

Safety Alert

Number: 18-15

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Subject: Potential Dropped Object

What Happened / Narrative

A Company Vessel was carrying out deck cargo operations at an offshore installation. As a container was received on the installation landing platform the Crane Operator reported that a Potential Dropped Object had been discovered on top of the container. The Senior Officer then relayed the information to the vessel deck crew and urged them to be more vigilant in checking for loose items before hooking on the containers for transfer. Further investigation was carried out and photographs shared with the vessel where it was determined that the PDO undoubtedly originated from the vessel. Ship staff had conducted a fire training drill the previous day, which included rigging hoses on the main deck amongst the deck cargo.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

A lapse in attention by the individual using the tool and a failure in the post work inspection meant that the tool was left on the container on completion of the fire exercise the previous day.

The photographs show that this object was both conspicuous (red handle against blue coloured container) in appearance and left in a conspicuous position on the container. The procedural control measures in place should have easily resulted in discovery of the PDO before the container was discharged to the platform:

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

1. The risk assessment for the discharge of deck cargo operation notes the possible hazard of "Personal Injury or Fatality due to dropped objects from above" and one of the associated control measures as "Prior to connecting a container for discharge, the deck crew should inspect the lift for any loose items that may fall during transfer.
2. The company IMS requires that such risk assessments are the basis for pre- work briefings.

The industry overall has an ongoing issue with dropped objects. Vessel personnel, being those exposed to the highest risk, should be at the forefront of the effort to reduce such incidents. The need for a pre- lift check is always highlighted and must be fully adopted into the safety culture and re-iterated during documented tool box talks.

Photographs / Supporting Information



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