Safety Alert

MOORING LINE SAFETY

This alert is a reminder to all Port users of the potential dangers associated with working in the vicinity of ships mooring ropes.

Although snapped mooring ropes are a rare occurrence at Albany Port, parted ropes at other Ports around the world have caused horrific injuries such as amputation of limbs, broken bones and even death.

Be vigilant when working on wharves, stay out of the snap-back zone (see below diagrams), visually monitor ropes and listen out for creaking and “singing” ropes as an indication of mooring ropes under tension.

Where there is uneven distribution of weight on ropes, poorly tended or poor quality ropes, the risk of mooring ropes breaking may increase. Report any safety concerns to your supervisor. Notify Port of Albany’s Duty Pilot (0488 929 095) if you have any concerns about poor quality ropes, poorly tended ropes, or if you witness a parted rope.

During vessel berthing and un-berthing operations and when a vessel is being shifted on the berth, personnel access is restricted to those involved in mooring activities. All personnel not involved with mooring activities MUST be clear of the berth. Access to the berth is permitted only when the vessel is all fast, the gangway is in place and the mooring gang supervisor has given the all-clear.

A port user observing a mooring rope parting should inform the duty pilot immediately on 0488 929 095.

All port users should make their employees aware of the dangers of parting mooring ropes and the increased risks with vessel movement, such as when shifting position on the berth. This hazard should be considered in your risk assessment process.

Port users requiring access to berths 1, 2, and 3 for any reason, should stay clear of mooring ropes as much as is reasonably practicable. Port users who need access to areas in the vicinity of mooring ropes should be especially aware of the dangers of parting ropes and must be instructed to stay well clear if they observe creaking and/or tightening of mooring ropes.

Port users requiring access to finger jetties or mooring/wharf areas at berth #6 while ships are berthed should contact the supervising stevedore prior to access.

Berth #6 Woodchip Supervisor 0419 492 613
Berth #3 Grain supervisor 0419 460 609
Diagram 1 - A Simple Mooring System Illustrating The Potential "Snap-Back" Zone Area

Diagram 2 - A Complex Mooring System Illustrating The Potential "Snap-Back" Zone Area