

Falling Objects – Working Overhead

Safety Alert - Feb 2022

A hammer head detached from its handle when ship's crew were attempting to loosen a 3 high lashing bar locked into a container above. The hammer head hit a stevedore, who was working 6 metres below, on the shoulder. The injured person was working on the tier 1 lashing deck and had informed the crew about the stuck bar. The crew went onto the bridge access stair, two levels above, without warning the stevedore below that they were going to hit the bar head with a hammer. The hammer head came off, the crew yelled, the stevedore moved his head and the hammer head impacted flat on his shoulder. The hammer head weighed 1-2 kilograms. The HSE Manager immediately attended the vessel and spoke to the captain and crew.

The Key Message is:

Never pass or stand below work being done overhead. If needing to work above other people, stop, let those below know and ensure the area is cleared.

