

IMCA Safety Flash 01/08

January 2008

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learned from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat (imca@imca-int.com) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at www.imca-int.com/links. Additional links should be submitted to webmaster@imca-int.com

I Management of Simultaneous Operations During Demobilisation

A member has reported a serious incident onboard a barge during demobilisation in port.

During the demobilisation, a member of the crew undertaking routine disconnection of cables on deck was hit by a steel beam dislodged by operations that were taking place overhead on a higher deck. The steel beam was dislodged by an object being lifted. The person received very severe injuries resulting in a medical evacuation and long-term hospitalisation.

The investigation team noted the following:

- ◆ Owing to the layout of the site, the crane driver, banksman and rigger could not see the crew member working on the deck below;
- ◆ An unexplained sideways movement of the lifted object touched the beam, which had been removed from the structure and was not secured, causing it to fall on to the crew member eight metres below.

The company involved recommended that procedures for managing activities during demobilisation should properly specify:

- ◆ lines of communication;
- ◆ planning;
- ◆ risk assessments and hazard identification;
- ◆ work force involvement;
- ◆ management of change.