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BCFerries

ALERT #110

ALL LEARNING EVENTS REPORTED TODAY

Shoulder injury unrolling new mooring lines



Three Deckhands (including a new hire) were tasked to unspool four new mooring lines and ready them for use on the upper car deck. The spools were tipped from 'on end' to 'on edge' in order to un-roll the line from the spool and avoid the lines becoming kinked. Each mooring line was 300 ft. long with a weight of 136 lb per 100 ft. for a total of approx. 450 lb. including the wooden spool. The work activity resulted in the new hire Deckhand sustaining a shoulder injury.

Lessons Learned:

- All three Deckhands worked together to tip the spools.
- All had proper footwear, were wearing gloves, and were well rested.
- The total weight of the spool was not known at the time of commencing the work.
- Tipping the spool required each Deckhand to lift approximately 112 lb. (if load shared equally) with the remaining 112 lb. taken by the deck as the spool was lifted.
- Unspooling lines is not a common task and pre-planning discussions did not occur.
- Crew members experienced in the task were not consulted prior to implementation.

Preventive Actions:

- Prior to assigning non-routine work, supervisors should meet with employees to discuss the work to be done and identify any hazards, including risk of injury to crew.
- Engage supervisors and fellow crew members who may have had similar experience with this type of work.
- Machinery or lifting gear should be considered.
- Using a crane or chain block would have significantly reduced the risk of injury. If a mechanical advantage is not available, additional crew should be assigned to the task.
- Time constraints should never be an issue when dealing with manual handling of awkward and heavy objects. Always allot enough time and personnel to perform the work safely.

If you see something, say something, do something!