



# Billy Pugh Incident

Maersk Discoverer

# Introduction

- Box containing a Billy Pugh was blown from roof to Main Deck (approx 10m fall)
- Outline the incident
- Discuss the investigation findings
- Review conclusions and actions

## Incident Description

- 30<sup>th</sup> December 2009 – around 10:00
- Helicopter approaches for landing
- Box and Billy Pugh (200kg) blown from Emergency Generator Roof
- No injuries were sustained

## Final position of box



## Dimensions of box



## Contributing Factors

- Box Placement – deliberate for easy access
- 2" Dunnage – created an air gap
- Restraint – not secured to deck
  - Lid was secured using AD strap
- Large surface area of box
- Down-wash from helicopter higher than usual (EC225) – *7 previous landings*
- Wind direction of the day

## Original position of box



## Location of box relative to heli-deck



## Root Cause – Hazard Identification

- Heli-ops major focus
  - Box in position for 5 months prior
  - Several audits conducted on risks in area
  - Extensive inspection by WEL Aviation Dept
  - Valid helideck certificate was in place (HCA)
- Despite this close scrutiny, hazard was not identified

## **Actions**

- All items surrounding heli-deck removed or secured
- Crews notified of incident and instructed to watch for ANY items around heli-deck
- SJA and USP revised to include this hazard
- Billy Pugh moved to different location

## Conclusion

- Unsecured objects surrounding heli-decks pose a serious risk
- Even seemingly heavy objects can be easily thrown in down-wash
- Inspections and audits are essential but do not guarantee safety