



SAFETY ALERT No. 19-01

Serious Injury to Passengers During Tender Boat Operations

1. Introduction

- 1.1. A new Safety Alert has been issued by the Bahamas Maritime Authority concerning the safe transfer of passengers during tender boat operations.
- 1.2. The Bahamas Maritime Authority wishes to bring the information referenced in Paragraph 2 to the attention of interested parties¹.

2. Description of incident

- 2.1. A Bahamas registered passenger vessel was conducting routine passenger transfers back to the ship via the ship's tender boat when a large wave rocked the tender boat with such force that two passengers were seriously injured, one of which was thrown into the water. Minor injuries were also experienced by some of the remaining passengers and crew on board the tender boat.



¹ This Safety Alert is provided by the Bahamas Maritime Authority with the aim of highlighting incidents, lessons learnt and to increase awareness, which may help avoid similar incidents occurring elsewhere. Any queries on the content of the information provided should be referred to the party providing the information

3. Causal Factors

- 3.1. The causal factors are not conclusive as the investigation remains ongoing, however, the factors identified below should serve as a useful reminder to crews operating tender boats.
- 3.2. The wave was likely generated by a passing vessel, at speed and in close proximity to the tender platform. The wake produced from this passing boat was significant and struck the tender boat on the beam during the passenger disembarkation process.
- 3.3. The wave was not observed visually by the crew of the tender boat or those on the platform assisting the passengers during the disembarkation process.
- 3.4. The tender boat was committed to the disembarkation process and exposed to the wake generated by this passing vessel.
- 3.5. The passing vessel lacked sufficient spatial awareness and failed to observe good seamanship in recognizing the danger posed in passing at close proximity to another vessel conducting small boat operations.

4. Actions Taken

- 4.1 This incident is currently being investigated by the coastal State in consultation with the flag State who are recognised as a substantially interested State along with the assistance of the vessel owner and operator.
- 4.2 Recommendations and lessons learnt will be forthcoming and will be made publicly available.

5. Validity

- 5.1. This alert is valid until further notice.

6. Revision History

Rev.0 (20 March 2019) – First issue