

Hazard Alert

Hydraulic Systems

Employers and workers must ensure that when hydraulic systems are installed or modified that they are done correctly.

Hazard Summary

A recent fatality on a fishing vessel was a result of improper modifications to the hydraulic system. The incident occurred when additional hydraulic operated equipment was installed; a control valve was added into the existing hydraulic winch circuit. The circuit initially functioned except when more than one function was activated the winch brake circuit failed. The existing hydraulic winch had spring applied-hydraulic released brakes. The pressure created from the additional valve caused the unintentional release of the brake.

Recommended Precautions

Hydraulic systems can be very complex and must be designed with safety devices and circuits to prevent unwanted movement of actuators and loads.

Where hydraulic systems are to be repaired or modified, employers must only utilize qualified technicians and consult with the original equipment manufacturers.



Contact us with questions concerning Hydraulic Systems or other Occupational Health and Safety issues.

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