



Nature of near miss:

A 'washing line' was found rigged between the gas pipe and the vertical grab bar on the left side of the step down into the galley from the companion way:



Why was it a near miss?

While strong enough for a few tea towels, the line could be grabbed as a bracing point which would put a high load on the pipe by the isolating valve and could cause it to fail. If this had happened, it could very easily have pinched the copper pipe or compromised the shut off valve connected with a compression fitting, adjacent to the tie off point for the washing line.

Worst case scenario would be a gas leak on the supply side of the shut off valve which would require isolation at the bottle (1/2 minutes from being found / reported)

Why did it happen?

Lack of appreciation for how fragile a copper pipe and compression fitting is compared to the potential force of a heavy fall grabbing the line which was hanging in space approx. 6/8 inches below ceiling height parallel to the main companionway.

Recommendation:

Do not tie anything to a gas pipe and find safe alternative for drying tea towels.