Housekeeping on Deck (maritime) Fatality File



At approximately 10:30 AM, Mark Johnson, an experienced deckhand, was assigned to carry out housekeeping duties on the deck of the vessel. The weather conditions were relatively calm, and the vessel was docked at Port Harbor.

While engaged in cleaning and organizing the deck area, Mark Johnson inadvertently tripped over an unsecured coil of rope that had been left unattended. The fall caused Mark Johnson to lose his balance and tragically led to him striking his head on the deck surface.

Immediate Response:

Upon witnessing the incident, nearby crew members promptly rushed to Mark Johnson’s aid, calling for medical assistance and initiating emergency procedures. The onboard medical team responded immediately, providing initial medical attention to the injured worker. Despite their best efforts, it was determined that Mark Johnson had suffered critical head injuries.

Emergency medical services were immediately contacted, and paramedics arrived at the scene shortly thereafter. However, despite the combined efforts of the onboard medical team and the paramedics, Mark Johnson succumbed to his injuries before being transferred to the nearest medical facility.

Investigation Findings:

1. In the aftermath of this tragic incident, a thorough investigation was conducted to determine the root cause and contributing factors. The investigation revealed the following:
2. **Unsafe Work Environment:** The presence of an unsecured coil of rope on the deck, left unattended, created a hazardous condition that led to the trip and subsequent fall of Mark Johnson.
3. **Inadequate Safety Measures:** Insufficient safety protocols and adherence to best practices were identified during the investigation. It was discovered that regular safety inspections and maintenance procedures had not been consistently followed, contributing to the presence of hazards.
4. **Lack of Awareness and Training:** The incident highlighted the need for enhanced training and awareness among the crew regarding housekeeping practices, potential hazards, and the importance of maintaining.