

# Marine Safety Flash

## A14-11 (15<sup>th</sup> July)

### Amputation of lower leg



#### Incident Overview

During inbound towage operations, a tug was assisting at line aft position, the weather was fine and there was still plenty of light left in the day. While retrieving the tow line, a ship's crew member's lower leg was caught up in the messenger line.

As a result of the entanglement in the messenger line and the line developing tension, the crew member's lower leg was completely severed between the knee and the ankle with the amputated section of limb lost overboard and not recovered.

The exact details of what occurred on the poop deck of the berthing vessel are not yet clear, what is under investigation is how the crew member has become entangled in the messenger line.

#### Key Findings

The accident is under investigation.

#### Recommendations

In lieu of the findings in the investigation report... Before your vessel's next mooring operation, have a safety meeting and discuss the tug and mooring operations.

- Take the time to have a good look at the way things are done on the vessel and try to identify areas for improvement.
- Discuss how you will rectify these acts or conditions.
- Document how they will be eliminated or the risk associated with them reduced to the lowest possible level.

Remember, releasing a tug is a team effort, just like almost everything on a ship we have to rely on and assist our team members to complete the task safely. Look out for your mates, but don't become reliant on them looking out for you because we all have to remain vigilant enough to ensure our own safety.

If you see an unsafe act or condition developing then let people know straight away, you may not get a second chance.