

# Marine Safety Flash

## A16-10 (11<sup>th</sup> March 2016)



### Slip on stairwell during off duty time

#### Incident Overview

While a crewmember was transiting down a stairwell, he became aware of the hazards on the step i.e. laminated check sheets and a heat gun (heat gun sitting atop both sheets) but while he tried to avoid the hazard he's foot came in contact with the hazards at the same time. Unfortunately the crewmember slipped down to the bottom of the stairwell. The IP (Injured Person) sustained lower back injury as a result of the slip.

#### Key Findings

- The subsequent on board investigation found that a crewmember placed the hazards on the step tread. This was due to him testing the manual fire call points adjacent to the stairwell (standing with back to the stairwell). The crewmember did not perceive this as a hazardous situation as he believed there were no “blind spots” where he was standing.
- The IP was off duty at the time. He was walking around the vessel from main deck up to forecastle and back. He had transited the stairwell approx. 6 times in the preceding half hour (approx.) before the incident occurred.
- The IP was descending the stairs with three point contact but unfortunately he was looking ahead rather than down the stairwell.
- The IP was wearing prescription sunglasses at the time; the heat gun was dark navy blue, placed on a black step background has been perceived as a contributing factor.

Photo 1 – During onboard investigation, the photo is taken about the same time when the incident occurred to demonstrate the lighting at the time.



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Photo 2 – Position of the hazards on the 5<sup>th</sup> step tread from bottom.



Photo 3 – IP's final position as he's foot landed the main deck.



## Recommendations

- Safety Officers and Safety Representatives to discuss this incident with all crew at next opportunity to reinforce the importance of adequate Risk Assessment before any job. In particular, for the safety of ourselves and fellow crewmembers onboard.
- Focus on the need for barriers on worksites to prevent personnel from entering.
- Focus on housekeeping- collect tools and equipment if not working at site.
- Vessels to ensure all crewmembers have completed the mandatory safety training.
- Upon completion of the recommended actions, vessels are to ensure it is recorded for implementation.