



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

03 - 12

Pilot Ladder Safety Notice

Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur has received two recent reports of failures in pilot ladders while personnel were conducting at-sea transfers. Neither incident resulted in injury, but due to the inherent risks associated with at-sea personnel transfers, the potential for accidents remain a constant threat.

Mariners conducting at-sea personnel transfers are reminded to examine the condition of the pilot ladders prior to conducting the transfer. Any injuries resulting from failures of pilot ladders should be reported to the local Captain of the Port.

All shipping companies are strongly encouraged to check the condition of all pilot ladders and replace deteriorated and worn ladders. Vessel operators shall also ensure the pilot ladder rigging is securely tied off to the vessel prior to beginning at-sea transfers.

This notice will be posted on the Coast Guard's HOMEPORT website at <http://homeport.uscg.mil> and the VTS Website www.uscg.mil/d8/vtspportarthur . If you have any questions, please call VTS Port Arthur at (409) 719-5070.

G. J. PAITL
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port