

Your Injury Report Log Book:

What to do after an offshore injury





Maritime law gives more protection to seamen than nearly any other type of worker. Seamen are considered wards of the courts whose rights are to be protected, just like the court protects the rights of children and widows.

At **The Maritime Injury Law Firm**, we fight for the rights of offshore workers -- and have a deep understanding of the specific challenges you're facing. In this guide, we'll explain the Jones Act, how to know if you qualify, and what to do if you've been injured on the job.

What is The Jones Act?

The Jones Act is a negligence statute originally passed in 1915 in an effort by the U.S. Congress to protect the rights of crewmen injured or taken ill in the course of their employment.

Over the years, thousands of court decisions have interpreted the Jones Act, bringing it to its present state where any negligence on the part of the employer/boat owner which causes or contributes to a crew member's injury, however slight, is sufficient to base liability.

Under The Jones Act, the injured employee has the right to the following:

- A safe place to work (including the task being performed, space, tools, and equipment provided and conditions under which the job must be performed)
- The ability to pick their own doctor after an illness or injury
- Compensatory damages after a work-related injury (i.e., pain, suffering, mental anguish, inability to engage in social and recreational activities you previously enjoyed prior to being injured, fear of future surgery, embarrassment, humiliation, and lost earning power)

If injured, a seaman is entitled to what's called maintenance and cure, automatic periodic payments payable for any illness or injury sustained or manifested by the seaman in the service of the ship.

These payments should equal living expenses for the seaman, including:

- Lodging payments,
- Food,
- Utilities,
- Basic phone,
- Transportation, etc.



Who qualifies?

- ✓ To qualify as a Seaman, one must be a crewmember working aboard a vessel in navigation. You don't need to be part of the navigation crew to be a Seaman, you only need to have a substantial connection to the vessel.

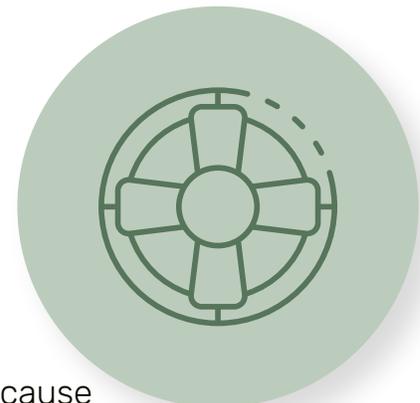


- ✓ Vessels manned by a crew and capable of navigation are covered. A vessel can be docked but still considered a vessel in navigation if it is manned, equipped and ready to go. The vessel, her crew, equipment, and parts must be reasonably fit (and safe) for their intended use as it pertains to the injured crewmember.

- ✓ In order for your claim to qualify, it must be made within the statute of limitations, a specified time period.

For maritime torts, the statute of limitations is three (3) years from either:

1. The date of the injury, or
2. When you become aware of an injury and its cause





What to do next: YOUR INJURY REPORT LOG BOOK

If you are injured, fill out an injury report and make sure it describes any and all factors creating an unsafe workplace, including:

- Darkness
- Slipperiness
- Negligence of a co-worker
- Insufficient or defective equipment
- Insufficient manpower
- Unsafe procedures
- Anything else that may qualify

Do what you can to document what happened as close to the time the injury happened as possible. **It's best to write down as much information as you can remember while it's still fresh in your mind.**

Schedule a free and confidential consultation with The Maritime Injury Law Firm today

At The Maritime Injury Law Firm, we know about offshore work injuries. Our experienced Louisiana-based Jones Act attorneys will work tirelessly to make sure that you are receiving the full compensation you deserve.

Contact us today to schedule a free consultation.

CALL (504) 584-6300



INJURY REPORT LOG BOOK

Date

Month

Year

Name

Position

Company

Captain

Vessel

Rate of pay at the time

Name of crew members:

Contact information of witnesses:

	Witness 1	Witness 2	Witness 3
Name / Position			
Address			
Telephone			

Incident overview

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
<i>Date:</i>						

Notes:

