

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 15-02

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Subject: Dropped Object

One of our vessels has reported a dropped object incident while working deck cargo at a rig. The rig had a dual line crane (single whip, double block) and was using the double block at the time of the incident while discharging cargo from the vessel. As the crane commenced lowering the double block down towards the vessels' deck, the single whip line headache ball and hook assembly detached from the crane and landed on the top of the safe haven damaging the deck. Fortunately the deck crew were standing clear and were approximately 4m from the point of impact. Although shaken, there were no physical injuries.

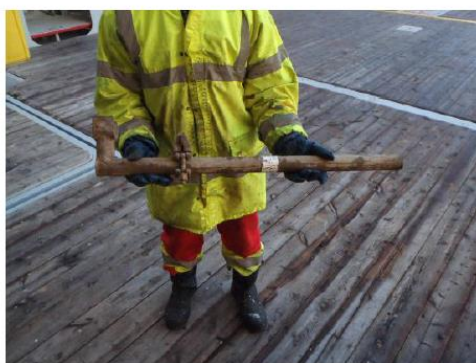
The assembly weighed **160kg** and fell approximately **50 meters** giving an impact force of **784KN** this would most certainly have resulted in a fatality if it had struck a crew member.



Headache ball and hook assembly
on deck after impact.

Note penetration in deck and
distortion of steelwork

Another vessel has reported a potential dropped object which was spotted after back loading from a rig.



Loose Object
found here

FINDINGS

- Both of these incidents are currently under investigation from the respective oil companies.
- Cargo handling incidents are the cause of many injuries and potential injuries
- Statistically, the number of dropped objects does not appear to be falling! (excuse the pun)
- Checks on the rigs, quayside and vessel are still failing to spot loose objects before loading.

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RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SUBMITTING COMPANY

- Be aware and warn all crew of the potential for dropped objects during cargo operations
- Stand clear of the load route - No loads should ever be lifted over people
- Maintain visual contact of the load at all times
- Check every load to ensure nothing is loose or damaged before dispatch
- Make sure that all loads are properly secured
- Housekeeping procedures should be followed to minimise the risk of equipment being left on loads
- Ensure that all cargo is prepared in accordance with the industry best practice
- Report all Incidents of dropped objects to the OIM.
- Stand Clear from moving Crane boom and/or block **even with no load**, do not approach the crane slings/hook until the crane is full stop and ensure all safe and secure prior to approaching.

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