

## Accident at the port of Salerno, officer dies crushed by a truck

September 14, 2023 - 4.53pm

One dead and one injured in the Salerno port due to an accident with a truck. It seems that the fifth wheel that joined the trailer and the mobile part failed to hold



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Around 1pm today, a tragedy occurred at the **port of Salerno** in which **one person died while another was taken to the Ruggi d'Aragona hospital in Salerno for serious injuries sustained following the accident with a truck** .

These are two **maritime operators** , both **official** and originally from **Messina** , in service for the "Cartour Delta" ship belonging to the " **Caronte & Tourist**" company which sails the Salerno-Messina route. The ship was anchored at pier no. 26 of the Salerno port and was a "**ro-ro**" , i.e. dedicated to the transport of rolling stock such as railway vehicles, motor vehicles or

trailers. The boat had arrived in port a few days ago and in the next few hours she would set sail for Messina.

The two officers were on the dock when a port company truck, engaged in **container**transport operations , arrived on the dock. At a certain point, the driver of the vehicle reversed while the two officers were still on the ground and suddenly they were crushed by something very heavy.

According to what was reported by the **Port Authority** , the accident occurred due to a malfunction of the **fifth wheel** , i.e. the mechanical coupling system that allows the tractor to be connected to a semi-trailer. The fifth wheel is made up of a sturdy steel plate with a central hole and a dovetail-shaped recess for the articulation pin, thus making coupling possible even if the trailer and the mobile part are not perfectly aligned.

The failure of the instrument would have caused the detachment of the trailer which would have fallen on top of the two maritime operators. The dynamics of the accident, however, require further investigation. The president of the Central Tyrrhenian Port System Authority, Andrea Annunziata, and the security manager, Ugo Vestri, went to pier no. 26.

The ship's company announces that *"Two men, a first officer and a second officer on duty on the Cartour Delta ship in the early afternoon were hit while they were on the ground by a fifth-wheel tractor of the port company which - according to initial reconstructions - during commercial operations was maneuvering in reverse on a quay in the port of Salerno. Unfortunately, rescue efforts proved useless for the second officer while the first officer was transported to the Ruggi hospital in Salerno seriously injured. We express enormous pain and dismay for an enormous tragedy which caused the loss of a young life, of an officer loved and appreciated by all" .*

Gerardo Arpino, of the **CGIL** of Salerno declared: *"The word death cannot be placed alongside that of work. We must raise levels of safety at work. In the meantime, we express our closeness to the family of the victim and the injured"*. The Salerno prosecutor's office, in the meantime, has opened an investigation.