

Risk Alert



Explosion - Fuel Oil Tank Vent - Grinder Sparks

Transport Malta have recently released Safety Investigation Report no. [05/2022](#) which highlights the dangers of working with heat or spark generating tools (considered as “hot work” per [IMO MSC/Circ.1084](#)) in close proximity of locations where flammable vapour or volatile material may be present (in this case near a heavy fuel oil tank vent). The investigation report draws attention to the lack of proper supervision of a riding gang working on the vessel and their potential lack of knowledge and safety awareness leading to a worker taking a shortcut in an endeavour to quickly finish a job. The shortcut changed the nature of the task from one of cold-work to hot-work without the necessary authorisation and permit process having been completed. Although a member of the crew intervened once the use of an angle grinder was apparent, this was too late to prevent the casualty.



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