

Lost Time Injury (LTI): Fall on Staircase

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A crewman on a vessel lost his balance going down some stairs and fell, resulting in a fractured ankle.

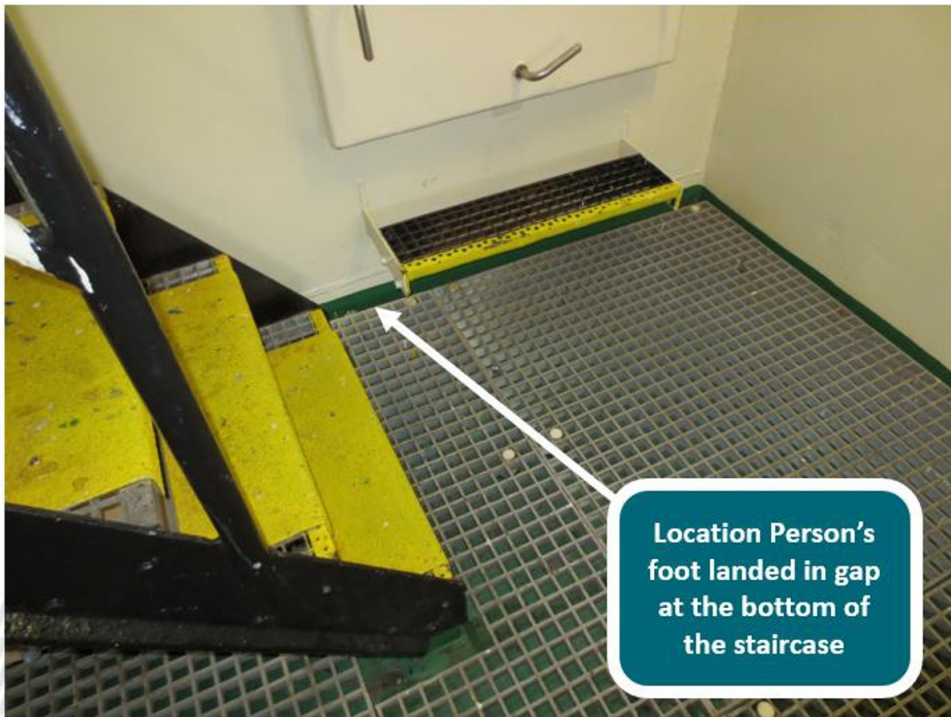
What happened?

His foot got caught in a gap as he landed at the bottom of the stairs. He suffered 3 broken bones and his foot was dislocated. He was evacuated by helicopter to hospital, where surgery was performed a number of days after the event.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



What went wrong?

- The injured person lost footing when descending staircase:
 - he was not rushing, and it was stated he was not showing any signs of pressure or stress prior to the event
 - there was no significant vessel movement (wave height 2mHs, wind NE 25knots)
 - person stated he was holding the handrail;
- His safety shoes were in a poor condition and did not meet company standard (ankle height).



What were the causes?

- Immediate causes:
 - person lost footing and fell forward
 - complacency/lack of situational awareness
 - potentially poor standard of footwear, however soles of shoes were not excessively worn.
- Underlying causes:
 - potential for tiredness/fatigue – the incident occurred on a nightshift.
 - failure to identify that the gap at the bottom of the staircase may present a hazard. Although it should be noted that the stairs were classified in accordance with local regulatory standards.

What lessons were learned?

- Worn out personal protective equipment (PPE) should be checked regularly and replaced when required.
- Never rush on stairways and always keep one hand firmly on the handrail, utilising the trailing hand technique where possible.

What actions were taken?

- Additional warning signage was placed at top of the staircase.
- Review of instructions/expectations regarding company standard of safety footwear.
- Improvement modification was added to staircase in order to prevent a person's foot from becoming caught between the single protruding step

and the staircase.

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