



## **Marine Safety Information Bulletin**

**17-25**

### **Vessel Surge Events - Safety Recommendations**

**Issue Date: March 03, 2025**

On Dec 15, 2024, U.S. Coast Guard SEC Corpus Christi was notified of a vessel that experienced a surge event breaking 9 of 11 mooring lines causing the gangway to fall into the water. The vessel reported no damage or pollution; however, the gangway was inoperable. Slack lines account for over 90% of vessel surge events and gangway failures. This continues to be an inherent danger to embarking/disembarking crew and personnel. The responsibility for providing safe access is jointly shared between the vessel and terminal. All employers in marine service and relevant stakeholders should be cognizant of mooring line arrangements and gangway safety requirements.

In collaboration with the South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee, all Port Partners are strongly encouraged to consider and foster the following surge recommendations.

#### **Vessels**

- Conduct hourly line checks throughout the duration of the vessels' call.
- Monitor for passing traffic using all available platforms.
- Monitor appropriate radio channels during the duration of the vessels' call in case the Pilots attempt to hail the vessel. Vessels are required to monitor channel 12.
- Check with Agent for any active Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) that may impact channel safety.

#### **Terminals**

- Ensure that hourly line inspections are being conducted and request that vessels immediately tighten lines if slack lines are found as required by Declaration of Inspection (DOI).
- Ensure pre-transfer directives cover the necessity of tight lines given the volume of traffic in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel.
- Consider mandating minimum line requirements by terminal.
- Consider AIS platforms for monitoring approaching vessel traffic. Consider the use of AIS alerts to remind operators to advise the vessel at berth of the approaching vessel and to ensure that lines are tight.
- Terminals to monitor channel 12 radio communications to ensure issues raised by Vessel or Pilots is addressed.
- In the event that a vessel is not complying with requests to tighten lines, consider stopping transfer until the situation is rectified.
- Periodically conduct hydrodynamic (passing vessel) and Optimoor studies to better understand and apply appropriate vessel surge mitigations.

## Port Authority

- Identify terminals and choke points that have the highest incident of vessel surge events and/or complaints on lines. Engage in discussion to address and resolve issues as required.

Any involved parties that wish to meet with Sector Corpus Christi to discuss vessel surge event safety or concerns may contact LT Timothy Cardenas, Chief, Waterways Management at (361) 244-4784 or email [CCWaterways@uscg.mil](mailto:CCWaterways@uscg.mil)



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