



FINDINGS OF CONCERN

Sector Mobile

February 02, 2023
Mobile, AL

Findings of Concern 002-23

LACK OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION CAN BE DEADLY!

Purpose. The U.S. Coast Guard issues findings of concern to disseminate information related to unsafe conditions that were identified as causal factors in a casualty and 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 an appropriate voluntary action or highlight existing applicable company policies or state/local regulations.

The Incident. On August 5, 2021, the Coast Guard completed an investigation involving the death of a crewmember who was crushed by a 'tween deck that was being lowered into a cargo hold of a deep draft cargo vessel.

Contributing Factors and Analysis. During the investigation, the Coast Guard determined that the crewmember was restricted to a line-of-sight means of communication only, as he was not carrying a radio at the time of the incident. Given the fact that the 'tween deck being lowered completely obstructed the view of both the crane operator overhead and the crewmember who was located inside the cargo hold, there was no effective means of communication in place to halt operations due to an unsafe condition.

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

- Provide a radio to each crewmember directly involved in cargo operations to include any operations that involve the utilization of the vessel's onboard crane.
- Provide training on the proper use of the radios and ensure a common frequency is known and utilized.
- Implement an additional crewmember to relay communications between all workers involved in the evolution.

Closing. These findings of concern are provided for informational purpose only and do not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational, or material requirements. For any questions or comments please contact Sector Mobile Investigations Division by phone at (251) 441-5971 or by email at SecMobile-Investigations@uscg.mil.