

SAFETY ISSUES WITH REGARD TO OVERHEAD SPOTTING

A few notes regarding safety issues related to Overhead Spotting Rigs installed / used at your pool.

To our knowledge, there has never been a catastrophic injury involving use of this type of equipment in organized U.S. Diving practices / competitions.

This assumes, of course, that proper equipment has been installed correctly and that the coach has received proper training in this type of activity. Installation of this equipment above a diving board over water is the very best situation because in the highly unlikely event of an equipment failure, the diver would simply drop into the water.

We have spent many long hours researching overhead spotting equipment -- talking with people involved in human rescue operations, rappelling, rock climbing, theatrical stage rigging, etc. to get the finest, strongest and most reliable parts available to make the system as safe as possible. All pieces of the system that we supply have been selected for their high tensile strength and working load ratings.

We suggest that you order a copy of the United States Diving Safety Training Manual, which has five pages dedicated to "Overhead Spotting Equipment". We also suggest that you contact Ms. Janet Gabriel -- the Safety and Education Director for U.S. Diving, Inc. and the author of The United States Diving Safety Training Manual. (usdedusafe@aol.com) She may even be able to provide detailed statistics about the use / injuries of this type of equipment. We also recommend that your coach / coaches attend and pass one of the "Overhead Spotting Clinics" offered periodically by United States Diving (www.usdiving.org)

As far as our business is concerned, the overhead spotting rig -- especially when used above a diving board over the water has become one of our most popular items and seems to be the "wave of the future" for diving. It greatly speeds up the learning curve by reducing the fear of trying new dives as well as increasing the safety of the athlete when attempting new dives. Many new pools being built are installing these devices and many existing pools are adding them. Numerous coaches across the country can vouch for the effectiveness of this device and the added safety it brings to a diving program when used by a qualified and properly trained instructor.

We hope this addresses some of your concerns. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions or concerns. Best Wishes for a SAFE and SUCCESSFUL Season!