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Safety Bulletin 9 /2025

Cigarette starts fire



Loading of big bags.

Dear all,

G2 Ocean is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all personnel involved in our operations. The purpose of our Safety Bulletins is to raise awareness of health & safety risks associated with cargo operations.

G2 Ocean works with several hundred stevedore companies worldwide. We believe that by seeking and sharing insights across company and country boundaries, we can prevent future incidents together. Descriptions of incidents will always be fully anonymised.

This edition of our Safety Bulletin is about fires, behaviours and the “safety pyramid”. If you have any feedback, please email us at:

safety@g2ocean.com

Best regards G2 Ocean Team

«Non-combustible»

A few weeks ago there was a fire inside the cargo hold of one of our vessels. There was no hot-work or other sources of heat in the area, but several cigarette butts were found on board, during the investigation. We consider it most likely that this started the fire.



Inside the cargo hold there were big bags with *magnesium sulphate heptahydrate fertilizer*. This cargo is non-combustible. Cardboard had been wrapped around a steel ladder inside the hold, to protect the bags. It caught fire, and the fabric of some bags were also damaged.

The below is one of our Life-Saving Rules. Occasionally we find evidence that it is not followed, especially when the cargo is perceived as “non-combustible”. But often dunnage or other material will be present in the hold, and the cargo hold may be adjacent to a fuel tank. The fire risk is always there!

RESPECT THE SMOKE-FREE ZONE

Do not smoke outside the designated smoking areas.



↓ **Small fire:** Cardboard ignited in the cargo hold.



The safety pyramid: For every big fire ignited by a cigarette, there are many unsafe acts.

← **Unsafe act:** In a separate incident, stevedores were smoking while standing on top of these aluminium ingots. Below the ingots, there was combustible cargo.



Intervention is one of G2 Ocean's desired safety behaviours. We expect this behaviour from our own employees, and everyone we work with. The no-smoking rule on board is well known, but we need more people to step up and stop people who ignore them.

Consequences:



- Actual: There were no injuries.
- Potential: While this type of fertilizer is not combustible, hazardous fumes including sulphur oxides will be released if it decomposes at high temperatures. Any fire on board could have catastrophic consequences for stevedores, crew, vessel visitors and any person involved in fire-fighting.

Lesson learned:



- The "safety pyramid" theory says that for every big fire, there are several minor fires. And there are even more unsafe acts, like smoking inside the cargo hold. To reduce the fire risk we must reduce the number of unsafe acts.
- Do not smoke outside designated smoking areas.
- When you stop unsafe acts such as smoking, you are a safety leader and you will have full support from G2 Ocean.