

## Crew member in small boat slipped and dislocated shoulder

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A person was kneeling down in a workboat and was injured when the boat moved suddenly as a result of the sea state.

### What happened?

The boat (a small workboat used in diving operations) pitched forward and hit a Catenary Anchor Leg Mooring Buoy. The injured person automatically braced himself by placing a hand on the internal structure of the boat, however the impact on his arm resulted in him getting a dislocated shoulder.



## What went right?

- Weather conditions were determined as favourable for operations and dive punt operations were being undertaken in accordance with company requirements.
- The injured person had re-positioned himself into the lower section of the vessel to minimise the risk of falling overboard whilst going about his work.
- After the incident, emergency response procedures were implemented, and the injured crew person was subsequently transferred to the main vessel for medical treatment.

## What went wrong?

The crew member, whilst he had earlier used some situational awareness to safely re-position himself, had not foreseen the new risks of sudden movement of the boat associated with where he was now working.

Work was now being carried out in a location not covered in the risk assessment. He thought he would be safer, but he wasn't.

## What was the cause?

- Immediate cause was an unexpected movement of the working environment causing human instinctual behaviour leading to injury.
- Our member found the root causes to be:
  - Risk assessments did not include operational activities being performed in the boat.
  - The requirement for additional equipment being supplied to operational areas and how this was to be undertaken was not adequately addressed within project planning procedures.

## Actions

- Plan and consider human instinctual behaviour within risk assessments.
  - An example would be when you call someone's name when they're in a space with low headroom, and they automatically look up – and bang their head.
- Look closely at the adequacy of toolbox talks and prestart meetings for small boat work.

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