

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 15-04

Issued: 5th February 2015

Subject: Safety barriers and guards

During a recent client visit on one of our vessels, their representative was about to leave the vessel by the gangway, when he noticed that the vessel's upper gangway point had been left with the guard rail open. (The upper guard was left open)

Given the state of the tide at the time there was a potential drop of 5 metres to the quayside.

It transpires that the crew had repositioned the gangway from the upper to the lower gangway point.

On completion they were distracted by another activity that required their attention.

During this time the safety guard was not replaced.

We're fortunate on this occasion for the alertness of the individual involved who brought this matter to the attention of the crew onboard.

The matter was addressed immediately, the guard closed and a Time Out For Safety held onboard emphasizing the importance of safety barriers and guards.

These types of devices are fitted specifically for the safety of those onboard and must be monitored. Your personal vigilance is key to this.

During periods of activity we must remain focused on the task in hand and completing it safely.

No task is that urgent we cannot do it safely.

Ensure these matters are discussed at your next HSE meeting

Your co-operation in keeping your working environment safe is appreciated.

