

Poor condition of on-board equipment

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What happened?

During 'safety walk arounds' on one of our Members' vessels, certain equipment was seen to be in poor condition.

In the first case, a fire blanket in the galley; in the second, a portable step ladder.

Fire blanket

A galley fire blanket had been used for fire extinguishing and packed away again, but no incident report was made of a fire having taken place. It was clear that the fire blanket had not been inspected for a long period of time.

What were the causes? – Procedures not followed:

- Our Member's internal instructions for Master's inspections and fire prevention requirements had not been followed.
- There had been no weekly inspection of fire blankets conducted by crew despite procedural requirements to do so.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



What actions were taken?

- When conducting any inspection, ensure that all items on the inspection checklist are thoroughly checked – not 'just a tick box exercise'.
- Any incident (such as a small fire in this case) however trivial should be reported immediately.
- Further inspections of all on-board safety equipment was indicated in this case.

Step ladder

A damaged ladder was observed as in use on the vessel deck during vessel walk around. Further inspection revealed another ladder in similar condition in regular use.

What went wrong?

- Signs of corrosion on ladder.
- Plastic support missing on bottom of ladder's legs.

What were the causes? – Procedures not followed:

- No regular and pre-use inspection of ladders established on-board.
- Fall prevention requirements not followed: inspect all ladders and lifting equipment regularly and perform the required maintenance.



What actions were taken?

- All on-board ladders to be inspected, numbered and labelled monthly.
- All damaged ladders to be removed from vessels and replacements ordered.
- Crew to be refreshed on the importance of conducting pre-start checks on all ladders.

Recommendations

Members may wish to refer to:

- Unsafe actions and conditions – inhibited alarm buttons
- Raising awareness on safety barriers such as railings and gratings
- Near-miss: Corrosion-related failure of bolts used to secure lifeboat winches
- Near-miss: Un-noticed expiry and deterioration of carbon dioxide absorbent material

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