

SLICK DECK CONTRIBUTES TO DEATH

The Story

A barge's cook, his helper, and the master of a motor vessel moored to a submersible drilling barge sat drinking beer and liquor one evening aboard the M/V in violation of company policy. At about 10:00 p.m., the cook returned to the barge to retire for the night. Ten minutes later the cook's helper and the master decided to move the boat around to the lee side of the barge. The master started his engines and looked aft to make sure his stern was clear of the barge. What he saw was the cook floating off his starboard quarter. His mutilated body was recovered 45 minutes later. Witnesses on previous occasions had observed the cook relieving himself over the side of the barge close to where the M/V was moored. This was near a mess dumbwaiter used to carry trash from the galley, and cooking oil and grease had accumulated there in a light film on the deck.

Lesson Learned

The lessons to be learned are self-evident, human carelessness and failure to take simple precautions are frequently significant contributing factors to injuries and deaths.

Prevention Through People



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