

Lifeboat launch capability compromised

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Step Change in Safety has published the following safety alert regarding an incident in which lifeboat launch capability was compromised.

What happened?

The incident occurred when scaffolding was erected in close proximity to the lifeboat. It had been erected to allow safe access for sub-contract personnel to surrounding structures. During a worksite visit it was noted that the scaffold had been erected around the winch chain on the aft end of the lifeboat.



This would have rendered the lifeboat very difficult to launch. It was identified that the opening left to allow the winch chain and winch block to pass through was significantly smaller than the winch block itself. On the underside of the scaffold boards there was a scaffold pole support that would also have impaired the descent of the lifeboat.

The full report can be found at [Step Change in Safety | Lifeboat launch capability compromised](#).

No similar incidents where safety equipment was obstructed by scaffolding were found. However, members may wish to refer to the incidents (search words: *scaffolding*) described in the following Related Safety Flashes.

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.

The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.

All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate, and warnings for graphic content included where possible.

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