

Safety Alert

Number: 26-12

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Subject: Eye Trauma During Maintenance Work

What Happened / Narrative

During routine maintenance on one of the vessels diesel generators seawater cooling pump, a round spring was being disengaged from the pump shaft. While under tension, the spring released suddenly and recoiled outward, striking the Chief Engineer in the right eye. Work was stopped immediately, and first aid was administered at the worksite. An initial assessment identified a potential eye injury, and the injured person was referred for further medical evaluation.

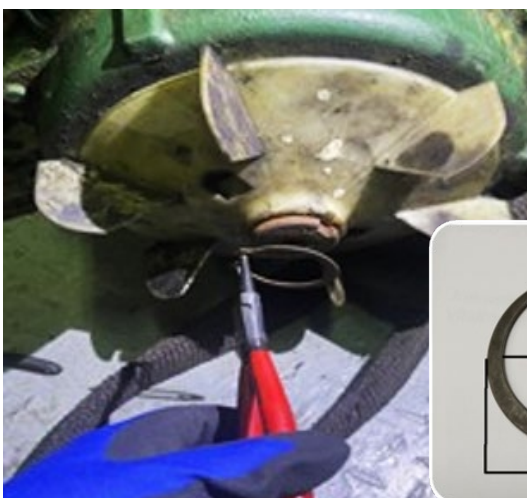
Why Did it Happen / Cause

- The IP was **not directly involved in the maintenance task** and entered the machinery space to observe the ongoing work.
- At the time of the incident, the IP was positioned **in close proximity to the machinery components** being worked on.
- **Appropriate eye protection was not in use** – it was later reported that **dark safety glasses were removed** to improve visibility.

Lessons Learned

- **Stored mechanical energy** (such as springs) **can release unexpectedly** and cause serious injury.
- **Use of Appropriate PPE**- Crew should comply with Company minimum PPE requirements and ensure PPE is appropriate for task.
- Removing PPE, even briefly, significantly increases risk – If PPE affects task execution, appropriate alternatives and work controls must be implemented accordingly.
- **Risk Assessments and Toolbox Talks** must clearly identify stored energy hazards and PPE requirements – **personnel not involved in the RA/TBT** should remain outside the work area.
- **Stop Work Obligation** must be exercised immediately when **unsafe conditions, missing work controls, or unexpected changes are observed**.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Ask Yourself and Your Crew:

1. Before approaching a job you are not directly involved in, have you confirmed the associated hazards and required PPE?
2. Do we challenge unsafe behaviours—regardless of rank—when someone enters a work area without the appropriate PPE?
3. When should you exercise your Stop Work Obligation?

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