

Safety Alert

Number: 26-11

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Subject: Lost Time Incident – Failure to Isolate

What Happened / Narrative

Vessels Engineers were inspecting the emergency generator after a noise had been reported. Believing the sound originated near the turbocharger, they removed the air filter and housing to improve visibility. With the guard removed, the engine was started to observe the suspected area. During the inspection, the Chief Engineer attempted to adjust the air filter housing clamp, and his hand entered the exposed hazard zone, contacting the rotating turbocharger fan and resulting in a partial finger amputation above the last knuckle.

Why Did it Happen / Cause

- **No Task-Based Risk Assessment** and **no effective Toolbox Talk** took place.
- **Isolations / Lock Out–Tag Out** were not discussed or implemented.
- Air filter housing removed, **exposing rotating parts**, and the task continued.
- The team underestimated the risk because the **activity seemed familiar and routine**.

Lessons Learned

- For specific tasks, we must carry out a Task-Based Risk Assessment and an effective Toolbox Talk to ensure hazards are properly identified.
- Apply positive isolations prior to work commencement, avoid working on live equipment or near open rotating equipment.
- Complacency can affect anyone, so proper planning is always essential – for experienced crews and during routine or familiar tasks.
- Isolation protects people from harm and must be considered for all tasks involving electrical, mechanical, or stored energy.

Photographs / Supporting Information



Ask Yourself and Your Crew:

1. Have we isolated the equipment, or are we about to work near anything that is still live or moving?
2. Are any guards, covers, or housings removed — and if so, have we made the job safe before continuing?
3. Have we taken time to discuss the task and hazards, or are we rushing into this because it feels routine?

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