

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 139/2021

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Man overboard accident while working overside

The Incident

A local licensed dumb lighter (dumb lighter) moored alongside another lighter in the Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter, with a bulky steel object being placed overside between the two lighters, awaiting rinsing by water. A handyman carrying out cleaning work fell overboard while standing on a tyre fender of the dumb lighter. He was later found drowned on the same day.

2. The investigation into the accident revealed that:
 - (i) the handyman's safety awareness was insufficient and did not have any safety protection while standing on the slippery and dangerous surface of the tyre fender alongside the dumb lighter; and
 - (ii) the person in charge of works failed to arrange for the cleaning work to be carried out in a safe manner with adequate protection and failed to ensure that the handyman was wearing appropriate protective gears such as a lifejacket.

Lessons Learnt

3. The persons in charge of works should provide safety training to the workers and ensure that cleaning work could be carried out in a safe manner with adequate protection.

4. The persons in charge of works should implement effective supervision to ensure a proper use of protective clothing and equipment by workers, in particular wearing lifejackets when working in an exposed shipside position.

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Director of Marine

Marine Department

Government of the HKSAR

Date: 9 August 2021

Action file ref.: L/M No. 2/2021 in MAI/P 903/030-2019