

Marine Safety Flash

A17-07 (21st August 2017)



Shoulder Injury Slipping on Stairs

Incident Overview

A crewmember, when descending a set of stairs while carrying a two-litre oil drum in their right hand, slipped and missing his footing. In an attempt to restrain himself with his left hand, his left shoulder has pivoted and strained his shoulder.

In this the crewmember (IP) suffered immediate and intense pain, and reported immediately to the OOW.



Stairs where the incident occurred



Anti-slip plates fitted to another set of stairs.

Key Findings

While investigation of root cause remains underway, the following learnings may be applied:

- Ensure work boots are in good condition, with sufficient grip on the sole and that they are laced to the top;
- Always retain three points of contact when ascending / descending a set of stairs;
- Keep a good line of sight on where you are walking – eyes on the task;
- Ensure there are no slip or trip hazards;
- Is there an alternative method for transporting goods between decks? – E.g. crane, hoist, obtaining assistance;
- Consider using non-slip plates and marking with high visibility tape and an anti-slip coating.