

# Safety Alert

**Number: 22-08**

**Published: 20/04/2022**

**Subject: Finger Injury During Drills & Exercises**

## What Happened / Narrative

The crew of a member's vessel were undertaking a program of drills and exercises. A stretcher and casualty handling drill was being conducted on-board the vessels Daughter Craft when the incident occurred.

As part of the scenario and setting the scene the Injured Party (IP) was to close the door of the Daughter Craft. The IP placed his right hand on the inner door frame not realising that his thumb was overlapping on the inside of the frame. He used his left hand to close the door with force, entrapping his right thumb and inflicting a severe open fracture.

He was then escorted to the vessel treatment room, where his wound was cleaned and dressed by the vessels Advanced Medical Aider (AMA) The IP was subsequently Medevac'd to shore.

## Why Did it Happen / Cause

The subsequent investigation determined that the root cause was lack of situational awareness and poor judgement on the part of the IP.

A very experienced seafarer, the IP had lost focus on his own actions and was concerned with ensuring that the exercise was being completed correctly.

## Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

As part of the investigation and close-out process it was deemed invaluable to share the events and the findings from these events both with the vessel owners' fleet as well as the wider industry.

The arrangement design is under review by the Operator to assess potential preventative measures and actions, in the meantime, it is recommended a 'Time Out for Safety' is held highlighting the trapping point and raising awareness of the potential hazard on the cabin door frame.

## Photographs / Supporting Information



IP hand/thumb position  
when closing door

*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.*