

## **Marine Department Notice No. 114 of 2007**

(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

### **Fatal accident caused by mooring rope**

#### **The Accident**

In a recent accident a mooring rope snapped and hit a crewmember who was walking on the deck of a dumb steel lighter mooring alongside a berth at Tsing Yi. The crewmember suffered severe head injury and later died in the hospital.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

2. Lessons learnt from this incident are:
  - (i) Ropes that are to be used for mooring should be maintained in good condition and inspected frequently for both wear and tear. If rope strands have worn down considerably, the rope should be replaced.
  - (ii) Mooring arrangements should be well planned and rigged in a safe manner to avoid damage to mooring ropes, for example, a mooring rope may be damaged by rubbing against seawall due to tidal changes if left unattended.
  - (iii) All personnel should be aware of the danger of being hit by a parted mooring rope.
3. Owners, operators, masters and persons-in-charge of vessels and lighters, are required to observe the above-mentioned recommendations in order to prevent recurrence of a similar accident.

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