Chain-Drop and Tripod Cheatsheet

The tripod and chaindrop are used to suspend the frige and to move heavy items in/out of the cryostat. It takes a minimum of two people to set up, and is much easier with three.

1. Pull back the spring-loaded pins on each of the legs. Extend the legs to full length, and allow the spring loaded pins to re-engage.

2. Place the red safety pins in the last (5th) hole.

3. Raise the tripod vertically, and pull the three legs apart with equal spacing. The closer the legs are, the higher the tripod can reach, but the less stable it will be.

4. Run the steel cable through the guide holes in the red base of each leg. Do not fasten yet.

5. Attach the chain drop to the center top of the tripod. Adjust each leg until the chaindrop is hanging vertically from the center of the tripod. This process can take quite some time, but is essential. If the chaindrop is not hanging vertically straight, the load will not be stable.

6. Fasten the clamp on the steel cable.

7. Pull out-ward on each of the three legs to ensure there is tension on the safety cable.

8. Attach the load and raise to the desired height.

9. The chain drop will become stuck if the load is raised too high. Generally, it is best to leave a few inches of chain visible above the hook. If it gets stuck, the load has to be taken off by hand.