

Safety Alert

Number: 19-10

Published: 23/07/2019

Subject: LTI – Fractured Ankle

What Happened / Narrative

The IP was boarding the vessel via the gangway; when accessing the vessel's gangway, the IP's length of stride resulted in him missing some of the steps, this in turn caused misplaced footing that led to an immediate strain on his ankle. It was later established that the ankle bones were indeed fractured.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

Following the investigation, it was concluded that this incident was a result of the IP missing the established steps on the gangway which gave way to the imbalance. The IP was adhering to the 3 Points of contact and was not carrying bags / equipment. Additionally, the gangway was rigged as per requirements and no environmental conditions contributed to the incident.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

The access and egress of the vessel's gangway is a routine task for any seafarer, but on this occasion, it caused personal injury. As with this incident, the risk of injury is prevalent at any time.

As experienced seafarers do we really ask ourselves the following questions before we step on the gangway?

- Is the angle of the gangway too steep?
- Is the gangway secured and stable?
- Is the gangway wet and or slippery?
- Is a safety net rigged correctly?
- Can I adhere to the 3 Points of Contact?
- Is my bag / equipment too heavy or preventing me holding onto the handrails?

Perhaps we should pause and just take a moment to be mindful of those questions before we act?

Photographs / Supporting Information



The information contained within this Safety Alert and the associated MSF web site is provided in good faith for the benefit of our members and does not constitute and is not intended to constitute professional advice or any form of formal representation on behalf of any MSF member or officer. The text as provided by submitting organisations may be amended to ensure that it is brief, informative and readable but will as far as reasonably practicable remain as per the intent of the original submission. For the avoidance of doubt, no liability whatsoever shall be attached to any guidance, recommendation or statement contained therein. Contents should be reviewed individually by recipients who will determine relevance to their own operations.