



Safety Flash 22/20

These flashes summarize key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learnt from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

1 Finger injury caused by incorrectly secured console cover

What happened?

An incorrectly secured console cover closed in an unplanned and unexpected way, trapping a crew member's finger, which was injured. After completing a task on a raised working platform a technician was coming down the steps back down to the deck level. To steady his descent, he placed his hand on the corner of a control console. The console cover dropped unexpectedly to its closed position trapping his smallest finger on his right hand between the console and the edge of the cover. This guillotine action fractured his finger.

Applicable
Life Saving
Rule:



Line of Fire



Hinged mechanism was retained by two unsecured wing nuts



The injured person had been descending the raised platform and placed his hand on the console to steady his descent

What were the causes? What went wrong?

- ❑ The hinge was found to function correctly, as designed, but the wing nuts that secured the hinge in place had not been sufficiently tightened;
- ❑ The console cover, possibly affected by weather or vessel movement, dropped at the same moment the injured persons finger was placed in the line of fire;
- ❑ The design of the console weather cover hinge was completely reliant on correct wing nut tightening and requires an improved means of securing to avoid similar cover displacements;
- ❑ Hinge mechanisms that do not lock automatically or "lock-safe", introduce the risk of injury from unintentional or unexpected closing of the covers.

Actions

- ❑ Reiterate the potential risks for injury from being "in the line of fire";

- Carry out a “Hazard Hunt” on your vessel to identify all hinged cover mechanisms that have the potential for repeating the incident outlined in this alert;
- Install improved hinge locking arrangements wherever a significant risk of hand or finger injury is identified.