

Safety Alert

Number: 16-23

Published: 10/10/2016

Subject: Crewman Fell on External Stairway

What Happened / Narrative

Crewman had just completed recovery of the vessels daughter craft (DC) and had informed the Officers in the bridge that the DC had been recovered and stowed safely on-board. He left the bridge and was making his way down the external stairway to the boat deck. During this time he fell down the stairs to the deck below. His left arm came into contact with the stairs. The injured party (IP) was transferred from the vessel via helicopter to hospital, where a fracture of his left forearm was confirmed.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

On investigation, it was determined that the stairs were in good condition they had been fitted with grips, these were in good condition. The IP was wearing all appropriate PPE, including his safety footwear, this was checked and the boots were found to be in good condition. The weather at the time was cloudy, wind force 3 knots, sea height 1-2mtrs, although the IP stated the vessel rolled just prior to his fall.

The IP stated he was using the trailing hand technique whilst transiting the stairs, although he had a radio in his other hand. No radio sling/holster onboard. Given the circumstances of the event as described, whilst it is not always possible to avoid carrying items when transiting stairways, in this circumstance it should have been possible and may have avoided the incident.

The incident occurred after the original work task had been completed (DC recovery). This was identified as a trend in the vessel owners fleet.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

Review the provision of radio holsters on each vessel in the fleet

Discussion topics below for your next Safety meeting:

- Could this type of event occur on your vessel?
- What barriers do you have in place to prevent such an incident?
- Are you sure they are robust enough?
- Consider the trend that a number of people are injured pre and post task as opposed to when actually carrying out the work. Why do you think this is and what can you do to prevent this happening on your vessel?
- Have you considered pre and post task activities as part of your toolbox talk?

Photographs / Supporting Information



The information contained within this Safety Alert and the associated MSF web site is provided in good faith for the benefit of our members and does not necessarily constitute MSF guidance, nor represent the official view of the MSF or its members. The text as provided by submitting organisations may be amended to ensure that it is brief, informative and readable but will as far as reasonably practicable remain as per the intent of the original submission. For the avoidance of doubt no legal liability shall be attached to any guidance, recommendation, advice and/or statement contained therein. Contents should be reviewed individually by recipients who will determine relevance to their own operations.