

Safety Alert

Number: 18-22

Published: 21/09/2018

Subject: Incorrectly Weighted Monkey's Fist

What Happened / Narrative

A quayside boatman recently reported concerns with a 'monkey's fist' that had been thrown ashore by an attending vessel during the mooring process.

Picture 2 below shows the condition of the 'monkey's fist' when it was initially thrown ashore. The highlighted area shows the protruding concrete which was notably different to the rest of the 'monkey's fist'.

Following an investigation, the 'monkey's fist' was found to be heavier than normal and upon cutting it open, the inner core was found to be made up of concrete together with two layers of rope making up the outer layer as shown in picture 3.

This had the potential to cause severe injury if it was to strike anyone at force when thrown from the vessel.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

This was discussed with the vessel to highlight the dangers associated and the potential for harm.

A safety memo on this was created to share learnings and has been sent all the companies' boatmen as well as all the current vessels regularly using the berths. This was accompanied by a copy of MCA Safety Bulletin No.2 (2015) and a quote from the Code of Safe Working Practices (COSWP) for merchant seafarers to provide guidance on good practice and expectations.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Supporting Reference:

COSWP – Ch26 - 26.3.5: *"To prevent personal injury to those receiving heaving lines, the 'monkey's fist' should be made with rope only and must not contain added weighting material."*

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