



LESSONS LEARNED



Towing Hawser Near Misses and Injuries

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TOWING HAWSER NEAR MISSES AND INJURIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Towing vehicles can result in a number of hazards, this document looks specifically at the towing hawser.

Towing Hawser Near Misses	
Incident	Lesson Learned
Crew members standing too close to towing hawser during towing operations	Crew members should practice situational awareness, and be aware of hazards in their immediate area
Too much slack in tow hawser, resulted in tug drifting away	Maintain the proper distance between vessels when performing a tow.
Towing hawser parted due to excessive wear and tear.	Equipment must be maintained and replaced when the condition is beyond repair
Towing hawser eye is in backwards position, which can lead to possible breaks in the line	Keep watch of towing eye between stops and starts when towing, to verify that it is in the correct position



Towing Hawser Injury Types	
Incident	Lesson Learned
Crew member under the influence of drugs, was caught between deckhouse and hawser. Resulted in shoulder and back injuries.	Accident due to employee negligence, directly tied to illegal drug use.
Collision during tow, due to rough weather and seas. The hawser was cut and this allowed parting of the vessels, tow was abandoned	Tugging should be postponed or cancelled during rough weather.
Towing Hawser line became strain and snapped, caused bit to strike crew member.	Be cautious of the amount of strain placed on lines, ensuring that the strain does not exceed the maximum strength of the line.
Towing Hawser used for job, instead of towing ropes. Line snaps and strikes two crew members. Line found to be in bad condition	Condition of equipment should be inspected before use and replaced if necessary



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