

Safety Alert

Number: 16-03

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Subject: Small 'Wet Bulk Waste' Spill to Environment

What Happened / Narrative

At the start-up the pump for discharging of a cargo of Wet Bulk Waste (WBW) from the port side manifold to shore side tanks, there was a small spill from the ship's starboard side discharge manifold. On seeing the spray of WBW the OOW (Officer on Watch) immediately hit the emergency stop. A small amount was spilled to the environment the remaining WBW was contained on-board in the vessels' "save-all", bulwark etc. and was transferred directly to the slops tank as per system design.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

The likely cause to this incident was that the cap was not in place on the starboard discharge manifold following a previous operation. The cap can be seen in situ on the deck immediately after the incident.

The investigation established the vessel had completed the appropriate checklists prior to the operation however; there was a lack of oversight regarding the security of the manifold cap on the opposite side. It was not checked by the ABs, as it was assumed that, as the starboard side discharge manifold had not been used for some time all was in order.

Over the previous weeks' the vessel was involved with numerous quick turnarounds which resulted in limited time in port, she also experienced poor weather conditions on returning to port just prior to the incident and it was believed therefore, a lack of suitable rest was a contributing factor in the brief lapse in concentration of the crew whom are normally vigilant in their work.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

The vessel had been discharging cargo in port from the port side for many months and there was an assumption that the starboard side setup was in order.

The vessel remained in port overnight in order for the crew to have a suitable rest period

The Vessel is to discuss the incident at the next safety meeting highlighting the importance of ensuring correct preparation for a task.

Company to issue a fleet wide information note highlighting the incident, and actions needed to prevent reoccurrence.

Amend the discharge bulk checklist to include connections, dust caps, save all's, valves on both sides of the vessel (where necessary).

Photographs / Supporting Information

