



INTRODUCTION

It goes without question that during cold weather on ships, the potential for risk can escalate if proper diligence and vigilance are not maintained. It should come as no surprise that the results of a search in the Mariner Safety Repository show that four of the top five causes of near-misses in cold weather directly relate to forming of ice or freezing of machinery.

The largest reported cause for near-misses during cold weather (43%) is “Ice (slip/fall hazard)”. The accumulation of snow, frost, or ice upon the deck, stairs, ladders, and hand rails of the vessel pose a serious risk. Most reports show a lack of situational awareness when moving about on potentially frozen surfaces or even once a de-icing agent is used as the surface remains slick.



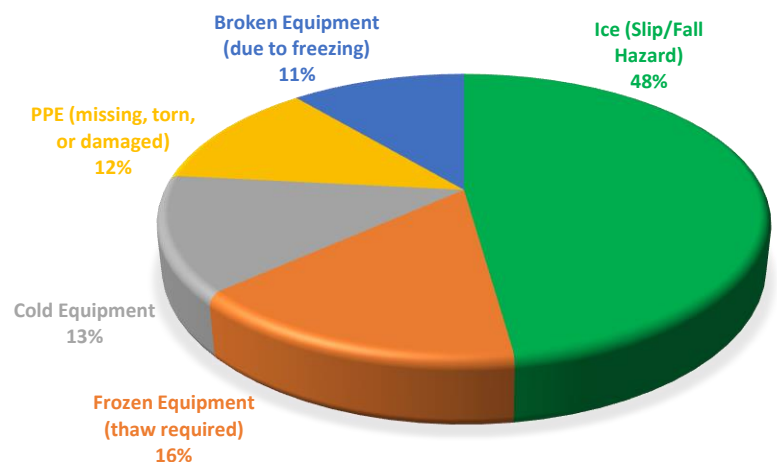
Three of the top five near-misses reported deal with equipment functionality in cold climates. “Frozen Equipment (thaw required)” (14%), “Cold Equipment” (12%), and “Broken Equipment (due to freezing)” (10%) total 36% of the data. These issues range from: failure of equipment to start or function properly, to bursting pipes and lines, to points of egress being frozen shut.

And finally, “PPE (missing, torn, or damaged)” (11%) rounds out the top five. This refers to improper use of PPE or lacking proper PPE to perform the tasks, including correct sizes.



Although most of the issues reported in the data are not preventable they can be mitigated. With proper use of heaters and de-icing agents both equipment and walkways can remain in working order. And with proper, fitted, PPE these tasks can be performed safer and more efficiently. Planning completely for the climate can be

**COLD WEATHER ANALYSIS DATA
TOP 5 NEAR-MISS CATEGORIES**



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