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Tug tanker crash report released

A tug collided with a tanker on the River Mersey because its captain was unfamiliar with the vessel and lacked training, an accident report says.



The tug sustained significant structural damage

The Thorngarth suffered significant damage in the collision in April, and one of its engineers broke an arm.

Damage to the Stolt Aspiration chemical tanker was minimal and there was no pollution or other injuries.

Accident investigators said there had been a number of similar accidents and have since issued fresh advice to tugs.

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report said the Thorngarth was one of two tugs assisting the tanker into Birkenhead Docks in the early hours of 13 April.

The tug was struck on its starboard side as the tug master attempted to correct the vessel's position in front of the tanker.

The accident report said the accident was one of a number of similar incidents involving tugs in a four-month period - all attributable to a lack of training.

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