# Guidance Note No: 121/2011 Revision No: 1

# Beaching of vessels to perform maintenance

Following the death of a fishing tour operator in 2010 who was killed when his beached vessel rolled onto its side while he was carrying out hull cleaning and maintenance, NT WorkSafe issued a Health and Safety Alert (copy attached) to highlight the dangers of this practice.  
  
All vessel owners (commercial and recreational) are urged to exercise care when undertaking any maintenance and/or cleaning of their vessels and to use facilities that are designed and fit for the purpose.

Signed by: Sri Srinivas  
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Beaching of vessels to perform maintenance
This alert is to highlight to owners/operators of the dangers of beaching vessels to perform maintenance on the vessels hull below the water line.

Background
A fishing tour operator received fatal crush injuries after beaching his vessel on its keel to perform maintenance. The vessel was balanced on its keel allowing access to both sides of the vessel. The deceased was underneath the vessel when it rolled onto its side crushing him.

Contributing factors
1. The vessel was beached in an upright position balanced on the keel.
2. The vessel was not stabilised whilst it was beached.
3. People were allowed onboard the vessel whilst the maintenance work was being performed

Actions required
1. Carry out a risk assessment to identify the risks and appropriate control measures to mitigate the risks.
2. Consider employing a suitably qualified person who has the appropriate facilities, equipment and experience to carry out the work

Related publications

Information Bulletins
09.01.02 Duty of Care
14.01.06 Guide to assessing risk

Codes of Practice
Code of Practice for Antifouling and In Water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance. (Cwth)

Further information
Information on workplace safety matters is available at NT WorkSafe:
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