

Marine Safety Flash

A16-22 (15th June)

Cargo shift alongside platform

Incident Overview

Whilst carrying out deck cargo and fuel operations alongside an offshore platform, the vessel was hit by a sudden and unexpected squall. The vessel was positioned downwind with the starboard stern quarter against the weather / sea.

Two mini containers were shifted /capsized by the resultant water on deck.



Key Findings

- Weather conditions at the time of the incident; wind 25 knots, swell 3 meters
- One larger squall (rough wave) hit the stern of the vessel and water flooded the back deck
- Back loaded cargo not yet secured due to ongoing back loading from platform
- The water on deck shifted one container and capsized another mini container

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- No people were injured – the deck crew were working at the forward end of the deck at the time of the incident
- No external damage to the containers and no spill
- Vessel designed with a low bulwark
- Reported as a near miss

Recommendations

- The risk of abnormal waves MUST be taken into consideration in the Risk Assessment and Toolbox talk for work with the stern positioned against the weather.
- Stop work policy, by anyone at any time, when in doubt.
- Fit the vessel and sister vessels trading in harsh environment with a higher aft bulwark.

The Company have reviewed and conclude this near miss as a potential fatality case and have started to design a new and higher bulwark to be installed on-board the vessel and sister vessels operating in harsh environments.