems with inadequate support of piping and other equipment are not always so easy to see.

Picture 2: The steel supporting the pipes has bent, possibly because the weight of the pipes is more than the steel can support. Perhaps this was a result of a change. Was a second pipe added without considering the design of the supporting steel?

Picture 3: The pipe has moved horizontally and the pipe support stand has moved out of the support shoe.

Picture 4: Look closely. The steel supports are not touching the ground. They are hanging from the pipes rather than supporting them.

Picture 5: A section of the structural steel has been cut out to make room for a valve.

Pipes and equipment that are not properly supported will be subject to stress, vibration, or other problems. This can cause leaks, or even a complete collapse of piping or equipment.

As you work in your plant, look for problems with poorly supported equipment, excessive vibration, or other issues. A good general rule: If it doesn't look like it did on the day it was installed, there might be a problem. Report problems to your management, and follow up to make sure that the problems are corrected.



Support your pipes and equipment!

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