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BC Ferries

ALERT #111

ALL LEARNING EVENTS REPORTED TODAY

Tugger Safety



Due to a recent incident involving the operation of a tugger, an investigation was conducted through the IAR process. The investigation highlighted a number of harm reduction opportunities ensuring the safe operation of this equipment. The following lessons learned will lead to the prevention of injuries in the future.

Lessons Learned:

Ad hoc modifications are being made to the tugger safety features circumventing service requests to properly resolve known defects. For example:

Adding a tennis ball to the e-brake hides the ability to visually check the brake for tension adjustment.

Covering the seat shift caused the protection handle to come off leaving exposed metal which could cause injury.

Tugger operators have been observed either not using seatbelts or using them improperly.

Improperly handling the gear shift resulted in a finger injury.

Operating tuggers at close to maximum speed and not slowing down for hazards such as speed bumps, creating risk of injury even if using seatbelts properly.

Entering and exiting the tugger without using three points of contact can result in MSI.

Preventive Actions:

- Service requests or work orders should be submitted for all known defects; do not attempt to modify or adapt equipment from the manufacturer's original design.
 - Do not put yourself or your co-workers at risk of accident or injury.
- Safety equipment is designed to reduce the risk of harm and must be used.
 - It is the responsibility of supervisors to ensure policy and procedures are followed whenever employees are using any piece of BC Ferries issued equipment, including tuggers.
- Placing your hand securely on the gear shift knob will ensure you do not get your fingers trapped in the way of the shifting mechanism.
- Operators must operate tuggers at an appropriate speed for the surface and environmental conditions.
- Always embark and disembark tuggers using three points of contact.
- Daily inspections should be completed and any deficiencies to be reported for correction by a qualified person.

If you see something, say something, do something!