

Safety Alert

Number: 16-19
Subject: Dropped Objects Awareness

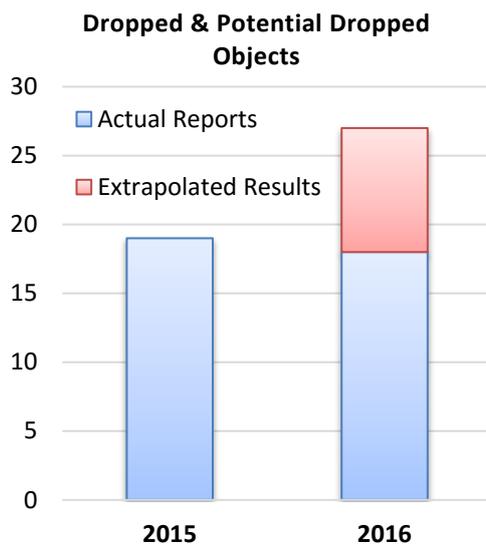
Published: 26/09/2016

Narrative

The contents of this Safety Alert are based on a submission from one Vessel Owner

The issue of dropped objects and potential dropped objects has been a persistent problem within the Oil & Gas industry, 2016 has so far seen a rise in frequency of these reports.

During the whole of 2015 19 dropped or potential dropped objects were reported to the company, a marked improvement on recent years. However, by 1st September this year we had already received a total of 18 reports despite our exposure to these being less than 50% of 2015 due to fleet reductions. This potentially increasing trend can be seen in the graph below with extrapolated results for September to year end.



So far this year there have been four safety alerts issued through the MSF on the subject of 'Dropped Objects':

16-04
16-08
16-10
16-14

Two of these safety alerts related to items sent from vessels to the rig, one being a post hole cover the other a hook used for supporting the tugger wire during securing of cargo.

This 50/50 split in safety alerts issued, whilst a useful reminder that Vessel crews actions can impose risk on cargo operations and that we should remain alert at all times, is not a fair reflection on where the principle hazard occurs.

**It should be noted that the Marine Safety Forum can only circulate alerts as submitted by members and as such any statistics based on total alerts issued by the MSF is not an accurate reflection on industry standards.*



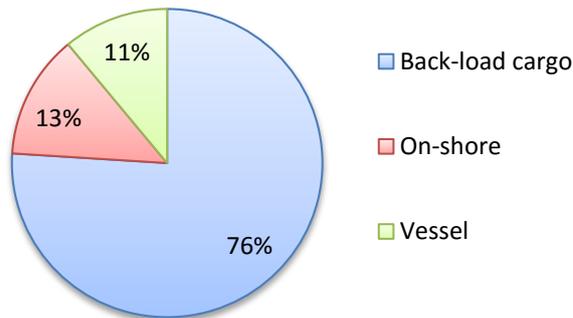
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Findings / Cause

Data from the vessel owner's records show that 76% of potential and actual dropped objects over the course of 2015 and 2016 have come from back-load cargo, 13% originate from on-shore and 11% are items dropped on the vessels themselves. These statistics have remained broadly unchanged year on year through the entire company records.

Origin of Dropped & Potential Dropped Objects



Of the objects falling from or found on back-load cargo several are clearly potential fatalities.

The pictures in this safety alert are all items from back-loaded cargo and all are over the weight necessary to cause a fatal injury if they were to fall and strike a crew member.

The causes of dropped and potential dropped objects commonly received are;

- The source and cause of the dropped object remained unidentified
- Lift was checked prior to backload but the item or items were missed
- Items became detached as a result of damage due to contact other cargo or the vessel.

Actions Taken / Recommendations

From a vessel side, continued observance of the high standard of good seamanship demonstrated throughout the fleet in remaining well clear of lifts in a safe area until the cargo is landed on the deck and it is clear to approach.

All dropped or potential dropped object must be reported to the installation/rig as soon as identified and also to the vessel owner and client at the first opportunity.

From a vessel owners point of view, we will continue to engage with clients to encourage proper identification of causes and highlight the issues through the MSF and DROPS forum.

Marine Safety Forum members and subscribers are encouraged to share learnings on dropped objects and potential dropped objects with us through contacting secretary@marinesafetyforum.org

Further information on Dropped Objects is available from:

www.marinesafetyforum.org

www.dropsonline.org

www.onshoreoffshorecargo.com

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