



Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 13-05

Issued: 18th February 2013

Subject: Crewman's fall

Recently on a vessel it was reported that a crewman had taken a fall in the bridge during heavy weather. We are pleased to report that the crewman in question suffered only minor injuries.

The incident occurred whilst on sea passage as the vessel was in the process of altering course, the weather although heavy could not be described as extreme and the vessel would have encountered similar conditions on a regular basis.

It was reported that an electrical appliance (vacuum cleaner) had broken free from its securing point and the crewman had been in the process of recovering it and some damage parts from the aforementioned appliance. Whilst attempting this, the vessel lurched and the crewman stumbled across the bridge deck and came into contact with stbd aft consul.

In turn he fell to the deck and slid along the deck coming to rest against the lower stbd bridge window.

(Whether a factor or not, a handrail in the area of the incident was found to be missing.)

The vessels crew responded immediately and the AMA attended the scene and treated the casualty.

The casualty was monitored and the decision was made to divert the vessel to the nearest port where he was transferred to hospital for checks. He was released without admission and returned to the vessel.

After investigation the following recommendations were made;

- Crew requested to carry out Housekeeping audit on vessel ensuring all areas are clear and all equipment stowed effectively.
- Crew requested to carry out inspection of all Handrail rails and rail fixtures on vessel. Any missing or damaged handrails must be reported and replaced as soon as practicable.
- Safety alert to be sent out to the fleet to share the learning's of this incident and to be disseminated to the industry as appropriate.

Can all vessels pay particular attention to the correct stowage of equipment onboard.

The old adage, '***better to fix on a good day than rise and fix in a poor night***' appears appropriate.