



# Technical Circular

No.: 029/2024

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024

## **Subject: Incidents & Casualties reported due to Fire.**

1. In recent past a fire incident occurred on a ship while carrying out hot work of mooring winch forward of the accommodation on main deck. The source of ignition was associated with the gas cutting & repairs.  
The most probable cause of the fire & explosion was backfire in gas cutting torch and busting of oxygen / acetylene hoses resulting in sudden discharge of gases under pressure causing a flash fire & explosion. It appears that there were lapses in monitoring undertaken by the shipyard / ship staff and practices followed for hot-work & its permits, including inadequate maintenance of equipment used for welding & gas cutting.  
This caused major damages to ship, its system & equipment, loss of life and injuries.
2. These incidents provide an opportunity to re-look at Safe Working Practices followed by shipyard during dry dock repairs and Safety Management System implemented by Companies.
3. A few effective ways to prevent similar incidents in future could be:
  - a) Risk Assessment and Mitigation measures are undertaken during repair / maintenance, work is carried out under supervision of ship staff, guidance of company Designated Person Ashore and Shipyard as applicable.
  - b) Ensuring that equipment used for hot work are safe to use and maintained in good condition at all times.
  - c) Critical operations such as hot work undertaken on ships are in accordance with established SOPs/ Checklists as per the safety management system of the ship and ensuring safety measures are in-place as per agreement between repair yard and owners.
  - d) Safe working practices are followed at all times.
  - e) Ensuring continuous fire-watch undertaken during hot work and fire-fighting equipment are kept ready for use in case of any emergency.
4. Owners & Managers are to take note of above in order that corrective actions can be taken to avoid similar situations in future.

**Enclosure: Nil**



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