



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

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PRESS RELEASE 06/23

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) wishes to announce that Summary Investigation Report 6/22 was published on 5 May 2023. The report deals with an occupational accident on the tug ZP BOXER in the port of Hamburg on 4 January 2022. It can be viewed and downloaded on the internet at

<https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/News/neueVeroeffentlichungen>.

On the morning of 4 January 2022, a crew member on the Maltese-flagged harbour tug ZP BOXER was seriously injured while mooring at the berth on the pontoon tug bridge in Hamburg-Neumühlen.

At the time of the accident, the casualty – a qualified able seafarer working as a deckhand – was on the pier together with the tug's chief engineer officer handling the lines (i.e. making ready the two head lines awaiting deployment). At this point, the tug was already alongside with the pier on her port side. The stern line and a breast line, as well as the fore spring had already been deployed with eyes placed over the relevant bollards by the engineer and deckhand, respectively. The tug was moving slowly ahead to take the slack out of the lines, which were already preconfigured in terms of length, before the two head lines were then to be placed over the bollard. The deckhand went back to the spring in order to pull the head lines that were on top of it under the spring. Without realising, he put his right foot into the eye of the fore spring, which was still lying loose on the ground (without any tension on the line) but which he had already placed over the bollard. At that very moment, the fore spring tightened, as the tug was slowly moving forward to take up her final mooring position. The eye of the spring on the bollard pulled tight instantly and severed the deckhand's foot.

The summary investigation report examines whether violations of existing working procedures have occurred on board and whether the shipping company needs to implement measures to prevent such accidents in the future. Furthermore, this report is intended to draw attention to the dangers associated with the handling of lines and to raise awareness among people who work with lines.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations and other BSU publications can be found at

<https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications>.

Ulf Kaspera
Director