

## Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 15-01

**Issued: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**Subject: Dropped Object**

The vessel was carrying out air dive operations when a piece of timber which was approximately 300mm x 100mm, fell 15 meters from the crane jib support to the Mezzanine Deck area below. The Crane was positioned outboard and fixed to an unmanned tending point (Golden Gate).

After an initial inspection, it was discovered that the dropped object was not a loose item that had been displaced but was in fact a section of the jib stowage arrangement, which had apparently split and come lose from the jib support arrangement.

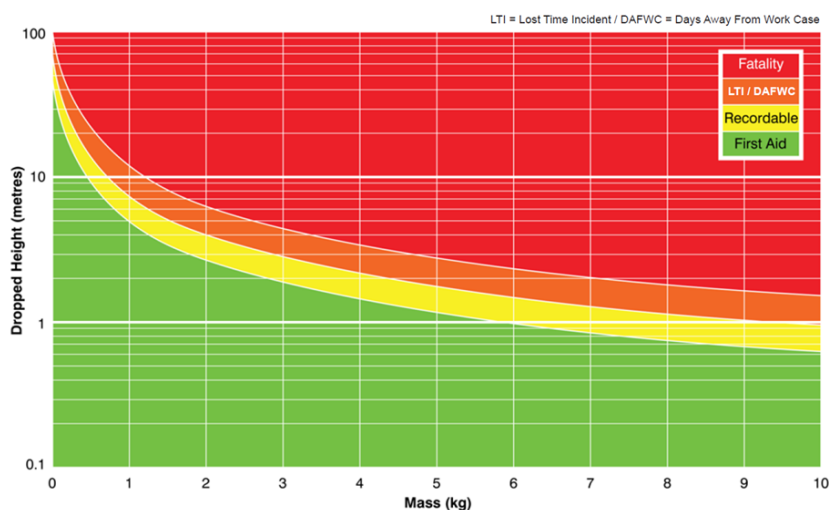
Conditions at the time of the incident were not favourable and the ship was reported to be 'slamming' – this was due to the heading that needed to be maintained for the air diving operations in relation to the prevailing sea and swell. The vessel was 'slamming' heavily at times.

The vessel's heave and movement and the vibration caused from the 'slamming' appears to have weakened the bolted integrity of the timber chocks, resulting in a section splitting away and falling to the deck below.

The shock waves moving thorough the after end of the vessel caused a stress point between the bolts securing the wood section to the crutch and the wood itself. This can be seen from the split down the wood and the lack of any rotting or degradation of the wood section itself.

The vessel has completed a full and thorough HSE inspection of all deck areas to check for other weak points and also to ensure there are no loose/unsecured items which could fall onto decks or spaces below. This location has been 'barriered off' at deck level in case any other sections have become weakened and all personnel on board have been reminded to maintain vigilance to the possibility of dropped objects

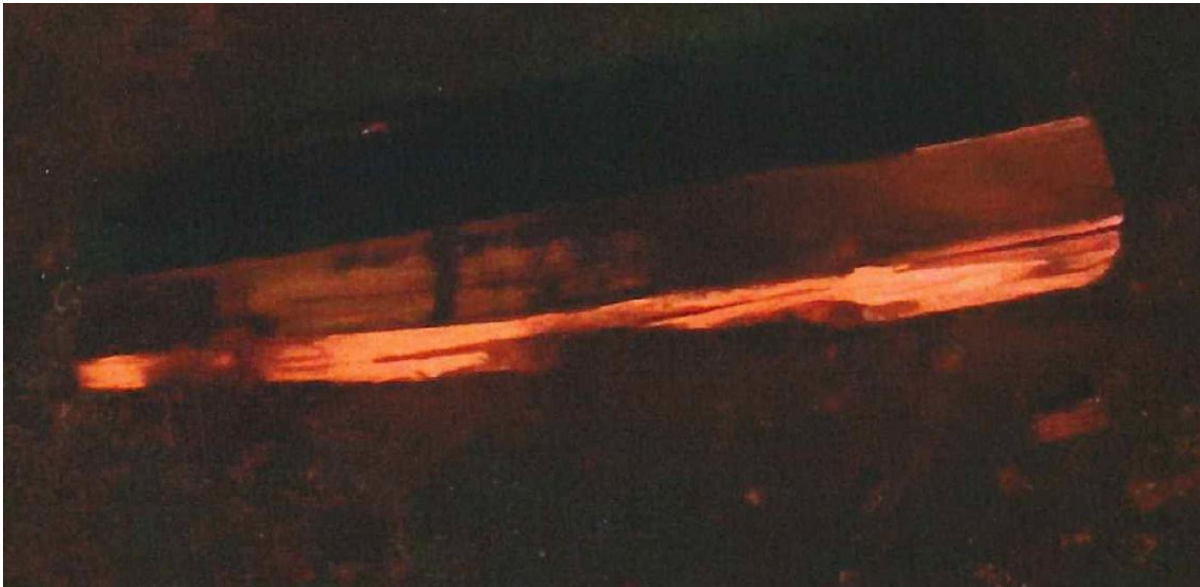
A full inspection and review of the crane securing arrangements has been completed and no further loose items were found.



**Estimating the wood weighs 3-4kg, the dropped object calculator shows that the consequences of the wood hitting someone from that height could be potentially fatal.**

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**Original location of wooden support**



**Block of timber which fell to deck**

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