Ships Service

W Wilhelmsen

No more sailor's yarn: debunking 5 mooring safety myths



Myth #1

"Mooring accidents are always caused by bad weather"

While weather plays a role, most mooring incidents are caused by human error, improper procedures, or equipment failure. Weather is just one contributing factor.

Reality: Proper training, maintenance, high-quality certified mooring ropes and communication are essential to avoid accidents, even in adverse weather conditions.

Myth #2

"You can always use old ropes for mooring"

Old or damaged mooring ropes lose their strength and can snap under pressure. Just because ropes seem fine on the surface doesn't mean they're safe to use.

Reality: Logging of mooring hours, regular inspection and timely replacement of mooring lines are critical to safety. These elements should be systematically managed through a Line Management Plan.





"Mooring safety is only about the lines"

While mooring lines are essential, other factors such as winches, fairleads, and chocks, along with the human element, play a major role in ensuring safe mooring practices.

Reality: Mooring safety is influenced by several factors, including equipment handling and environment, all of which are essential for ensuring a safe and efficient operation.

Myth#4

"Mooring incidents happen because the vessel is too big"

Vessel size can influence mooring, but many accidents occur due to poor handling, lack of experience, or improperly rigged equipment.



Reality: Proper techniques and high-quality certified mooring ropes can make a significant difference, regardless of vessel size. It is essential to strictly follow the regulations and obey the guidelines to ensure safety.







"Mooring safety is a one-time task"

Safety must be an ongoing priority. Simply setting up mooring lines and leaving them unchecked compromises safety. Likewise, a single familiarization while onboarding is not sufficient.

Reality: Regular checks, training, system monitoring and debriefs before and after mooring operations are essential to ensure long-term safety.

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