Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 12-08

Issued: 28th February 2012
Subject: Supply Boat Pulls Platform Crane Overboard

During routine hoisting activities on board discharging of a 20 feet basket from a supply boat the basket turned round when the crane started lifting it, and hooked inside an escape opening in the rail. The supply boat moved down on the swell at the same time as the crane lifted.

Crane (make: Sanders) lowered the lift back on the deck. Tried to lift it up again, the basket again hooked inside the opening. Seconds later the crane fell down in the sea.

The crane-driver managed to escape without injuries.

The vessel was still connected to the crane as the hook and wire from the crane were connected to the cargo and hanging out over the stern of the vessel. Later the crane wire broke. (Because of risk the crane wire was not cut by vessel deck crew). The basket remained on the supply boat deck.

The crane is on the seabed, a small oil spill is reported (0,6ltr).

This incident is considered a high risk incident and relevant investigations have started up.
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Detail of crane
1. Crane
2. Slewing bearing
3. Flange to connect entire crane to pedestal, broken bolts
4. Pedestal

In the circle the basket and the escape opening the basket was hooked in
Ensure safety of the platform, vessel and crew

- (Onshore) Emergency response team mobilized
- Relevant authorities informed
- First investigation on board by HMI and platform crew
- Start-up Tripod B investigation, focus on ship/bridge activities, platform activities and crane maintenance.
- A similar type of crane (make: Sanders, L10-AR) is put out of operation for boat handling until relevant investigation results are known
- Instructed to place transport baskets (low containers) off the side of the ship, in order to reduce the possibility of hooking in containers
- The crane will be retrieved from the seabed as soon as weather conditions allow this.