



DESCRIPTION

During arrival, a ship's line was given out to the tug boat. The ship's line was handled by two AB's. Before the line could be secured on a bollard, the tug boat started pulling on the line without receiving a signal from the duty officer. Gestures from the duty officer to the tug boat were to no avail and the tug continued to sail away pulling on the line. An attempt was made to stop the line by securing it on the bollard. As the tug was still pulling, this created a very dangerous situation. After a few seconds, additional attempts to secure the line were abandoned and everybody was moved to a safe distance.

RESOLUTION

Immediate cause: The immediate cause was determined to be irresponsible and dangerous behavior by the pilot of the tug boat.

Corrective action: The ship's crew should secure the ship's line on a bollard before giving it out to the tug boat. There have been similar incidents many times with tugs before in port. There appears to be a lack of effective communication between the tug boat and the ship during securing of the tug, resulting in dangerous situations. There may exist a bit of carelessness by the crew of the ship and/or the crew of the tug. There also may exist a bit of horseplay between the crew of the ship and the crew of the tug in an attempt to annoy each other. Finally, there may be certain ports where the behavior by tug boats (or the ship) may create situations of dangerous operation requiring utmost vigilance by ship's crew. Regardless of whose fault it may be, the result is the same; potentially putting the crew of the ship and the crew of the tug in harm's way. The best solution would be if the tugs use their own line to secure the ship. This is much safer for the ship's crew

and this way the tugs can shorten or slacken their line to their own liking. When using a ship's line it is of utmost importance that the tugs handle the line with care taking into consideration the safety of the ship's crew. The tug should always wait for signals from the duty officer before taking any action. If a ship's line must be used, it is best to give the tug the ship's line only after it has been secured on a bollard, to minimize the potential dangers. This way there is no risk of a running line which could catch a person resulting in serious injuries or worse.

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