

IMCA Safety Flash 14/13

September 2013

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learnt from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat (imca@imca-int.com) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at www.imca-int.com/links. Additional links should be submitted to webmaster@imca-int.com

Marine Safety Forum Safety Flashes

The Marine Safety Forum (MSF) www.marinesafetyforum.org/ regularly publishes safety flashes, many, but not all, of which may be of interest to IMCA members. IMCA keeps a watching brief on MSF safety flashes, and if it is considered that there are lessons to be learnt, or that there is clear value to IMCA members in passing the information on directly, then the MSF flash will be recirculated without comment as part of the IMCA Safety Flash system. Here are a selection of recent safety flashes from the MSF which may be of interest to members.

1 Gangway Detached from Vessel

The Marine Safety Forum has published the following safety flash regarding an incident in which the gangway platform got detached from the vessel, causing the platform and the gangway to drop approximately 0.5-1m until it was left hanging by the securing ropes and the safety net.

The safety flash can be downloaded from www.marinesafetyforum.org/upload-files//safetyalerts/msf-safety-flash-13.23.pdf

2 High Potential Near Miss during Cargo Operations

The Marine Safety Forum has published the following safety flash regarding an incident in which two crewmen narrowly escaped severe crush injuries whilst engaged in cargo back-loading operations alongside a platform. Owing to inadequate communications, a load was lifted and began to swing without warning to crew working on deck.

The safety flash can be downloaded from www.marinesafetyforum.org/upload-files//safetyalerts/msf-safety-flash-13.24.pdf

3 Bulk Hose Entanglement with Azi-pod Propulsion Unit

The Marine Safety Forum has published the following safety flash regarding an incident in which a hose became entangled with an Azi-pod propulsion unit. The incident occurred during preparations to deliver water to a platform. It was decided to use the aft manifold connection on the starboard quarter for the water transfer, and two AB's were standing by ready to connect the hose. After being lowered by the crane, the hose was observed to sink in the water close to the stern cut-away, under which the Azi-pod units are mounted.

The safety flash can be downloaded from www.marinesafetyforum.org/upload-files//safetyalerts/msf-safety-flash-13.26.pdf

4 Injuries on Mud Mixers

The Marine Safety Forum has published the following safety flash regarding two hand injury incidents, in which crew members were injured on sharp blades on mud mixing equipment on platform supply vessels.

The first incident occurred during tank cleaning of a mud tank when a crewman lost his footing, and, on putting his hand out to steady himself, sliced his finger through his gloves on the mud mixer blade.

In the second incident, a crewman removed the protective cover fitted on the mud mixer in order to clean it. During this process he managed to rotate the blade into his own leg, causing a cut which required 6 stitches.

The safety flash can be downloaded from www.marinesafetyforum.org/upload-files//safetyalerts/msf-safety-flash-13.27.pdf

5 Fast Rescue Craft Unplanned Descent

The Marine Safety Forum has published the following safety flash regarding an unplanned lowering of a fast rescue craft (FRC). The incident occurred after a fast rescue craft was retrieved to a height of 23 metres above sea level following operational duties. When “hoist up” control input was given via the davit controls the FRC started an unplanned but gradual descent to the sea. With controls returned to the neutral position the descent continued. Activation of the emergency stop also did not stop the descent.

It was concluded that both hoist brakes had functionally failed and that the only brake arresting the descent was the mechanical centrifugal/inertia brake. Four persons were aboard the FRC but no injuries were sustained.

The safety flash can be downloaded from www.marinesafetyforum.org/upload-files//safetyalerts/msf-safety-flash-13.29.pdf