

# Safety Flash A12-13



**Issued: 15<sup>th</sup> September 2012**  
**Subject: Shower resulting in eye injury**

## Incident

A crew member on an OSV had been carrying out routine 'chipping' and grinding of ships steel work in preparation for painting. Correct PPE was worn at all times and the operation was uneventful. Post operation, the crew member showered and washed their hair. It was reported that during this process the crew member felt a foreign particle enter their eye. Later that evening the crew member noticed an irritation in his eye with increasing discomfort.

Medical treatment was required to remove the particle which subsequently resulted in the crew member being medical evacuated from an installation.

## Root Cause

- A paint/rust particle had been caught in the IP's hair, which subsequently entered their eye upon washing
- Risk assessment did not identify this as a risk as it is post operation

## Lessons Learnt

- Risk assessment reviewed to capture post task cleaning/precautions
- Additional PPE to be implemented such as a bandana or cap which will keep particles out of hair. Example as per figure 1 below.
- Even though a task is completed and stowed away / secured, there still could be underlying hazards which need to be properly identified and managed

## Illustration



**Figure 1: Example of head gear**