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BCFerries

ALERT #112

ALL LEARNING EVENTS REPORTED TODAY

Deckhand Struck on Car Deck



A Deckhand was struck by a trailer that was being towed by a pick-up on the main car deck of the Salish Eagle during the discharge of traffic on August 24, 2017. Nearing the end of his shift, the Deckhand had motioned to the driver of a pick-up towing a trailer to proceed forward and discharge. While this lane moved slowly forward, the Deckhand turned his body and attention to another truck and motioning to the other driver to proceed forward towards him.

As the second truck moved forward, the Deckhand walked backwards into the lane of the first pick-up and trailer. The wheel-well of the trailer caught the Deckhand's knee knocking him off balance and onto the deck. Although the Deckhand fell away from the moving vehicle and did not incur a life threatening injury, it is not difficult to imagine that a worse outcome could have resulted.

Lessons Learned:

- Traffic control on Vessels and in Terminals requires a high level of vigilance and awareness due to the hazard of moving vehicles;
- Adopt and use best practice body positioning while working around vehicles;
- Be aware of the effects of complacency, fatigue, rushing and frustration as you direct traffic;
- Identify escape routes and avoid being in a position between vehicles or a bulkhead. Move to open space;
- Identify at risk behaviour with your co-workers. Work as a team to keep safe work practices in place.

Preventive Actions:

- Face moving vehicles and those preparing to move;
- Establish eye contact with drivers;
- Use clear standard hand signals and expect that drivers may do unexpected actions. (driver blind spots);
- Use pylons and cones to assist vehicle movement. Do not use your body as a pylon to persuade drivers to turn;
- Position oneself away from the direct path of vehicles and the center of lanes;
- Avoid standing directly in front of vehicles, particularly when the vehicle is likely in drive and held by only the brake;
- Avoid walking backward;
- Avoid motioning vehicles into the lane you are standing in; and
- Avoid pinch points and leave a safe area for yourself to step away.

If you see something, say something, do something!