

Marine Safety Flash

A16-12(12th April 2016)



High Potential Near Miss – Discharge of containers with tugger wire still under tension.

Just after berthing, a team of stevedores boarded the vessel whilst the crew were still busy rigging the gangway. The stevedores started to discharge containers, which were secured by a tugger wire and without seeking permission from the ship management. One container was lifted off with the tugger wire still under tension.

Key Findings

- The stevedores boarded the vessel when the crew were busy completing rigging the gangway
- The crew were not informed by the stevedores about their intention to start lifting off containers
- Stevedores were instructed to stop the work by the deck crew
- Decision to start the discharging containers was not agreed upon by anyone onboard
- The stevedores breached established procedures by starting cargo operations without informing ship management

Recommendations

- Any cargo operation to be started only if agreed with ship management
- The importance of instructing the stevedores not to start any offloading operation before agreed upon by the ship management should be addressed in meetings with terminal management
- Inform stevedores and crew of the requirement in the Ship Security Plan to always show ID and register in the visitor log on the gangway before any work can start
- Shore personnel should only be allowed to board the vessel when all mooring lines are made fast and the vessel is secured alongside with the gangway fully rigged.