

Subject: **Outbreak of Fire on Bunker Line During Repair**

Ref : DMA/AIFI/98/C 1024

Date: 09/06/2019

Dear Captain

Good Day,

Referring to DA-11 number DMA/AIFI/96/C770 dated 20/05/2017 regarding explosion on board one of the fleet tanker vessels, please be informed that recently an accident was reported from another of fleet vessels about outbreak of minor fire on diesel oil pipe at bunker station when repairing this pipe. Although this incident had the potential to cause severe damages, fortunately it didn't. Description and root cause quoted below is as per report received from the vessel.

Description of incident:

A workshop from Persia Hormuz attended onboard to repair leakage of D.O bunker line on deck in front of accommodation which had been renewed at shipyard. They were supposed to replace flange gaskets in order to stop further leakage. They were briefed as how to carry out the job by Chief Engineer before starting the job. They were told that they should never use any grinding or welding machines during opening the flanges and gaskets. After they opened three flanges throughout the length of bunker line, they used grinding machine for surfacing and cleaning one of flanges. The grinding spark caused minor fire of D.O vapor on deck. At the same time vigilant watchman raised the ship's general alarm and with the presence of the ship's personnel, the fire was immediately extinguished. Fortunately proper and quick actions by ship's staff avoided spreading of fire to other places or damages to vessel.

Cause of incident:

- 1- Inadequate briefing of workshop staff by responsible officers onboard concerning the existing risks.**
- 2- Lack of proper assessment of the risks of hot work on fuel pipes.**
- 3- Lack of effective and continuous monitoring of the workshop.**

Lessons to be learnt:

- 1- Proper briefing of workshops to be carried out in which all possible dangers to be explained and control measures indicated.**
- 2- A proper Risk Assessment to be made taking into account all dangers associated with hot work**
- 3- Refer to ship's manual part 1 section 2 PARA 2.5.2**
-A Permit-to-Work must be completed when any member of the ship's company or contractors are required to undertake any hot work outside permitted area.

Continuous and effective supervision by "Responsible Officers" shall be maintained and the job shall be immediately stopped if any unsafe practices are noted.

You are requested to confirm receipt, discuss the contents in the next consolidated meeting on board & keep a copy in the file DA-11 .

Best Regards,
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