

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 09/11

Issued: 28th April 2009

Subject: Ashtray Fire



Summary:

A UK owned PSV operating in Australia recently had a near miss with the potential for a serious incident.

A honeycomb type safety ashtray was discovered with flames emerging from it, the ashtray was glowing red and disintegrating. The fire was extinguished with water and the ashtray subsequently completely disintegrated.

The manufacturer, who is the only maker of this product, has been informed of this and is investigating. The manufacturer has advised that this is the first reported incident of this type and the materials used in its manufacture have been thoroughly tested and are non-flammable. The blurb on the maker's website calls this "One of the safest ashtrays on the market"!

Initial Recommendations:

- Do not put more than one cigarette end in one slot
- Empty ashtrays frequently
- Clean the ashtray frequently, remove the base and clean with water.

Any further findings or recommendations will be forwarded to the Membership as soon as they come to light.

Any similar incidents should be reported immediately to the Secretary, Marine Safety Forum.

