

PLOTTING THE COURSE TO SAFE WATERS

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Editorial

The wide variety and dynamic nature of superyacht operations makes planning for every eventuality impossible, and we instead rely on the 'guiding stars' of a common goal, good communication, teamwork and a strong safety culture to frame our decision-making and actions. In doing so, we make certain assumptions: when we encounter deficiencies in the information available, we assume that our knowledge, experience and professionalism will compensate; every individual is suitably competent and experienced, and the equipment we use is well designed and fit-for-purpose. We may also assume that safety will be prioritised over commercial interests, and that this view is shared by owners, guests and leaders alike.

Recent incident reports received by CHIRP challenge each of these assumptions, which are addressed on the following pages. In our first report (M2111) we tackle the fallacy that 'the boss is always right' (they aren't, because they're human too!) and remind leaders that constructive questioning is not a challenge to their authority. Certainly, raising reasonable safety concerns are not grounds for dismissal!

Ensuring equipment is well designed and fit for purpose is the subject of reports M2136 and M2137, which explain why post-installation quality assurance so important, and why even non-engineers should question the lack of test certification. While it is impractical to 'question everything', CHIRP encourages readers to be curious about safety critical systems.

Maintaining situational awareness during maritime operations is vital to prevent accidents or personal injuries, especially when line-handling (M2138) or in tight spaces (M2142). Crews are reminded to remain vigilant, question existing practices, and respond quickly to warning signs.

One aspect of crew well-being is the management of food allergies and intolerances. Companies must have effective policies in place for recording medical conditions, and such allergies need to be declared to ensure the correct medicines are available and correctly administered when required.

As ever, we are thankful for the incident and near-miss reports that companies and individuals submit to us. Your reports have impact: you are helping to raise awareness of important safety issues, and by doing so, you are preventing future incidents, and keeping others safe. Thank you!

Yours in safety,

The CHIRP team



