



Pacific Maritime Association

Accident Prevention Department

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Bunker Barge Safety

Often a fuel barge is made up alongside a container ship and transfers bunkers during container operations. Bunker barge personnel report that objects such as lashing bars sometimes fall onto the barge. There have been at least two instances where containers have fallen onto the bunker barges. These falling objects pose a grave risk to the barge personnel and could cause a major oil spill if the bunker hose is damaged during transfer.

Terminal management shall take all reasonable and prudent steps to eliminate the falling of objects onto bunker barges during cargo operations by:

1. Taking the following safety precautions when cargo operations take place near bunker operations.
 - The vessel foreman and terminal management must ensure that care is taken not to drop lashing gear overboard.
 - Isolated chimney stows remaining adjacent to bunkering operations shall remain locked.
 - **The bottom containers loaded back adjacent to bunkering operations shall be locked to the deck prior to loading additional containers on top, and**
 - Work near bunker operations must be closely monitored.
2. When necessary, taking all reasonable and prudent steps to reduce the amount of cargo and lashing operations that take place in the bays adjacent to bunkering operations.
3. Making facility personnel working on the vessel aware of the bunkering operations prior to shift start.
4. Requiring the ships agent to coordinate with terminal management in advance to minimize or eliminate bunker and cargo operation overlaps through appropriate bunker and cargo scheduling.
5. Requiring terminal management personnel on the vessel to inform the vessel of any cargo operational issues that may affect the safety of bunkering operations.

Terminal Management shall ensure that the appropriate Gangway Safety Talks are given to advise personnel regarding bunkering operations.