

Safety Alert

Number: 17-13

Published: 12/10/2017

Subject: Personal Flotation Devices

What Happened / Narrative

During the routine transfer of a bulk hose between a vessel and the quayside it was noted that the shore bulk Plant Operator was working close to the edge of the quayside but was not wearing a personal Flotation Device (PFD). The job was stopped and the Plant Operator requested to go and get a PFD before continuing the work.

A few minutes later the Plant Operator returned 'wearing' a PFD which he had put on back to front and upside down. It was also unsecured. (Photo 1)

Why Did it Happen / Cause

When questioned, the Plant Operator advised that he had never worn a PFD before and didn't know how to wear one as he had never been shown.

Health & Safety law requires the employer to provide suitable protective equipment and ensure that the employee is familiar with its use.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

The job was immediately stopped as it was noted that the PFD was being worn incorrectly.

The Plant Operator was given instruction on how to correctly wear the PFD and the job then continued safely. (Photo 2)

Photographs / Supporting Information



Photo 1



Photo 2

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.