

Marine Safety Flash

A14-10 (30th June)



Injured Party struck by tugger wire assembly

Incident Overview

Vessel was deploying 15 ton anchor for pre-lay operation. Deck personnel were using tugger lines with a chain sling around the anchor shackle to move the anchor along the deck.

During the operation, the tugger wire assembly parted and recoiled around cargo barrier. The injured party (IP) was struck on the head (from behind) on the right hand side just below the ear. The IP suffered a fractured skull, fractured jaw and laceration to neck.

IP was provided with medical treatment on board the vessel and transferred to hospital for surgery.



Worker position behind cargo barrier in area considered a 'safe haven'.
Note: Configuration of equipment on vessel deck is not the same as when the incident occurred.

Key Findings

IP was positioned in port aft side next to the capstan in an area considered to be a 'safe haven', and considered to be out of the line-of-fire and recoil area for this operation.

Recommendations

- Investigation initiated.
- Safety moment shared with Marine Community.

Emphasis of safety moment placed on following lessons learned:

1. Be aware of what a “**Safe Haven**” means. Crash rails are not to be considered as safe havens.
2. Ensure a clear deck policy means no one within a snap back zone. When any wire is under tension on the deck, no personnel are permitted to be either in the crash rail or aft of the tugger winches.



Photograph of chain sling similar to item which parted and was lost overboard.