

Safety Alert

Number: 16-22

Published: 05/10/2016

Subject: Unsafe Method of Rope Work Resulted in Severe Hand Injury

What Happened / Narrative

A vessel which had been attending an offshore installation had completed operations and had left the 500m zone. The deck crew decided to prepare mooring lines for arrival in port.

One of the ABs was spooling a mooring line from the starboard locker to the starboard tugger winch aft. During this operation the crow bar slipped and he was forced against the guide roller. The AB caught his fingers between the crow bar and roller which lead to injuries to three of his fingers including loss of one joint of finger. (See Photos below)

Why Did It Happen / Cause

Immediate Cause:

- Unsafe method for spooling line onto the tugger winch.

Basic Causes:

- Poor planning: The risk assessment was not used prior to the job.
- Normal operating procedure is to remove mooring lines from the store and spool onto the winch without angle.
- Person performing the work was new on-board.
- No toolbox talk was conducted.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- Ensure risk assessment prior to carrying out work.
- Follow work practices / procedures and if you deviate risk assess or follow management of change.
- Use the right tool for the job.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Side view showing spooling direction of mooring line.



Front view showing mooring line travel to the winch and the crow bar position.

The information contained within this Safety Alert and the associated MSF web site is provided in good faith for the benefit of our members and does not constitute and is not intended to constitute professional advice or any form of formal representation on behalf of any MSF member or officer. The text as provided by submitting organisations may be amended to ensure that it is brief, informative and readable but will as far as reasonably practicable remain as per the intent of the original submission. For the avoidance of doubt, no liability whatsoever shall be attached to any guidance, recommendation or statement contained therein. Contents should be reviewed individually by recipients who will determine relevance to their own operations.