

Safety Alert

Number: 19-08

Published: 11/06/2019

Subject: Near Miss – Dropped Object

What Happened / Narrative

Two near miss events were reported by a vessel within a five day period. Both events related to dropped objects and had the potential to cause major or fatal injuries to vessel deck or installation crew involved in lifting operations.

First Event

Vessel engaged in offshore backloading operations at North Sea installation. The Crane Op attempted to backload a manifold and pipework arrangement within a transport frame. The lift came into contact with an adjacent lift on the vessel and caused a pressure gauge to break off and fall to the deck below. It is unclear if the gauge (approx. 3kg) contacted the adjacent lift or if the sling was momentarily slackened during contact and snagging the gauge when taught. Both causes could have been eliminated had the lift been appropriately secured and protected prior to transport and in accordance with GOMO guidelines for unusual cargo items.

Second Event

The same vessel was engaged in similar backloading operations at a different installation. The Crane Op had backloaded a tote tank onto the vessel deck when he noticed something on top of the lift after landing. He decided to retrieve the lift for further investigation but as the tote tank was hoisted, the movement caused one of the pieces to fall onto the vessel deck. It was then decided to manoeuvre the sling into a safe position (away from the objects) to allow ship staff to investigate. The vessel deck crew identified two scaffolding poles approximately 1.9m in length and weighing 10kg each.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

We can only observe that some of the industry safety barriers such as pre-transfer checks may have been missed by the installation crew resulting in the dropped objects. Additionally, the lifting arrangement for the manifold and pipework did not offer suitable protection on the sides or top of the lift to prevent such events occurring.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

The vessel measures in protecting crew from potential dropped objects were well executed by ship staff. The deck crew were wearing appropriate PPE and correctly standing in a safe place while the load was suspended over the deck. These reports highlight the importance of these basic control measures aiming to protect the crew involved.

The Safe removal of potential dropped objects from a lift once identified requires good collaboration between the deck crew and the Crane Op. All persons involved are reminded of the Stop the Job Policy and their authority to use it when required. This report has been shared with the charterers and other stakeholders for their info and sharing of lessons learned.

- All vessel crew shall be made aware of this bulletin and contents by displaying on noticeboards, printed copies available in mess rooms and discussing all learning points and recommendations at the next onboard safety meeting.
- Any applicable points shall be actioned to reduce the likelihood of a similar incident occurring on another vessel.

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Photographs / Supporting Information

First Event



Second Event



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