

Lessons Learned

LTI

Incident:

An operator slipped and fell from a staircase on a ship resulting in a fracture of his right ankle bone

What: Slip and fall from stairs on ship resulting in ankle fracture

When: 27-June-2022

Where: Onboard a ship (Stolt Efficiency)

Summary:

Following the completion of a ship's cargo discharging (Stolt Efficiency), an operator embarked on a ship to sign and collect ship's documents.

While he was about to disembark from ship, he slipped and fell from the staircase close to the manifold area (from approximately 150 cm high, from the 6th step of the staircase down to the upper deck).

The operator did not feel severe pain during his work however he started to feel strong pain when he got home and went to hospital right away.

He was diagnosed with a bone fracture in his right ankle and was admitted in a hospital.

Why did this happen?

- The operator only had two points of contacts. He was holding paperwork in on one hand
- The deck and stairs were slippery as a result of recent rain
- The operator lost his balance and fell when trying to step down the stairs
- A crew member had just gestured and tried to ask him something which could have caused distraction
- The staircase is very steep

Related essentials/ Directives/ Procedure:

- Risk Assessment process
- Last minute self-assessment before start work

Lesson learned and follow-up for each site

- Ensure having a procedure to use 3 points of contact when using staircase and stepladders
- Develop a dedicated Job Safety Assessment (JSA) for all (steep) staircase, stepladders including risk of slip, trip, fall hazard
- Conduct a safety campaign to communicate the lesson learned
- Use backpack on stairs to make 3 points of contact possible
- Encourage use of "STOP authority" if the situation is dangerous.
- Consider use of improved safety shoes (high cut and anti-slippery)

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