

INCIDENT NEWSFLASH

from External Source – for your information
Ref: ES/2006/02

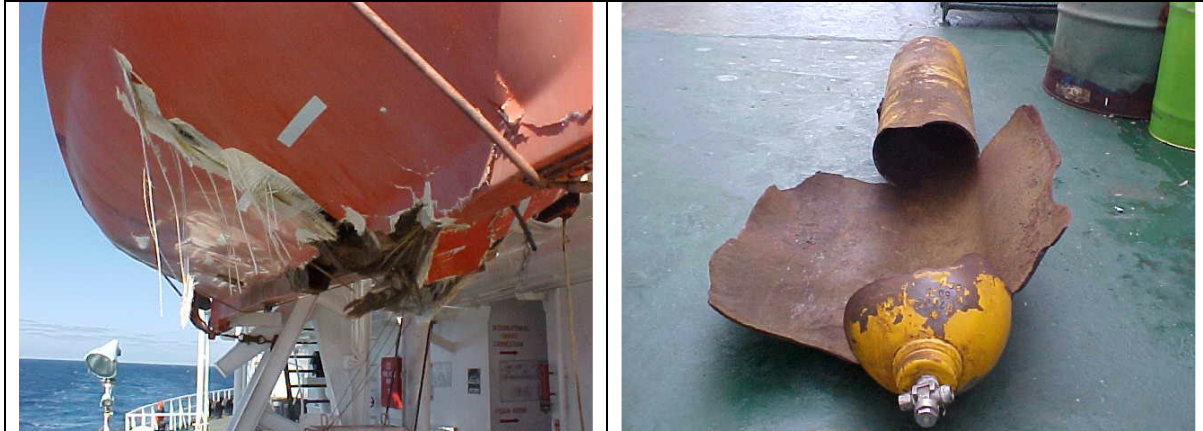
“Gas Bottle Explosion”

Summary Of Incident

A gas bottle exploded in a lifeboat of a vessel during the process of charging it up from the Breathing Apparatus Air Compressor.

The Master of the 8 years-old vessel was in proximity of the lifeboat and he was very seriously wounded. The bottle was quite old with different numbers/dates.

The photographs below speak for themselves. Unfortunately one person was injured – imagined the results if this happened on the deck area with more people around.



Lessons Learnt

- (1) The incident related to Life Saving Equipment, which indicated the lack of inspections and maintenance programs.
- (2) Ensure air cylinders or gas bottles are all in good condition. EU guidelines are:
Visual inspections every 2 years and pass hydro-test requirements every 5 years
- (3) Cylinder(s) in poor condition should not be moved or depressurized and should be roped off and warning sign(s) clearly displayed

OIM / Master's Action (to feedback to HSEQA Dept c/o Nita)

- (1) Kindly feedback (and confirm) whether your Installation have:
 - ☐ Inventorised all pressurized gas cylinders to identify those that are in poor condition or with overdue test date (OTD);
 - ☐ Established OTD of all cylinders and taken steps to rectify any sub-standard conditions;
 - ☐ Developed a simple procedure for safe depressurization and handling of severely corroded OTD cylinders.
- (2) Specifically, in relation to this alert, confirm that all air cylinders (if any) in your Installation's lifeboats are
 - ☐ In good condition (working pressure 180 bar minimum, 200 bar maximum) and
 - ☐ Pass the hydro-test requirements every 5 years.
- (3) OIM/Master/Safety Rep. to communicate THIS Incident Newsflash / Alert to ALL on board.
- (4) OIM/Master to ensure close-out of this alert.