

Damaged Electrical Cable

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While washing down a vessel's cargo hold, a crew member noticed arcing from around two electrical cables near the cargo hold light.

What happened?

Upon closer investigation the crew member noticed that a piece of tie wire connected to the cables was glowing red.

The crew member immediately stopped hosing down, turned the water supply off, and notified the ship's electrician.

What were the causes?

The outer insulation of the cabling was damaged.

The cable insulation had deteriorated due to age and weathering, exposing the live wire.

The location of the cable was such that it was not easily accessed for detailed visual inspection.

Actions

- Visual inspection of all electrical cables for early signs of ageing and weathering, particularly in difficult to see areas.

IMCA notes that neglected exposed mains cabling is a surprisingly common high potential issue, in an area – electrical safety – that ought to be a good deal more tightly controlled.

Members may wish to consider:

- Short video: [Electrical hazards](#)

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Energy isolation

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