



Fleet Memo #11: Safe Working Practices

Recently on one of the TDI-Brooks vessels, a seaman was carrying two to three bags of garbage to the dumpster. It was night time and dark, with no moon. Due to the fact that he was carrying so many bags, his vision was further obscured. Attached to the deck is a short electrical box that is welded to the deck and painted in bright colors so that it is a noticeable obstruction. Of course, if it had been daylight it might have been noticed. However, the sailor tripped over this obstruction and severely cut his leg. A tight compression bandage was applied, but it was initially thought that stitches would be required. Due to quick reaction by the Captain and assistance from an EMT on a nearby rig, the injured sailor is now healing nicely.

Lessons Learned:

When working alone make sure that you CAN do what you need to do alone. DO NOT overload yourself where you put yourself in harms way. If your vision is obscured, carry what you can and carry safely. If the task is urgent, SEEK assistance. No one ever will require you to do something that is inherently unsafe. DO NOT be in a hurry. The environment you work in is an accident waiting to happen. With motion in the ocean and spray or rain on deck, a person has to take all of this into consideration when working.

Keep this in mind when working on board, "ONE HAND FOR THE VESSEL AND THE OTHER FOR YOURSELF". Work safely and keep your eyes open for yourself and your shipmates.

Pat Fallwell

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