

Safety Alert

Number: 23-20

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Subject: Chemical Handling – Eye Burn

What Happened / Narrative

Vessel's engineer was preparing equipment for treating fuel tanks with biocide. Correct PPE was used for the job and a toolbox talk was carried out. A portable pneumatic pump was in use for this job. During checks of the pump, a small splash/spray was released from the hose, at the same time the Injured Person (IP) was by passing on the deck below. As a result, a few drops of biocide splashed on the IP's head. The IP was wearing safety glasses, however some of the chemical caused irritation in the IP's eye.

IP immediately went to workshop to wash his eyes with water, alerted the engineer who provided eyewash liquid and informed the bridge about incident. The Chief Officer provided first aid and transport to the hospital was arranged.

The incident resulted in a small burn to the eye and the IP was provided Antibiotic cream for several days.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

Investigation from the safety committee team noted; proper PPE was worn, toolbox talk was held but no safeguards were put in place to prevent encroachment around or below the area of the chemical transfer operation. The areas around and below the chemical transfer operation had not been taped off, (hazard tape) or signage posted to prevent personnel not involved in the operation from entering the area.

Immediate Cause: Improper position for task

Root Cause: Inadequate assessment of needs and risks

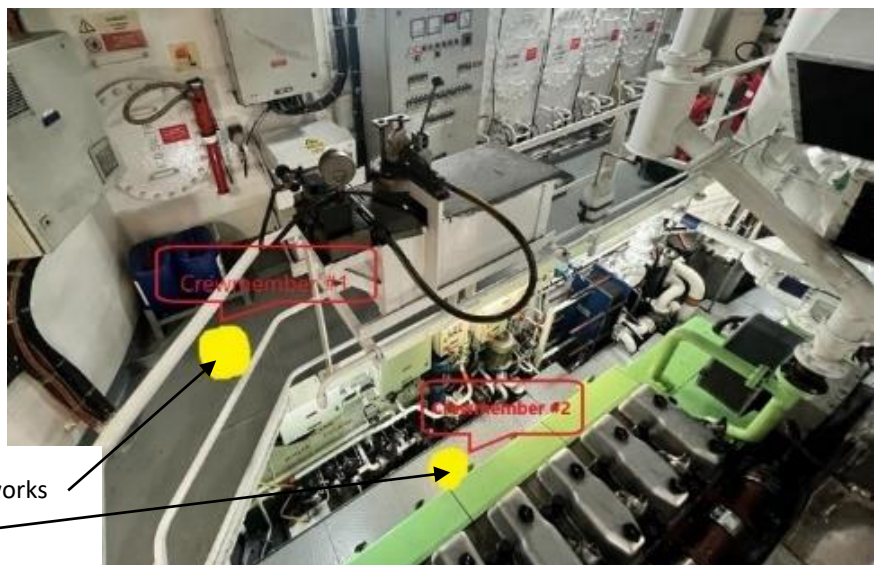
Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

Relocation of chemical transfer operation to more suitable location.

Risk assessment has been reviewed / re-assessed.

Toolbox / safety meeting held to discuss chemical handling.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Crewmember #1 – Engineer performing works

Crewmember #2 – Injured Person

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