



GOOD CATCH from **The American Club**

Oiler Executes Perfect Triple Axel Flip and Sticks the Landing

Description

An oiler on a tanker vessel lost his footing on a stairway going down to the engine room but executed the extremely difficult “Triple Axel” involving springing off of 2 platforms and conducting a backflip

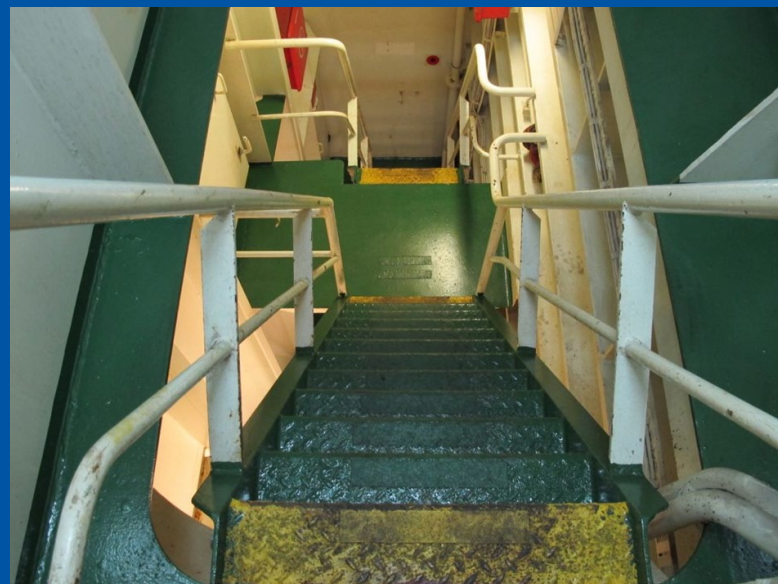
with a full twist before landing beautifully on his feet! The Chief Engineer said it was a sight to behold.

Not really.

The oiler was on his way down to the engine room to relieve the watch. His foot slipped off the step and he lost his balance and fell. He was seriously injured. The oiler he was scheduled to relieve found him approximately 15 minutes later and immediately called for assistance.

The investigation determined that the tread on the stairway was worn. It had been painted numerous times over the years, but each coat appeared to have been added on top of the previous layers of paint. As a result, the raised tread was significantly less pronounced. Further, adhesive non-skid had been placed on the stair treads, but they, too, had been painted over reducing their effectiveness substantially.

When interviewed by the investigator, the Chief Engineer said it was a sight to behold and one he will never forget unfortunately.



Actual Injury and Damage

The oiler broke his leg, broke two vertebrae, and hit his head hard enough to lose consciousness. Fortunately, the vessel was close enough to shore that the oiler was able to be quickly transported to a hospital.



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Potential Injury and Damage

Had the vessel been mid-ocean, it could have taken several days before the injured oiler received much-needed professional medical assistance. This fall could have been fatal either directly, or in the subsequent days had the mariner not been able to get medical treatment ashore.

Prevention

- ★ How often are safety hazards overlooked because they are seen (or stepped on) every day?
- ★ What is proper maintenance for stair treads?
- ★ What is the best way to raise a safety concern about something like a worn stair tread?
- ★ Who is responsible to raise a concern about a stair tread that has become worn?

When you identify a hazard before something goes wrong...

it's a Good Catch.

When you stop an operation before something bad happens...

it's a Good Catch.

When you identify worn treads and raise the concern so it can be corrected...

that's a Good Catch, too!



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