

5 hard-earned mooring tips from a Captain to prevent mooring failures



Tip #1

Inspect your mooring lines regularly

Worn or damaged mooring lines can fail under load, causing accidents. Regular inspection ensures that lines are strong and safe for use.



Action: Inspect lines for wear, fraying, and according to manufacturer's recommendation. Replace ropes when required to maintain strength.

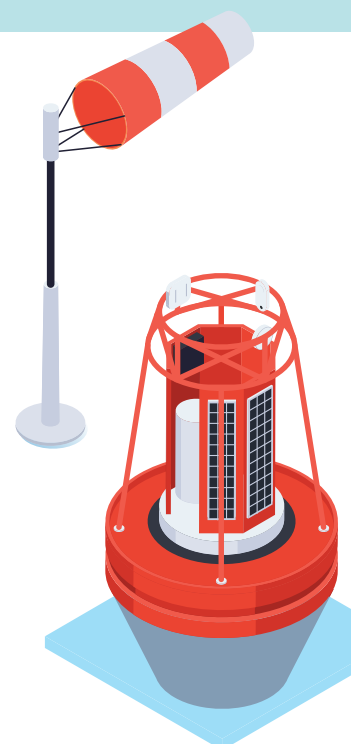
Tip #2

Check local and environmental conditions frequently

Environmental factors like wind, tide and weather are crucial for safe mooring, while local conditions such as currents, sea exposure and passing vessels also have a significant impact that should never be underestimated. Failing to monitor them can lead to unexpected stress on the vessel and affect the lifetime of your ropes.



Action: Keep staying informed before arrival of environmental and local conditions. Consult the agent, pilot or harbor master when in doubt. Frequent checks of the mooring lines by the Officer on watch are crucial with adjustments to the lines and intervals based on prevailing conditions.



Tip #3

Train your crew

Lack of proper training is a leading cause of mooring accidents. It's essential that every crew member is familiarized with the mooring operation and safe working practices, understands their role, is aware of the risks involved and knows the basics of damage mechanisms to prevent bad practices that could compromise safety.



Action: Ensure all crew undergo comprehensive familiarization and training on proper mooring techniques during onboarding. Hold pre-arrival meetings and debriefs after departure to highlight successes and areas for improvement. Repeat and adjust short training sessions accordingly.



Tip #4

Use technology to your advantage

High-quality ropes and modern mooring systems, and digital tools like LMP (Line Management Plan) and LineLens support safer operations, longer rope service life and more efficient mooring practices.



Action: Invest in technology, modern mooring systems, certified high-quality ropes and advanced Line Management software to maintain control and stay ahead.



Tip #5

Regularly maintain equipment

Mooring equipment such as winches, capstans, rollers and fairleads must always be well-maintained to ensure smooth surfaces and prevent damage to mooring lines; otherwise, it can quickly lead to line failure or snapping.



Action: Develop a preventive maintenance schedule and conduct regular checks on all mooring-related equipment. Surface preparation and paint maintenance must strictly follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure optimal coating performance and durability.



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