

15 July 2023

Safety Bulletin 7 /2023

Every fire starts with a spark

RESPECT THE SMOKE-FREE ZONE

Do not smoke outside the designated smoking areas.



This is one of G2 Ocean's «Life-Saving Rules».

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



Insight

Two small fires

July 2023: During pulp discharge some paper caught fire by the entrance to the cargo hold. Stevedores were in the area, and cigarette butts were found mixed with the burnt paper.

Dec 2022: Stevedores were inside the cargo hold, ref pictures next page. Kraft paper and dunnage had been thrown in the corner, between the corrugated bulkhead and the cargo. A cigarette butt was thrown on top, and the fire started.

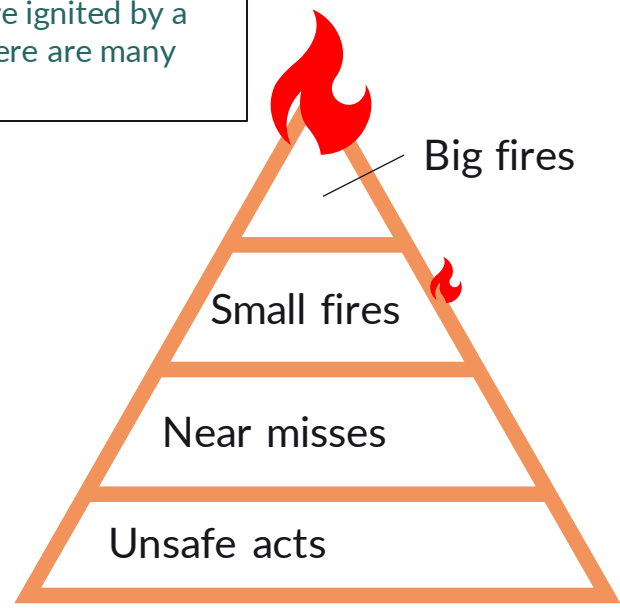
In a separate incident, crew observed stevedores smoking inside the cargo hold and the Master issued a “Letter of Protest”. The stevedore foreman noted on the letter that this was “*a sole event without any major consequences*”.

While it is true that there was no fire, the statement also shows a relaxed attitude. The potential consequences are not considered. And we think that these are not isolated events, but far too common.

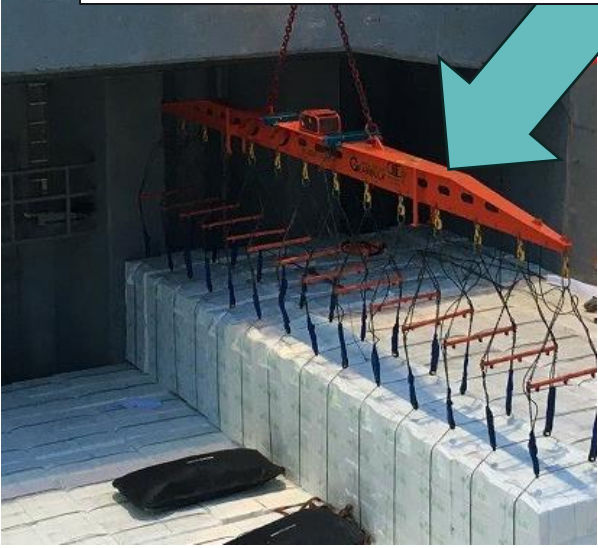


Evidence that the no-smoking rule has been ignored.

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



Stevedores were observed taking a break in this corner of the cargo hold. Minutes later smoke was detected.



A cigarette was found among burnt paper.



Intervention

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 rules on board are well known, but we need more people to step up and stop people who ignore them.



Consequences:

In these two cases the damage to cargo was minimal. Smoke was detected at an early stage and action taken to put out the fires. But the potential consequence of a fire is catastrophic for personnel, vessel and cargo.



Lesson learned:

- The "safety pyramid" theory says that for every big fire there are several minor fires which are quickly put out, before they do any major damage. And there are even more unsafe acts, like smoking inside the cargo holds. 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, you are a safety leader and you will have full support from G2 Ocean.