

# SAFE HARBOR

A monthly newsletter for the Maritime worker  
from

The Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

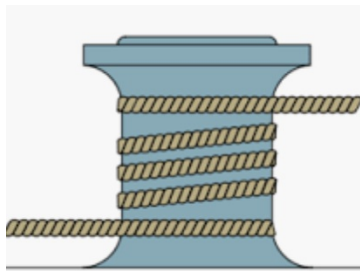
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Thank you for your maritime service and taking the time to review our Newsletter. We at the Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. hope you find the following information helpful. If you have any questions regarding your rights or remedies please contact us at any time. We are here to serve you.



## LINE HANDLING IS A LEADING CAUSE OF INJURY



Any experienced seaman knows the dangers associated with the handling of mooring lines but bringing attention to that topic can never be **overstated** (*not understated as previously written in error*). Not only can injuries and death be caused by the release of tension on such lines, but the sheer weight involved in the

handling of these lines is a frequent cause of spine and knee injuries. A line that parts or snaps back can pose danger! Most casualties from lines are the result of the failure of proper supervision before and during line handling activities. Be sure that a proper risk assessment is done prior to the commencement of line handling operations. The ISM Code is unequivocal about the need for such an assessment! The Coast Guard has recently published a Safety Bulletin on this subject which you can view on this [LINK](#).

## QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE

*I recently sustained a back injury from handling a very wet and heavy mooring line on a tanker. The company is blaming me for the injury claiming that I did not use*



*proper lifting techniques. I think I should have had more help. Can you tell me what the law is on this?*  
*Alvin D. Baton Rouge, LA*

**Answer:**

You are right on target! Wet lines pose an added risk to an already dangerous task. Supervising officers should always assess the potential for injury in advance of assigning a task, especially where it is obvious that the lines have absorbed water and added such weight to the task. Proper lifting techniques are important, but where the weight exceeds the norm additional assistance should be assigned. Contact an experienced maritime lawyer and he will point out to the company how they have failed to protect you in your work environment!

### About Our Law Firm

For more than four decades, merchant mariners, longshoremen, fishermen and harbor workers plying their trades at sea, on the docks, on our U.S. coastal waters and inland waterways have turned to the maritime law firm of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates in Oakland. Today, we are proud to be recognized as one of the preeminent maritime law firms serving injured marine workers nationwide, as well as one of the most successful personal injury litigation firms serving victims of negligence in the San Francisco Bay Area and throughout the West Coast.

### Team Approach to Every Personal Injury and Jones Act Claim

When you retain Lyle C. Cavin, Jr. & Associates for a Jones Act injury claim, or personal injury claim, you don't get just one attorney, you get our entire team of dedicated professionals. Our attorneys offer many years of courtroom and negotiated claims settlement experience. We will represent your interests with unwavering dedication, speed and expertise.

**Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.**

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