



Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 09/18

Issued: 9th June 2009

Subject: Unloading Anchors and Tail Pennant

Summary:

Cargo handlers were in the process of lifting an anchor from the deck of the vessel. As the anchor started to lift it moved in a turning motion, this then caused the tail pennant to swing in a whiplash movement over the deck. Although they were outwith its radius the tail pennant passed in close proximity to a contractor and a crewmember also working on deck, had any of them been closer to the tail pennant they would have been struck resulting in serious injury.

HAZARDS IDENTIFIED

- Failure to control contractors / visitors in a working area of vessel
- Failure of initial assessment for the movement of the load
- Failure to consult risk assessment before commencement of task
- Lack of Knowledge / Appreciation of the hazards associated with Anchor
- Handling and of multiple workers in the vicinity

REQUIRED CONTROLS

- Ensure all cargo handlers are aware of their responsibility to fully assess all lifts prior to loading / offloading operations
- Ensure all cargo handlers are aware of their responsibility to fully check and understand the hazards associated with the task
- Review risk assessments and procedures for offloading / loading Anchors before commencement of task
- Control of contractors on vessel
- Ensure Vessel Master / Officer of Watch are aware of personnel on board their vessel and to ensure that contractors / visitors are made aware of the hazards
- Ensure Contractors / Visitors are in safe area or not in the vicinity before commencement of task
- Communicate details of this incident and control measures to all personnel