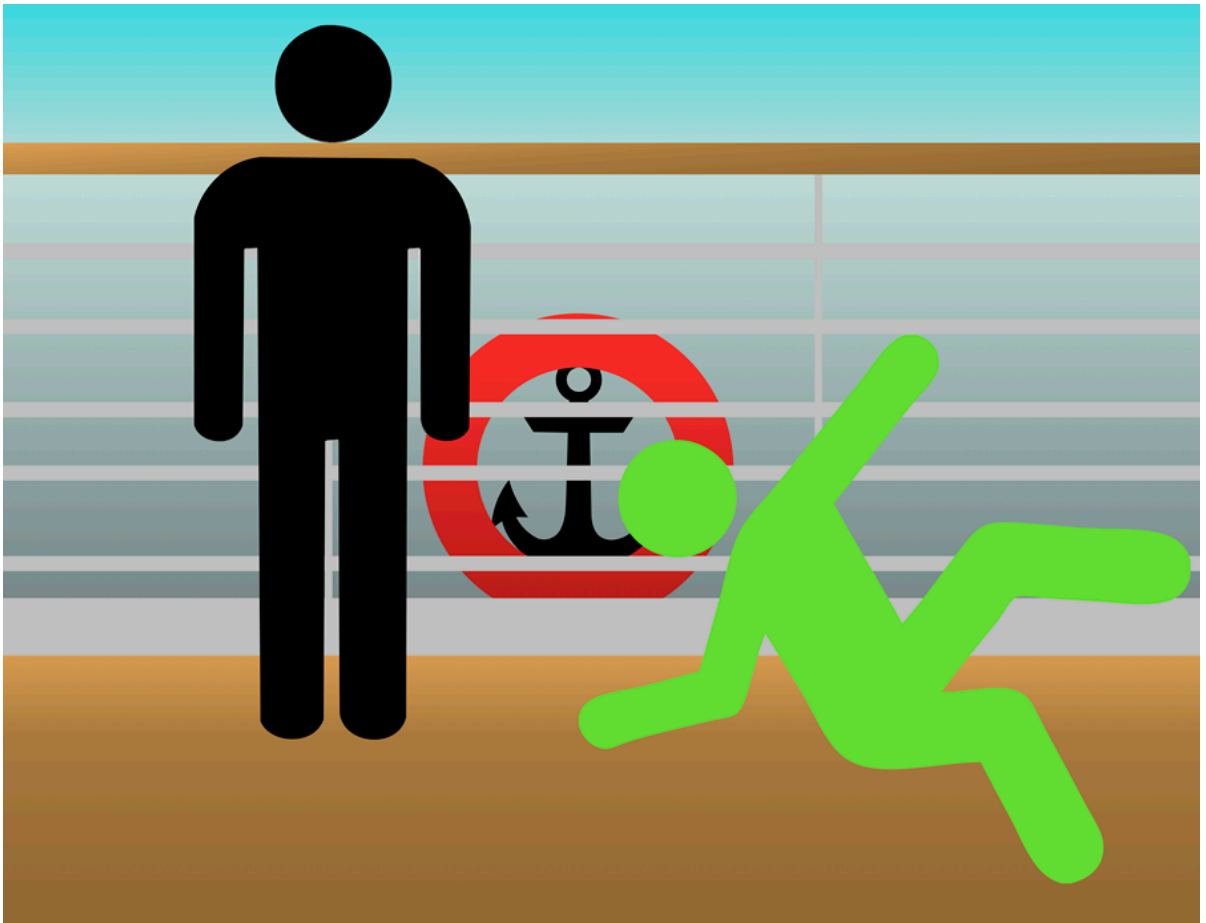




Safety Afloat

Luxury cruise ships are like mini floating islands, but it may not always be the paradise passengers are expecting. Unsteady footing due to the motion of the ship, along with slippery decks and crowded common areas create opportunities for accidents. Slip and fall accidents are the most common type of accident on cruise ships, and they are the number one cause of injury aboard ship. While some slip and fall accidents are simply 'just accidents', there are some accidents that happen due to the negligence of the cruise line or its employees.



The cruise ship and its crew owe a duty of reasonable care to its passengers. The cruise ship and its crew are obligated to keep areas free from hazards and alert passengers as well as employees about dangerous conditions. The cruise line has a duty to make the decks reasonably safe. This means that it must safeguard the decks against all reasonably potential hazards. Certain types of surfaces do not get overly slippery when wet, but other types of surfaces do. Thus, the cruise line might be negligent for using a surface that gets very slippery when wet in an area that it should have known will often be wet (like near a pool or hot tub).

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