

Marine casualty

Less serious casualty: Allision with wind turbine

What happened?

An offshore supply vessel contributed in assembling a wind farm in the Baltic Sea. Due to the deteriorating weather conditions, the ship collected fitters from the wind turbine under construction. Shortly afterwards, the master decided to test an emergency control system, which resulted in the loss of control of the ship, which could not be regained in a timely manner. Wind and waves pushed the ship back to the wind turbine under construction. Ultimately, the allision with the wind turbine occurred. The wind turbine and the ship sustained damages and three people on board were injured.

Why did it happen?

- The master wanted to test an emergency control system, although his ship was still near the wind turbine under construction.
- The nautical officer on watch was not sufficiently familiar with the operation of the DP-system.
- The internal communication between the master and his nautical officers was inadequate.

What can we learn?

- While maneuvering, the control mode and the way the ship is operated, respectively, should not be changed unnecessarily and emergency systems should not be tested.
- The operation of special control elements should be trained regularly in order to ensure a safe ship handling at all times.
- A ship's crew should always be aware of the importance of the internal communication. Accordingly, clear instructions should be given, clear statements be made and inquiries facilitated.

Who may benefit?

Ships commands, seafarers, ship operators