Safety Alert

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Subject: Gyro Frying Pan Detachment Due to Corrosion

What Happened / Narrative

During a period of transit in heavy weather, a gyro frying pan in a vessel's galley came loose from its securing arrangement after all four fastening bolts failed due to corrosion. The unit detached and tipped over onto the galley deck during vessel movement.

No personnel were injured, but there was the potential for serious injury had the equipment been in use at the time.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

- Non-stainless bolts and nuts were installed.
- Long-term corrosion weakened the securing arrangement.
- Fastening condition was not identified during inspections / Planned Maintenance tasks.
- Heavy vessel movement and sea state increased load on the weakened bolts.
- Securing materials weren't verified as suitable for marine conditions.

Lessons Learned

- Stainless steel bolts and fasteners must be used where exposed to moisture and corrosion risk.
- Inspection routines and Planned Maintenance tasks should include verification of fastening condition and material type.
- Heavy weather can cause significantly increased loads on weakened securing arrangements.
- Potential equipment-failure hazards must be identified and addressed before operations continue.
- Near misses and abnormal equipment conditions must be reported and shared across the fleet.

Photographs / Supporting Information





Ask Yourself and Your Crew:

1. Are company procedures, risk assessments, and securing controls fully understood and applied at every step of the job?
2. Has all galley equipment securing arrangements been inspected and verified fit for marine conditions?
3. Are bolts, nuts, and fasteners suitable and corrosion-resistant/stainless materials where required?

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