

Safety Alert

Number: 19-12

Published: 18/11/2019

Subject: FRC Capsize During Launch

What Happened / Narrative

During the launch of the vessels Fast Rescue Craft (FRC) for validation trials' the cable that releases the hook for the fall wire parted resulting in the coxswain being unable to release the hook. The bowman mistook a gesture from the coxswain and released the bow line. This caused the FRC to turn 90 degrees to the vessel and quickly capsize, resulting in the three crewmembers entering the water. The crewmembers were recovered with no significant injuries. The FRC was righted with the self-righting bag and recovered having sustained significant damage.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

The investigation is ongoing, but the following has been ascertained:

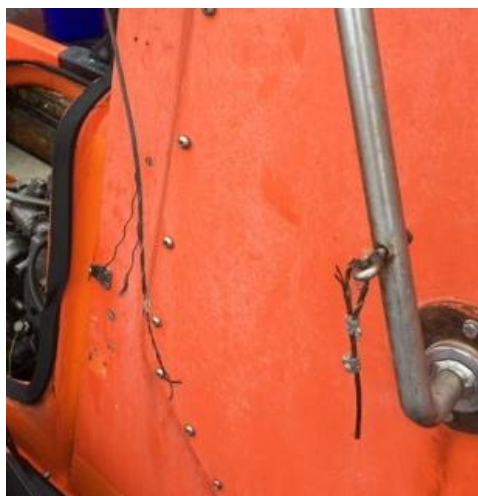
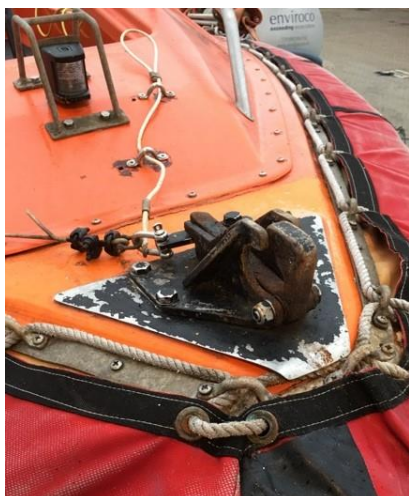
- Due to miss-communication the bow line was released prematurely whilst the FRC was still connected to the davit wire, causing the FRC to broach and capsize, and this simple breakdown in communication resulted in a significant incident that could have resulted in fatalities.
- The release wire for the hook parted due to fatigue and it is noted that overall condition was poor.
- The fact the vessel was undergoing timed validation trials may have added pressure to come away from the ships side quickly and this may have contributed to the bowman releasing the line prematurely.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

The following actions were put in place by the vessel owner:

- All vessels are to hold a Time Out for Safety with FRC/DC crews on launch and recovery. The focus of which is the function / release of the bow line and communications between crews. Also, vessels are to review their launch/recovery procedures and Risk Assessment highlighting critical points including the need for visual verification of release.
- Refresher training to be given to all boat crews highlighting the need for clear communication regarding all aspects of FRC operations, particularly during launch with regards to releasing the bow line.
- Add checks to remote release mechanisms to daily/weekly routines checking for kinks, corrosion and broken strands.
- Crews to be reminded that regardless of time pressure launches and recoveries should be conducted in a systematic way that strictly adheres to procedure with clear and concise communications.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Take a moment to review and discuss this alert:

- Could this happen on your vessel?
- What measures do you have in place to prevent a similar incident?

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