



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

FINDINGS OF CONCERN

Heartland District

August 11, 2026
New Orleans, LA

Findings of Concern 004-26

POTENTIAL HAZARDS WHEN WORKING ALOFT

Purpose. The U.S. Coast Guard issues findings of concern to disseminate information related to unsafe conditions that were identified as contributing factors to a casualty that could contribute to future incidents. Findings of concern are intended to educate the public, state, or local agencies about the conditions discovered so they may address the findings with appropriate voluntary action or highlight existing applicable company policies or state/local regulations.



Figure 1

The Incident.

In October of 2025, a painting contractor was working aloft in a pneumatically operated work basket (Figure 1) aboard a U.S.-flagged floating offshore production facility in the Gulf of America. While positioned approximately five feet above the water, the basket experienced a material failure and fell into the ocean with the worker still inside. Nearby crew members quickly sounded the alarm and safely recovered the worker from the water. The individual subsequently sustained minor muscle strain injuries while unhooking the fall protection harnesses.

Contributing Factors and Analysis.

The Coast Guard investigation found that the work basket involved in the incident, along with several others on the facility, had not been properly maintained over a four-month period when they were used continuously for approximately ten hours each day.

The failed work basket was one of five sent offshore. Post-accident inspections identified numerous critical safety deficiencies and noted two additional baskets as high risk for future failures.



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During post-accident inspection and material analysis, the following safety deficiencies were identified on the failed work basket:

- The wire rope was severely bird-nested, with layers of loose and tight wiring spooled together. It also showed compression-induced flat spots and sheared wire strands. (Figures 2 and 4)
- The air hoist drum's internal components displayed signs of inadequate lubrication which resulted in excessive wear and burn patterns.
- The air hoist drum's transmission gears were found rounded off. (Figure 3)
- The basket overload switch and bracket system were found broken and out of alignment.



Figure 4

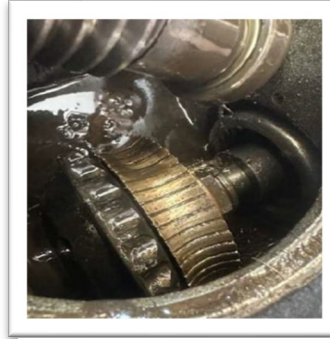


Figure 3



Figure 2

Findings of Concern. Coast Guard investigators have identified the following voluntary measures to mitigate the risks associated with the contributing factors identified above:

- The involved work basket was a commonly used pneumatically controlled wire rope unit. The applicable manufacturer maintains detailed inspection and maintenance guidelines for most portions of the air hoist unit to include daily, 30-day, 90-day, and annual maintenance/inspection items.
 - All wire rope suspension work baskets currently in service within the maritime environment should be strictly maintained as per their manufacturer's guidelines.
 - Work baskets found with safety deficiencies should be removed from service until properly repaired with particular attention paid to the condition of any wire ropes used for hoisting and internal transmission system components.

Closing. These findings of concern are provided for informational purposes only and do not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirements. For any questions or comments please contact the U.S. Coast Guard Heartland District's Outer Continental Shelf Division by email at SECNOLAIO@uscg.mil.