



# SAFETY BULLETIN

## Safety at Survey Sites



Recent incidents at survey sites highlight the importance for the shipyard/ ship staff to maintain and observe safety procedures at their respective locations. While events may not be entirely under the control of the shipyard/ ship staff, a simple safety culture is recommended to be adopted so as to better understand the hazards and risks at survey sites and to be prepared for any emergency situation.

### Case 1

One of our surveyors slipped and fell to the dock floor through a height of about 7-8 feet while coming down the vertical ladder from staging platform after undertaking survey of rudder headers. The wet surfaces of the ladder resulting due to hose testing of block weld seams immediately prior to rudder header survey was the primary cause of accident.

### Case 2

Our another surveyor was hit on the chin and shoulder by the flying handle of rescue boat davit, as motor was started by one of the crew members with rotating handle in place (and probably limit switch did not function). Approved service supplier was on board to undertake annual servicing of davit, however he had not cautioned the ship staff about the risks involved.

### Lessons to be learned

What went wrong? At the survey site, many unforeseen things can and do happen.

The above incidents illustrate the potential risks when undertaking surveys at ship or shipyard facilities. Most of the shipyards have good HSE standards for safety considerations, hazards identification and safety management control. Though standards are well observed, however these should not be taken for granted at their premises.

Whether working from a ladder, scaffolding or temporary platform, it's important to plan ahead, assess the risk and use the right means of access. Firstly, determine if working from a height is absolutely necessary or if there is another way to do the task safely. Falls are 100% preventable, provided following precautions are followed:

- Always maintain “3-Points Contact” by either keeping two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand on the ladder.
- Discuss with shipyard personnel/ ship staff and determine what all safety precautions are needed.
- Check the work area for potential hazards before starting the job.
- Ensure that the ladder is placed on a solid surface and not leaning against an unstable surface.
- Vertical (or straight) ladders/ extension ladders are to be securely fastened to an upper support.
- Never use any damaged access ladder, check thoroughly before use and ensure that not even a single rung as well as hand rails are either wet or slippery.
- Floors and surfaces are to be completely cleared off clutter.
- Don't lean or reach while on a ladder and have someone supporting the bottom.

# SAFETY



Other similar scenarios of Case (2) work-related accidents may also include getting struck against an object or getting caught in an equipment. Objects that roll, fall, fly, slide, slip and swing can do serious injury to a person and most of these struck-by incidents involve rotating objects. Inattention to surroundings and being distracted can lead to injury. Paying attention to any operating machinery, faulty equipment and unsafe behaviour by ship staff (lack of proper training), lack of workplace assessment and poor housekeeping is vitally important.



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