

Talking Points: Working at Height

FOR USE DURING ONBOARD SAFETY MEETINGS



QUESTIONS

- Q What are the potential consequences of this situation?
- Q How many departures from safe working practice can you identify?
- Q What does it say in your onboard risk assessment in respect of working at height?
- Q What does the vessel permit to work say in respect of working at height?

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ANSWERS

Q What are the potential consequences of this situation?

A A fall from such a height onto the deck or into a cargo hold can result in death or very serious injury.

Q How many departures from safe working practice can you identify?

A In relation to working at height there are numerous departures from safe working practice including, but not necessarily limited to:-

- No staging or other means of safe access
- No secure point for harness
- Full body harness not being used
- Harness in use not properly fitted
- Numerous obstructions by gas leads and debris represent a trip hazard which could be fatal in this case
- Debris could fall on those below
- Area below not cordoned off
- No one assisting from deck level

Q What does it say in your onboard risk assessment in respect of working at height?

- A**
- Take this opportunity to discuss your risk assessment for working aloft
 - Should this job even be going ahead? In normal circumstances a vessel may not have sufficient equipment aboard for adequate control measures to be put in place to allow this work to take place.

Q What does the vessel permit to work say in respect of working at height?

- A**
- Take this opportunity to discuss your permit to work system.