

# Safety Alert

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**Subject: High Potential Near Miss – PSV Rescue Boat Davit Failure**

## What Happened / Narrative

A high potential near miss, that could have resulted in significant injury under different circumstances.

The Platform Supply Vessels rescue boat was due for periodic launch and testing. Having completed the required permit to work and toolbox talk the boat was prepared for launching.

Having tested the engine, removed the lashings and slackened the painter the C/O, at the hydraulic controls, commenced a trial launch with the boat unmanned. Having heaved in on the fall wire to raise the boat away from the davit, the C/o slowly swung the davit outboard. Having reached the point in operation where the davit starts to move outboard of the ships side the C/o experienced a loss of control of the davit. The davit then moved uncontrolled to the full extent of the piston, at which point the piston end cap separated from the piston and the davit carried on falling to the deck. On coming to a stop at the deck, the shock loading of the fall wire caused it to part and the rescue boat fell to the water.

## Why Did it Happen / Cause

The davit manufacturer and a local hydraulics expert were both unable to confirm the exact cause of the initial failure, however, a failure of one of the counterbalance valves or failure of the end cap itself were noted as the most probable first point of failure.

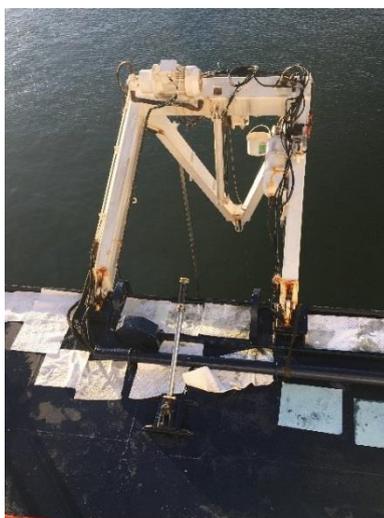
**It must be noted that the good practice of lowering the rescue boat unmanned to function test the davit and associated controls prior to boarding prevented a possible fatal accident in this incident.**

## Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- In this case the vessel owner made it mandatory for vessels to complete an unmanned test lowering of the davit and boat, function testing all controls, prior to conducting manned launch.
- Each vessels launching instructions are to be updated to include this and submitted to the office for review.
- In alignment with policy, all fall wires on rescue craft will be replaced at 30-month intervals
- At each 5-year thorough examination, maintenance and testing of the rescue boat and davit, the company will replace the counter balance valves and piston end cap.
- Review of the maintenance and inspection requirements within vessels PMS to ensure alignment with the manufacturer's recommendations.

**Note:** The above actions are for the submitting vessel owner in relation to their own maintenance and use of Rescue Boats and Davits. MSF recommends that all companies review their own procedures to asses potential for similar incidents.

## Photographs / Supporting Information



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