



Diagram from UK MCA MGN 308

1. What is shown in red in the picture?
2. Do you know why these areas are dangerous?
3. Are you aware of these areas on your ship?
4. Should these areas be permanently marked on your vessel?
5. What does it say in your onboard risk assessment and safety management system concerning mooring operations?

1. What is shown in red in the picture?

Snap back zones.

2. Do you know why these areas are dangerous?

Any mooring line under tension has the potential to fail. Should failure occur the elasticity in the line will cause it to snap back with great force towards its secure point (e.g. bollard or winch drum). Anyone standing in a snap back zone during line failure may be seriously injured, or killed, due to the very large forces involved.

3. Are you aware of these areas on your ship?

Any person likely to be involved in mooring operations should be aware of the potential snap back zones aboard their vessel. Take time to explain the location of snap back zones on the ship prior to each mooring operation.

4. Should these areas be permanently marked on your vessel?

Mooring is a dynamic operation where the crew members are constantly responding to a changing situation. If your vessel calls at a variety of ports, it will most likely use a different mooring configuration for each one. It would therefore not promote safety to permanently paint snap-back zones applicable for all situations on a relatively small deck area.

[UK MCA's MGN 308 \(M & F\)](#) and [COSWP 25.3.10](#) recommend that a bird's eye view of the mooring deck arrangement is produced which can then be utilised as a means of identifying danger areas during the initial Toolbox Talk.

5. What does it say in your onboard risk assessment and safety management system concerning mooring operations?

Please review your onboard procedures for mooring operations.

N.B. A visit to one of the mooring stations will assist with this session.