

Fleet Memorandum #5 (Post for Public Review)

Overview

On June 1, 2009 the deck crew on the R/V Powell was demobilizing the single beam echo sounder's transducer pole mounted in the port moon pool. Two members of the deck crew were un-bolting the single beam transducer mounting bracket from the moon pool mounting pole when they sustained injuries to their hands. The crane was in the process of performing the lift, when the crane operator left his position and had the crew power down the hydraulics. The transducer was left suspended above the deck left and not laid down on the deck. Two crew members continued to unbolt the bracket and once loosened; the pole slipped and pinched fingers of their hands. One crewman had fingers between the mounting flange and pole frame and another between the moon pool and deck. Both crewmen were taken for medical treatment and received sutures.

Mitigation

Recommendations to mitigate future issues include the following:

1. Training of inexperienced deckman should be reviewed and ensure proper supervision, particularly for any job out of normal scope.
2. A job safety analysis (JSA) needs to be conducted/reviewed prior to out of scope work and lifts. A JSA review could identify potential risks, mitigation measures, and ensure effective communications between all personnel involved in a lift.
3. Stops should be welded in place to keep the pole from having the ability to slip.
4. Equipment should not be left in a suspended position with stored energy that can be accidentally released. Equipment should be secured before leaving a job site.