

# Marine Safety Flash

## A14-01 (15<sup>th</sup> February)

### Slipped on Gangway



#### Incident Overview

Descending the gangway from tug to jetty, the IP lost footing, slipped off the end of the gangway onto a rubber hose and rolled his ankle. It caused several bone fractures, tendon damage and severe pain.

#### Key Findings

- Tide was spring high resulting in very steep gangway (Note: image taken at lower tide condition)
- Gangway had inadequate non-slip surface for the purpose and no slip-limiting cross treads / bars
- Temporary sullage hose had been left rigged due to another vessel requiring frequent bilge suction, but this had not been risk assessed and the hose was left in walkway areas instead of safer position such as up against or hanging on nearby railing.
- Industrial footwear being worn was non-slip but did not have a heavy duty tread pattern
- IP was carrying a bag in one hand, so only had one hand to arrest fall
- During investigation it was identified previous incidents of both slipping on the gangway and tripping on the temporary hose had occurred but not been reported and hence not investigated



#### Recommendations

- Hose was removed and stowed in its permanent stowage position between jobs.
- Gangway decking mesh was fitted with slip limiting cross bars
- Lessons learnt are being transferred to future design of gangways for new vessels coming to the port.
- Basic seamanship and precautions –
  - Ensure both hands are free when climbing steep gangways by passing bags and equipment between vessel and the shore by crane or heaving line rather than hand-carrying.
  - Use mental “Take-5” whenever conditions change or new conditions appear
  - Ensure PPE, particularly footwear are fit for purpose and protect the ankles
- Proactive Reporting – This incident could have been avoided had previous observations, similar near misses and minor incidents been reported, investigated and preventive actions taken as a team.