

30/07/2021

Fall into cargo hold on fishing vessel

13 July 2021

A 64-year-old deckhand was injured and later died in an incident onboard a fishing vessel. The vessel was berthed at a wharf in Pyrmont. Seafood had been unloaded. The deckhand fell two metres from the deck into an open cargo hold.



The hatch to the cargo hold.



The fishing vessel.

Safety information

Consider 'reasonably practicable' control measures to manage the risks associated with falls from heights whilst working onboard commercial fishing vessels.

You must:

- identify and manage all risks, including those associated with working around hatches and penetrations
- keep approaches to holds and access hatches unobstructed to reduce the risk of falls and to enable holds to be evacuated quickly in an emergency
- secure hatches and cover penetrations when not in use
- provide and maintain adequate lighting
- train the crew regularly so that they can identify and manage risks and to ensure they are familiar with the safe work methods.

The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing and the findings are not yet confirmed. SafeWork NSW has commenced an investigation in response to the incident to determine its cause and circumstances. No conclusions should be drawn from the information in this publication about the cause of the incident or the culpability of any party.



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Incident Information Release

■ SAFework NSW ■

More information

- [Commercial fisher – AMSA](#)
- [Managing the risk of falls at workplaces](#) (PDF)
- [Work health and safety on domestic commercial vessels – AMSA](#)
- [Managing risks in stevedoring](#) (Code of Practice) (PDF)

View the latest incident information releases at safework.nsw.gov.au

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