

Date: 15th April 2021

Group SB 21 003

Significant Near Miss Incidents

Two colleagues fall from quayside

Please be aware that two colleagues have recently fallen from the quayside in separate incidents. Fortunately, both were recovered safe and well.

During the first incident, a stevedore undergoing training, approached the key edge at night in order to communicate with a colleague on board a vessel. He was not fully familiar with his surroundings and fell over the quay edge. Fortunately, his fall was interrupted by a tyre fender between the ship and the quay. He managed to recover himself without injury.

- The port environment is a hazardous one; trainees require a high standard of personal supervision until their competence is proven
- All port operatives must maintain an awareness of their environment and never approach the quay edge unless the task is risk assessed and the operative is authorised, trained and wearing the appropriate PPE (including life jacket and straps).

The second incident involved a mooring operative whose arm was caught by a forward spring line as the vessel started tensioning the winch. The line pulled the operative over the quay edge and into the water. His life jacket inflated, and a colleague threw him a lifebelt and helped to pull him to a dock ladder. The Coastguard and Ambulance Service attended. Fortunately, he was uninjured.

- The master of the vessel requires a mooring plan, ensure it is shared and understood
- Good communications between vessel crews and mooring operatives is essential to maintain safety standards. Avoid making assumptions and confirm intent.
- Mooring crews must ensure that all ropes and lines are handled in such a way that they do not stand in the 'bite', and ropes are unable to trap or catch an operative if they are tensioned unexpectedly or the vessel drifts.
- Operatives should perform a Dynamic Risk Assessment on arrival at the berth, consider availability and condition of dock ladders and life belts. Anticipate and plan for an emergency.

Please report all injuries, hazards and near misses in Sphera.

