

Fatal Accident onboard Hong Kong registered bulk carrier *Jumeirah Beach* at Yellow Sea on 2 June 2014

1. The incident

1.1 At about 1310 on 2 June 2014, a fatal accident happened on board the Hong Kong registered bulk carrier M.V. *Jumeirah Beach* while she was enroute to Dalian, Mainland China.

1.2 At the time of the accident, the bosun was standing on a stepping platform holding a water hose to cleanse the hatch coaming of No.2 cargo hold. He was found to have fallen down from the platform onto the deck, with the back of his head hitting against the deck. The adjustable headband of the safety helmet was slightly damaged. The stepping platform, of height about 0.85 meter above the main deck and located in between No.2 and No.3 cargo holds on the starboard side, was fitted to cover the piping on deck and for the crew to walk across the piping safely.

1.3 The other crewmembers working nearby immediately came over to help the bosun. The condition of the bosun worsened and upon the advice of the International Radio Medical Centre, the master took the vessel to the nearest port and the vessel arrived at Qingdao at 0809 on 3 June 2014. The bosun was sent to a hospital for medical treatment. He was certified dead on 4 June 2014 due to serious brain injury.

1.4 The investigation revealed the following contributory factors to the accident:

- While concentrating on his work and with his back facing the side of the platform, the bosun might not have been aware that he was already standing near the edge of the stepping platform and was prone to losing his footing and eventually fell;
- The bosun's alertness of getting hurt from a fall off a low-rise platform might have been low; and
- Probably due to losing of his footing, the bosun fell backwards from the platform with the back of his head hitting against the deck and sustained serious injury to the back of his head.

2. Lessons learnt

The lessons learnt from this incident are:

- All crew on board should always maintain their alertness even when they are working only on a low-rise stepping platform.