

TO : The Fleet

OUR REF : 11/ 2024

FROM : DPA

DATE : 02 May 2024

COMPANY CIRCULAR 11/2024
Injury to Crew While Heaving Up Grease Drum

Dear Captain,

Please note that on one of our managed vessels, an AB got his left little finger injured while heaving up a grease drum.

The Chief Officer, Chief engineer and the AB were involved in the greasing of the slewing bearing and luffing jib wire of the crane.

The AB was heaving up a bucket of grease from the crane's first platform and during this process, the heaving line slipped causing the bucket to fall, resulting in the slipping rope injuring his left little finger.

The AB was sent ashore for medical checkup and as per the medical report, the tendent requires surgical repair. He was declared unfit for sailing and was repatriated for surgery.

Root Causes

- **Improper Lifting** - A heaving line was used to lift the grease bucket weighing 18 kg . A wider diameter rope was not used for lifting.
- **Lack of situational awareness** - The crew lacked attention/situational awareness while planning and heaving the grease bucket.
- **Inadequate PPE** – The AB was wearing grease spoilt cotton gloves. Leather gloves were not used.
- **Inadequate safety culture onboard** -Two Senior Officers were involved in the task been undertaken and neither stopped the unsafe act taking place.



Preventive Actions

1. PPE appropriate to job activity is to be worn at all times.

During toolbox meeting, use of PPE must be strictly enforced. An effective toolbox talk would have identified the wrong PPE and diameter rope were being used.

PPE shall be properly donned. Condition of PPE shall be thoroughly checked prior use.

The Master shall ensure that cotton gloves are not used and only leather gloves are used for working on deck.

Reference to be made to company PPE matrix. The Master shall stress the importance of using PPE during each safety meeting. Compliance for the same shall be verified by safety officer.

Offenders will be warned and strict disciplinary action will be taken against REPEATED offenders who do not comply with PPE requirements.

2. Slip, trip and fall hazards are the main cause of human injuries.

Good housekeeping and safe working practices and adequate barriers shall help in preventing incidents due to slip, trip and falls. A momentary loss or lack of concentration often leads to an accident.

Crew to be alert/ vigilant maintain situational awareness and not be in haste while doing any job. Crew shall not attempt to short cut safety procedures.

Crew shall avoid using heaving lines when lifting grease / paint drums etc. A wider diameter line (approximately 16 MM diameter) shall be used to have a firm grip and to avoid slipping of the rope.

When lifting drums/tools/etc., the crew shall ensure that the gloves are kept free from grease / oil stains to avoid slipping of the rope. Grease impregnated ropes should be discarded.

3. Promotion of safety culture

All officers and crew are encouraged to spot hazards and unsafe practices on board. Once identified, these hazards can be eliminated or mitigated.

Any person on board irrespective of rank, who feels or observes that a job is being carried out in an unsafe manner has the authority to intervene and stop the job and report the matter to the Safety Officer or the Master who will review the prevailing conditions and controls existing, prior resuming the job.

The vessel's senior management team shall be actively involved in promoting a strong safety, health and hygiene culture on the vessel. It is the responsibility of each employee to support safety and health objectives, policies and procedures with responsible actions and thereby prevent injury to themselves, their colleagues, property and the environment.

Furthermore, every crew member can make safety comments or suggestions for the improvement of safety culture directly to the safety officer or putting forward his comment/ suggestion during any forthcoming HSQE meeting.

4. Correct tools for the job.

The incorrect use of gloves and rope are highlighted by this accident. Heaving lines are not suitable for lifting weights of over 7.5kg. 16MM ropes should be used for heavier loads, including items lifted from launches, such as suitcases. Also, no matter what is being lifted, care must be taken to ensure there is no one under or near the load while it is suspended. Never take turns of the rope around any part of your body.

REGARDS



MARTIN PETER HENRY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER