INTRODUCTION

Many tasks on ships, both large and small, have some inherent risk. Whether a task is a routine inspection or an emergency or unique operation, it is important to use good safety sense and always consider personal safety. It is becoming a more common practice on board ships for crew, whether performing a job alone or as a team, to perform a Job Safety Analysis (JSA). A JSA is a review of all areas and equipment to be used during a task, as well as emergency procedures in the event of an accident.

The following chart is based on search of ABS’s Mariner Safety Repository. There were 430 recorded near-misses with the keywords “Job Safety Analysis”, “Job Hazard Analysis”, and “Risk Assessment”, “JSA” and “JHA”. These reports relate to both the success and failure of performing these safety surveys before and after completing a task.

The number one reported JSA related near miss (31%) is “Not Performed”. This is an unfortunate statistic as an assessment of safety takes mere minutes and can save lives and traumatic outcomes. The good news is that this number can be improved upon. The number 2 near miss (27%) is “Inadequate”, failure to consider all aspects of the task or operation.

A very positive finding in this analysis discovered that the number three JSA near miss reported (18%) that the JSA actually performed its intended function, despite the failure of an aspect of machinery or equipment the JSA prevented a hazardous outcome. This data should encourage those who previously did not perform a JSA or did not adequately perform a JSA to take their time and appreciate the value of these short and effective safety exercises and assist them in turning the spotlight on their safety.

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