

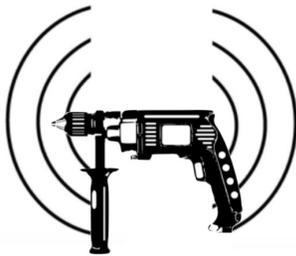
# SAFE HARBOR

A monthly newsletter for the Maritime worker from  
The Law Offices of Lyle C. Cavin, Jr.

March 2021



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.



## MEDICAL TESTS FOR VIBRATORY TOOL INJURY

Maritime workers often confuse "arthritis" with the effects of vibratory tool use. Soreness, pain, loss of strength and sensation in the hands and wrists are often misdiagnosed by physicians as well unless appropriate tests are conducted to rule out Carpal Tunnel Syndrome and/or other harm caused by the use of vibratory tools. Proficient medical practitioners will order Electromyography (EMG) and/or a Nerve Conduction Study (NCS) in an attempt to measure any interference with the nerves servicing the hand, wrist or arm. The results of these tests often dictate whether surgical intervention should be undertaken. There are other tests for more severe vibratory tool injury where the vascular system has been harmed.



## QUESTION FROM THE BRIDGE

I used needle guns on ships for years and when I reported to my doctor that I had pain in my wrists and hands he simply told me that it was age related arthritis and prescribed anti-inflammatory medicines. If I am not satisfied with this as the problem has not gone away what kind of specialist should I see?

Arthur S, Long Beach

### **ANSWER:**

Arthur, you need to see an orthopedic surgeon who has some background or experience treating carpal tunnel syndrome. Many general practitioners do not have familiarity with diagnosing and treating carpal tunnel syndrome. An orthopedic specialist may also find other causes for your symptoms. If you are diagnosed with CTS and require surgery, discuss a new less invasive procedure (microinvasive ultrasound guided CTS release). Not all orthopedic surgeons are familiar or skilled with this procedure.

## 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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