

Marine Department Notice No. 75 of 2010

(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

Safe Mooring Operation

When a Chinese registered river trade container vessel was mooring at Kwai Chung Container Terminal, a crewmember was struck by a parted mooring rope, fell overboard, and drowned.

2. The investigation revealed that the master did not check and confirm that the ropes at the stern had been let go before attempting to manoeuvre the vessel away from the berth highlighting a lack of communication among the team members during mooring operations.

3. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, the attention of owners and masters of all vessels are drawn to the following important advice:-

- Effective communication arrangement must be maintained between the mooring team and the master on the bridge of a vessel at all times during berthing/unberthing operations; and
- The Master must ensure all mooring ropes are let go before manoeuvring the vessel off the berth.

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