

SFF SERVICES – GUARD VESSEL INCIDENT NOTIFICATION

Accident to a crewman while conducting routine maintenance to roller block



BACKGROUND

A crewman's fingertip was severed while carrying out maintenance on a top deck roller block. The centre pin had been removed to allow the sheave to be cleaned and greased. A steel bar along with steel wedges was being used to support the weight of the roller while this was carried out.

While reinserting the pin a small flake of rust was sighted causing the crewmember to place his finger in to the pin hole. An unexpected movement of the vessel caused the steel bar to slip and the heavy roller to drop. The tip of the crewman's hand was caught between the sheave and the falling roller, severing the fingertip clean off. The crewman was airlifted to hospital but the fingertip could not be reattached.

ANALYSIS

The task had been assessed, risk assessed and control measures put in place prior to work being carried out

The vessel's Mate responded promptly by calling the Coastguard for medical assistance, and informing SFF Services immediately. This allowed the client to be advised promptly and the accident reporting process to begin.

LESSONS LEARNT

SFF Services stress to all Guard Vessels that only essential maintenance should be carried out during guard duty, and that all maintenance work on board should be risk assessed and approved by the skipper before commencement. As a control measure the vessel has acquired a tool to insert in to the pin hole during the cleaning process, this will eliminate the possibility of a similar accident happening again.