

Safety Alert

Number: 23-17

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Subject: Dropped Metal Wedge

What Happened / Narrative

A pin was required to be pulled on a hinge system for the dynamic gangway system on a walk-2-walk vessel. As part of this task metal wedges were used to hold some of the gangway components in place. The job of pulling the pins was not going as expected due to space limitations, the effects of surface corrosion on the pins and the chosen method of pulling the pins. While pulling the pin out, the metal wedge in place was dislodged and fell between the gangway components to the deck.

No personnel were underneath the gangway at the time. The height of the drop was approximately 13m.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

The investigation revealed the following:

- The metal wedges did not have a place to secure a tethering device.
- The method chosen to pull the pin was not optimal.
- Not all the tools could be secured from dropping and there was no collective dropped object arrest system to catch smaller tools or items.
- The aft area around the gangway was not fenced-off and personnel could have walked underneath the drop zone.
- Simultaneous operations were on-going in the area on deck around the gangway and the risk of someone accidentally walking into the drop zone could occur.

Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

- Modify the metal wedges to accept a tethering device.
- Investigate how a collective dropped object arrest system such as a net could be installed under the gangway for future work.
- Identify an optimal solution for pulling the pins on gangway.

Secondary learning:

- Better guidance and training to be provided to personnel who are required to fence-off a work area to ensure all the access points into a drop zone are considered and adequately fenced-off.

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Photographs / Supporting Information



Note the narrow space and the obstructions present through which the wedge travelled.



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