

Safety Alert

Number: 18-04

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Subject: Finger Injury During Recovery of Daughter Craft

What Happened / Narrative

Whilst the vessel was recovering the Daughter Craft after a Man Overboard exercise the Boatman took hold of the lifting ring, it was when he hooked the ring into the DC hook his left index finger became caught between the lifting ring and the lifting wire thimble, resulting in injury to the finger.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

Recovery operation of a rescue craft is a high-risk task and full cooperation of all involved is crucial to complete the operation without any incidents. The investigation of the incident established that:

- The lifting wire's thimble diameter allows the thimble to freely move all around the lifting ring. Therefore, even if the ring is grabbed by the boatman in the middle, to keep his fingers away from pinch hazards arising from the hook and the wire's thimble (as it was at the time of the incident), the thimble can move close to his fingers increasing the likelihood of them being trapped.
- The procedure and risk assessment used for the task did not state clearly when the davit's light tension mode can be engaged and what technique must be used by the aft boatman when he inserts the lifting ring into the rescue craft hook.
- Experience of the IP at inserting the lifting ring into the craft's hook may have contributed to the incident.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

1. The management is currently looking into available options of lifting rings that could provide a better protection to the boatmen's hands and fingers during inserting of the lifting ring it into the rescue craft hook by preventing the wire's thimble from free movement. Once the decision has been made the fleet will be informed.
2. All vessels are to conduct a review of their risk assessments and specific procedures for operation of rescue crafts and amend them if and when required. The procedure and risk assessment must clearly state that the light tension mode (if available) can be only engaged by the davit operator when he receives a clear signal form the boatman after he clears his hands from the lifting equipment.
3. All vessels are to discuss the Safety Flash during their safety meetings and send a feedback if any using the SM minutes.
4. All vessels to discuss on-board training for new crewmembers, without experience on specific rescue craft boats and share their observations, comments and ideas through Safety Meeting minutes.

Photographs / Supporting Information



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