



Docker fatally crushed by cargos

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The aerial view of Nagoya Port, Japan. Credit: Nagoya Port Authority

A cargo of 60 concrete boards fell on two dockers in the Japanese port of Nagoya on the morning of 3 February 2020, killing one and seriously injuring the other.

The incident happened at Yatomi Wharf around 8.30 am local time, as two dockers were unloading the cargo from *Tensho Maru No. 1*, a 1,600 dwt domestic general cargo ship. The vessel, built in 1995, is owned by Ebisu Kaiun.

Seventy-two concrete boards – each weighing 15 tonnes and measuring 9 metres long, 2 metres wide, and 0.3 metres high – were loaded on the vessel. The collapse of the cargo caused the ship to list to 30 degrees.

Firefighters were sent to the scene to rescue the trapped dockers, aged 24 and 30 years respectively. However, the 24-year-old docker, who suffered abdominal injuries, was pronounced dead at the scene. The older docker injured both his legs and was sent to a hospital.

Other port workers used heavy equipment to remove all the concrete boards on the ship. The concrete boards were transferred to a trailer truck to be transported to another location.