

WA Member Incident

March 2024: Finger entrapment whilst mooring



What happened:

A member recently had an incident on board one of their vessels, where a deckhand injured the fingers on his right hand.

The vessel was headed to the pontoon to moor alongside her regular berth. As the vessels aft port quarter came alongside the pontoon, the deckhand used the boat hook to pick up the 'in-situ' mooring line and began the process of feeding the spliced eye through the fairlead. They then began placing the line over the bitts, this is where the deckhands' fingers on his right hand became trapped, and serious injuries were sustained to three fingers.



Why did it happen?

Immediate Causes – There was insufficient slack in the mooring line to allow the task to be completed safely, The vessel was moving forward as the task was performed, No assessment for PPE worn by the crew for this task with regards to impact gloves, Newest and least experienced deckhand completing the task and only a mooring line with a splice eye available.

Root Cause – Lack of Risk Perception.

Potential consequences:

This incident could have had a high potential for a more serious injury to the deckhand fingers or hands due to the entrapment.

Corrective actions:

The investigation highlighted several corrective actions to be put in place; Vessels to complete a Toolbox Talk of their mooring arrangements, Company to review TBT for improvement suggestions, review of the mooring risk assessment and procedure, Safety alert to be generated and sent to the fleet, Trial of high impact gloves, Review of training and follow up supervision and review of design of vessel mooring arrangements

Lessons learned:

Ensure that sufficient slack is allowed when handling mooring lines. Where practicable, vessel should be stopped before mooring lines are placed over bitts, bollards, or cleats. Each task should be assessed fully to evaluate what additional mitigation measures could be used. Ensure new personnel (persons who are not yet experienced on a particular vessel) are appropriately familiarised. The use of single ended lines or the use of small rope extensions on the spliced eyes would avoid exposing fingers and hands to risk.