

4
July
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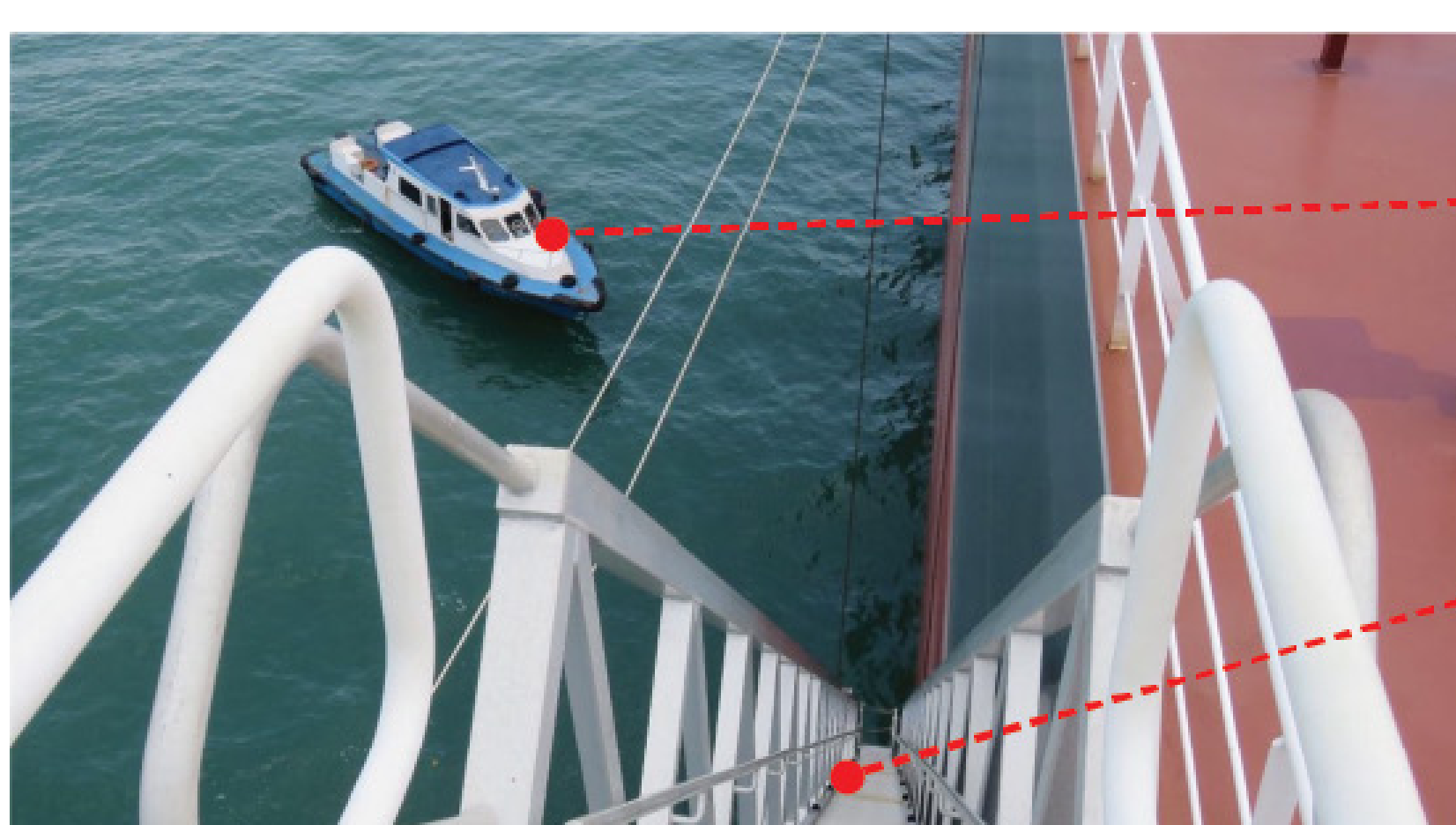
WSH ALERT

FATAL ACCIDENT

Worker fell into sea while boarding service boat

On 17 May 2022, a worker had just crossed a gangway from a marine vessel to a service boat when he lost his balance and fell into the sea. The worker's body was later found on 21 May 2022.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the worker was wearing a life jacket and carrying a backpack containing equipment at the time of accident.

Service
boatVessel's
gangway

Re-enactment of accident scene.

Recommendations

Falling overboard can happen during vessel transfers. Personnel involved must be made aware of the risks and exercise good situational awareness. To prevent similar accidents, consider the following measures:

- Pre-transfer briefing:** Prior to vessel transfer, brief workers on the safe method of transfer (e.g. gangway and/or pilot ladder), onsite hazards, and personal protective equipment (e.g. helmet, life jacket, gloves, safety boots) to be used.
- Safe transfer condition:** Do not proceed with vessel transfer if there are unfavourable weather or sea conditions, extensive vessel or boat movement, if anyone feels unwell or if it feels unsafe to proceed.
- Life jackets:** For safe boarding of vessels, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore recommends the use of SOLAS type-approved life jacket or a life jacket meeting ISO 12402 Personal Flotation Devices with performance level 100 or higher. Always check that life jackets are in good condition before use.
- Equipment transfer:** Pack all belongings, loose items and equipment into bags and separately transfer them onto the vessel.
- Safe vessel transfer:** Boarding area of service boats should not have slip or trip hazards, have sufficient handholds, and be within the line-of-sight of the boat operator. Board only when the gangway is level with the service boat and in the direction of the boat master.
- Transfer supervision:** Deploy a deckhand on the service boat and a gangway watch on the vessel to supervise and assist workers during vessel transfer, and to activate emergency response and rescue procedures as required.

For more information, please refer to Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore's [Guidelines for Safe Transfer of Persons Between Vessels at Anchorages](#), WSH Council's [Guide to WSH for Service Providers on Safe Working on Ships at Anchorages](#), [Safe Boarding of Vessels poster](#), and [Wear Your Life Jacket poster](#) to remind workers to wear their life jackets before vessel transfer.

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 30 June 2022. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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