

## Dangers when mooring and unmooring

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A recent near-miss was reported on a member's vessel, whereby a rigger was nearly hit by a mooring line during a mooring operation.

### What happened?

The rigger was operating the capstan when it happened. In the past, a number of near misses have occurred and unfortunately also a number of very serious accidents whereby people sustained extensive injuries.

Mooring and unmooring of barges and ships has always been a hazardous operation. Clearly, not all parts of a mooring operation can be planned without good co-operation and communication with the crew of the facility or other vessel.

### The company involved has made the following recommendations:

To enhance such co-operation and communication, with the aim of eliminating such incidents, the member has noted the following points in its procedures:

- Always have a 'toolbox talk' prior to any mooring/unmooring operation and keep to the agreements made.
- Follow the correct (agreed) sequence.
- Always stand clear of areas where you can be hit by a breaking line or a jumping line.
- Check the condition of the mooring lines before use – if their condition is unacceptable, scrap them.
- If you end up in a situation where the situation is hazardous, stand back and/or stop the operation and make sure it is safe before proceeding; . Communication between deck and foreman on barge needs to be operating properly in case of sequence changes or otherwise.

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