



Marine Safety Flash

A16-19 (15th June)

Near Miss – Container shift during tightening of Tugger Wire

Incident Overview

Two Able Bodied Seamen (AB's) were securing cargo using a Tugger Wire on the starboard side of a supply vessel. Whilst it was being tightened, one AB checked the tension of the wire and noticed that it had slipped down on one of the container corners. The AB called on the radio to "All Stop". No positive communication was received to confirm that the job had stopped. The AB approached the container to move the Tugger Wire up. At this point the container shifted towards the barrier, and the AB retreated to the safe haven. From the safe haven the AB called on the radio again to stop the job, and noticed that the tugger wire continued to be tightened. The operations were then stopped by hand signals.

Key Findings

- There was no positive communication that the job had been stopped before approaching the container.
- No visual inspections or pre-use checks on UHF radio were conducted prior to commencement of work.
- Radio transmitting failure due to incorrect antenna attachment to UHF radio.

Recommendations

- All crew to be made aware that positive communication are required, that the job has been stopped before continuing with the task in hand.
- Risk assessment and toolbox talks to include the use of portable UHF radios and hand signals onboard the vessel.
- Company risk assessment and toolbox talk to include pre-use checks and visual inspections.
- Colour Code / Labelling of all UHF & VHF radios to differentiate between the two.