



FINDINGS OF CONCERN

Marine Safety Unit Port Canaveral

March 15, 2024
Port Canaveral, FL

Findings of Concern 005-24

NO LINE OF SIGHT AND POOR COMMUNICATION DURING CRANE OPERATIONS CAN LEAD TO CATASTROPHE

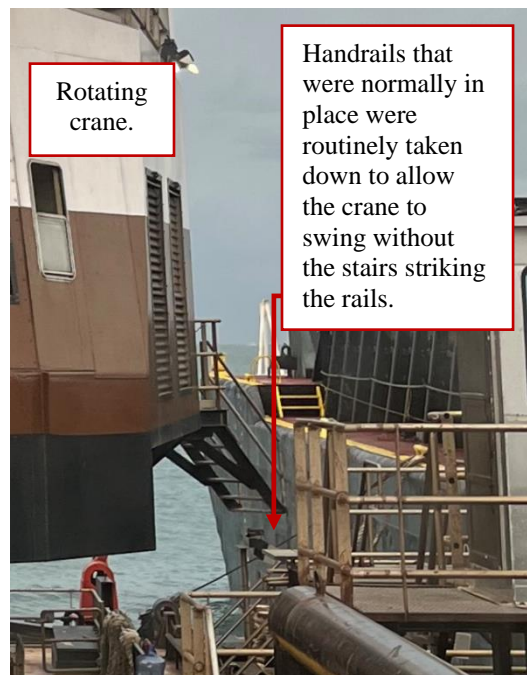
Purpose. The U.S. Coast Guard issues findings of concern to disseminate information related to unsafe conditions that were identified as causal factors in a marine casualty and could contribute to future incidents. Findings of concern are intended to educate the public, state, or local agencies about 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 July 9, 2023, a dredge vessel was conducting crane operations near the channel entrance in Cape Canaveral, FL. As the crane was moving, a Protected Species Observer contracted aboard the vessel fell while descending the crane's stairs, which resulted in serious injuries to the individual's ankles and feet.

Contributing Factors and Analysis. The investigation identified that one of the causal factors for this incident was a failure by the dredge's owner/operator to establish adequate safety procedures related to personnel ascending and descending the stairs during crane operations.

Findings of Concern. Coast Guard Investigators have identified the following preventive measures for all similar vessel owners/operators and their crews to mitigate the risks and contributing factors that led to this incident:

- Review any applicable safety guidelines or Safety Management System (SMS) documentation related to crane operations.
- If personnel have a need to access moving stairwells or platforms on similar vessels, strongly consider establishing a line of sight for the crane operator, which may include the addition of cameras at the operating station.
- Establish and enforce procedures that ensure personnel communicate with the crane operator any time that a crane's stairs need to be accessed by personnel. This may include completely restricting access to adjacent stairs and walkways any time the crane is in operation and whenever handrails need to be temporarily removed.



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 Marine Safety Unit Port Canaveral Investigations Division at (321) 784-6795 or by email at msuportcanaveral@uscg.mil.