



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI



F. No.25-19011/6/2020-NT-DGS

Date:03.11.2023

**Casualty Circular - 08 of 2021**

**Sub.: Loss of life of fumigator, who entered cargo hold (enclosed space) for pre-fumigation preparation.**

**Summary of Incident:**

Fumigation team (6 members) boarded vessel on 21 Dec 2021, who after picking up the fumigation material using the ships crane, at around 12:10 hrs, decided to start the pre-fumigation preparations in the hold #4, i.e fixing the plywood, placing the motor for gas recirculation, etc. Therefore, 2 fumigation personnel went inside the cargo hold #4 using the booby hatch, within minutes i.e around 12:16 hrs, the fumigation personnel shouted for help, as two of the personnel who entered the hold were unable to come out from the cargo hold. Thereafter, one of the fumigator personnel inform the second officer that two of their colleagues are unconscious in the cargo hold, chief officer upon hearing this immediately arrived at the site, while Master made an emergency announcement on the ships PA system.

Chief Officer then returns with EEBD and rescues one of the two personnel, who was then administered oxygen by the second officer. Thereafter, the second person was rescued using a rope and was also administer oxygen. Both were then taken to the hospital, however the first person rescued could not survive, while the second person who was rescued survived.

**Causal Factors:**

1. Enclosed space entry procedures not followed
2. Entered enclosed space on board vessel without intimation to the ships staff
3. Lack of communication and rescue equipment at the site
4. No risk assessment was carried out

**Action Taken:**

1. Both the personnel were administered oxygen after rescuing on deck
2. Both personnel were transferred to shore hospital for treatment


9वीं मंज़िल, बीटा बिल्डिंग, आई थिंक टेक्नो कैम्पस, कांजुर गाँव रोड, कांजुरमार्ग (पूर्व) मुंबई- 400042

9th Floor, BETA Building, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjur Village Road, Kanjurmarg (E), Mumbai-400042

फ़ोन/Tel No.: +91-22-2575 2040/1/2/3 फ़ैक्स/Fax.: +91-22-2575 2029/35 ई-मेल/Email: dgship-dgs@nic.in वेबसाइट/Website: www.dgshipping.gov.in

**Lessons Learnt:**

1. It is imperative that enclosed space entry procedures should be followed, and should be entered only after issuance of enclosed space entry permit.
2. There should be ships staff standby on top and should have rescue equipment including EEBD standby on top
3. Shore staff on board should be accompanied by a ships staff, to ensure that no unsafe operation is carried out by them.
4. Proper risk assessment identifying all the risks and including control measure required should be prepared and details discussed during toll box talk prior commencement of the task

  
03/11/2023

(Capt. Harinder Singh)  
Nautical Surveyor cum DDG (Tech.)

To,  
All stakeholders through DGS website.