

## FAILED RESCUE ATTEMPT

### The Story

A roustabout assisting a crane operator in relocating a drill-water-loading hose was struck by the hose on the neck and shoulder after a 1 1/8-inch manila line lifting the hose parted. The blow knocked him over a handrail 55 feet into the water. Other personnel on the rig saw him surface and threw him a life ring. He grabbed it and pulled himself into the buoy. Seas were running 10 feet, the air temperature was 37 degrees, and the water temperature was 45 degrees. When the man overboard alarm was sounded, the standby boat moved in to make the rescue and within a minute was alongside the man in the water. Once close to the man, those on the vessel saw that he was weak and could not help himself. A cargo net was put over the side and a boat hook used to pull the man to the net, but he was unable to climb it. Four crewmen from the vessel took turns going over the side into the net, but they were unable to lift the man up out of the water. An attempt to put a line around him failed, and an effort to launch the standby vessel's rubber rescue boat was also unsuccessful. A line running to the block used to raise and lower the boat was twisted and fouled the blocks. After about 15 minutes another supply boat began an approach in an attempt to assist. The propeller wash from this vessel pushed the man in the water away from the standby boat, and he slipped through the life ring and disappeared.

### Lesson Learned

*The investigating officer took into account the fact that any rescue attempt was difficult, given the cold temperature and the rough seas, but still observed that the standby boat was not fully prepared for a rescue attempt. Crewmen were not properly attired for a rescue in the weather conditions in which they were operating, and their equipment (the rescue boat) was not ready for quick use.*

Prevention Through People



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