

Safety Alert

Number: 23-04
Subject: Slippery Steps

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What Happened / Narrative

During a general walk around a vessel crewmember suffered a foot injury while making his way out from the accommodation to the main deck. By unfortunate foot placement on the outside doorstep, and the step being wet with morning dew, the crewmembers heel slipped off hitting the deck corner with his toes. At the time he was wearing his Safety shoes.

Initial onboard Medical check indicated slight swelling of the foot which was painful. Even though the IP continued his work.

The day after the IP's foot was severely swollen and difficult to stand on. A check-up was arranged at the local Hospital, where a bone fracture was confirmed.



Why Did it Happen / Cause

The vessel owner's investigation revealed the following:

Immediate cause:

Wet/Slippery surface – *morning dew on the stairs*

Root causes:

Lack of situational awareness – *wet step*

Inadequate assessment of needs and risk – *missing "anti-slip" on step*

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

Perhaps the best way to prevent slip, trip and fall accidents is to maintain a situation awareness at all times. Look around as you walk or when working and be aware of any hazards that you see. Make sure that hazards are reported.

- Discuss the Safety Flash in the vessels Safety Committee
- Identification of Risk Areas for slip, trip or falls on the vessel
- Maintenance of potential slippery surfaces with "anti-slip" material
- Always maintain good housekeeping (clean spills/liquids, remove rubbish etc.)
- Ensure 3-point contact is used when using stairs/steps
- Proper footwear to be used when moving around

Photographs / Supporting Information



3 Points of Contact



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