

Safety Flash A12-16



Issued: 15th December 2012
Subject: Laceration to hand from wire strapping

Preamble

A recent minor laceration to a crew members hand occurred on an Anchor Handling Tug and Supply (AHTS) vessel while engaged in anchor handling operations.

Incident

Pre-task planning / checks were carried out including a meeting on board the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) prior to a rig move. Extended work scope included replacing all Permanent Chaser Pennants (PCP) with new systems. The management of this was factored into the offshore meeting and on board planning/risk assessment. The new PCP's were coiled and held together by steel strapping bands. The agreed plan was for the MODU to remove the lashings, and to pass down to deck uncoiled. This was carried out for the first number of evolutions; however a coil was passed down mid-operation with the steel banding still in place. The deck team identified this change in plan and 'stepped back' to assess the additional risk. The main risk identified was the 'springing' of the wire when the lashings were removed, and controls put in place to reduce the likelihood of an incident. The deck crew were wearing the correct glove for anchor handling operations. The steel strapping was cut and as one section was being pulled out from beneath the coil, the Injured Patient (IP) hand pulled along the strapping, resulting in a minor laceration to the inside middle finger of the right hand (seen on the glove Photo #1). The IP was transferred to the MODU where the medic applied 2 dissolvable sutures. The IP was placed on light duties for the remainder of the operation.



Photo #1 – Glove in use showing cut inside middle finger

Root Cause

- The cause of the laceration was by the steel strapping cutting through the glove. The glove was later identified as the wrong type for this task. The glove in photo #2 was a more appropriate choice.
- The hazard of laceration was not identified in the risk assessment and hence not controlled adequately.
- The agreed plan was not followed. The job should have stopped and the PCP passed back to the installation to remove the lashings as per the plan.



Photo #2 – Correct glove for handling steel strapping

Corrective Action/Lessons Learnt

- Pre-task planning should remain throughout the cycle of the operation, unless a change in the planned operation requires a new plan to be adopted. In this case, the change of plan should be communicated to all key stakeholders to ensure adequate time to manage the change.
- Stop the operation if there is a change of plan. Revert to existing plan if there is no justification for the change.
- Review and amend Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) for this task to incorporate laceration hazard, and introduce robust controls to manage this.
- PPE management through the life of an operation. Identify what gloves are required at each step and change accordingly.