

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 15-07

Issued: 5th February 2015

Subject: **Painting the ends of capstans and windlasses**

This safety alert is to advise members who may use capstans or windlasses, of the risk involving painting the ends of such equipment.

Many recently audited ships have been found to have painted capstan or windlass drum ends (rounded contact surface). The problem is that the paint itself may be a potential hazard. As the rope is surged on the drum, it creates friction which may melt the paint. As soon as the surging is stopped, melted paint solidifies and can glue the rope to the drum. The rope will then not surge and cannot be slacked until the bond is broken, usually with a corresponding jump in the rope. This jump is capable of breaking a wrist or worse.

Although the original report relates to equipment on vessels, it is possible that equipment of this or similar type may be found in member organisations. Members are advised to review any similar work equipment for which they are responsible and evaluate any risks and appropriate controls.

The alert text summarised from the Mariners' Alerting and Reporting Scheme, a confidential reporting system run by The Nautical Institute, intended to "allow full reporting of accidents (and near misses) without fear of identification or litigation."

Link: <http://www.nautinst.org/en/forums/mars/mars-2015.cfm/201506>

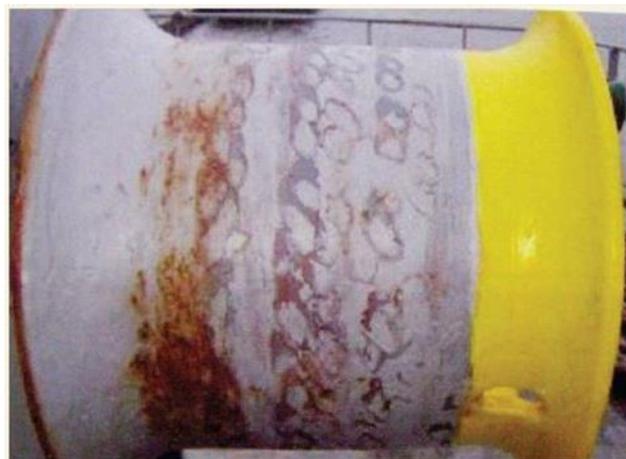


Photo from The Nautical Institute's *Mooring and Anchoring Ships*, Vol 2, page 105