

Wrong key for the CO₂ room

Safety Flash Published on 31 August 2021 Generated on 28 January 2026 IMCA SF 24/21

What happened?

During a weekly inspection it was revealed that the key for the CO₂ fixed firefighting system compartment, which was stored in a break glass box adjacent to the entrance, did not fit the padlock – it was the wrong key.

This could have led to unavailability of access to the CO₂ fire-fighting activation panel in the event of an emergency.

Causes

- Lack of awareness and non-compliance with both regulatory and company requirements
- Lack of emergency preparedness

Actions

A new padlock and key were installed, with the key in the break glass box alongside.

Members might care to have a thorough check of all very rarely used keys, switches, buttons et cetera, particularly those that would be used in an emergency.

Consider, what one small rarely used thing, if missing, could cause the most serious potential harm to crew and equipment in an emergency?

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of the entire offshore industry.

The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.

All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate, and warnings for graphic content included where possible.

IMCA makes every effort to ensure both the accuracy and reliability of the information shared, but is not be liable for any guidance and/or recommendation and/or statement herein contained.

The information contained in this document does not fulfil or replace any individual's or Member's legal, regulatory or other duties or obligations in respect of their operations. Individuals and Members remain solely responsible for the safe, lawful and proper conduct of their operations.

Share your safety incidents with [IMCA online](#). Sign-up to receive Safety Flashes [straight to your email](#).