

# IMCA Safety Flash 15/20










May 2020

These flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing wider dissemination of lessons learnt from them. The information below has been provided in good faith by members and should be reviewed individually by recipients, who will determine its relevance to their own operations.

The effectiveness of the IMCA safety flash system depends on receiving reports from members in order to pass on information and avoid repeat incidents. Please consider adding the IMCA secretariat ([imca@imca-int.com](mailto:imca@imca-int.com)) to your internal distribution list for safety alerts and/or manually submitting information on specific incidents you consider may be relevant. All information will be anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

A number of other organisations issue safety flashes and similar documents which may be of interest to IMCA members. Where these are particularly relevant, these may be summarised or highlighted here. Links to known relevant websites are provided at [www.imca-int.com/links](http://www.imca-int.com/links) Additional links should be submitted to [info@imca-int.com](mailto:info@imca-int.com)

Any actions, lessons learnt, recommendations and suggestions in IMCA safety flashes are generated by the submitting organisation. IMCA safety flashes provide, in good faith, safety information for the benefit of members and do not necessarily constitute IMCA guidance, nor represent the official view of the Association or its members.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:									
	Bypassing Safety Controls	Confined spaces	Driving	Energy Isolation	Hot work	Line of Fire	Safe Mechanical Lifting	Work Authorization	Working at Height

## COVID-19

All four events in this brief Safety Flash relate to the current situation with the Corona virus. Three of them are ‘positive’ observations which will be of interest to members. The final event is an anonymous industry incident relating to alcohol-based sanitizer catching fire.

With regard to COVID-19, members may wish to refer to:

- ◆ [IMCA COVID-19 information page](#)
- ◆ Information Note IMCA HSSE 01/20 *Guidance on crew management during the COVID-19 outbreak*

### 1 Positive Observation: Installation of Disinfection Tunnel



Entrance



Spread hands for two seconds, spin round once



Exit

## What happened?

One of our members has installed a disinfecting tunnel providing an additional control measure in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases. The disinfectant system is equipped with a motion-activated sprayer that will trigger misting and disinfects of any person who walks through it.

Applicable  
Life Saving  
Rule:



The equipment was arranged in partnership with a local port provider. The disinfectants used in the tunnel are compliant with local guidelines and known to be safe and environmentally friendly.

All employees, contractors and visitors [visiting the vessel when alongside] now pass through the disinfecting tunnel. The tunnel does not of course replace any of the effective measures like washing hands regularly, maintaining proper hygiene and maintaining social distancing.

## 2 Positive Observation: Plexiglass Shields Installed in Company Shared Vehicles

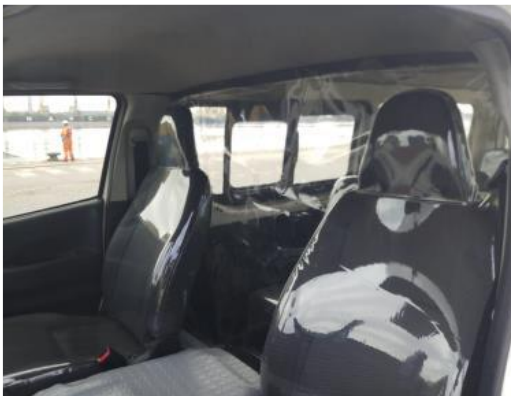
### What happened?

Following vehicle cleaning and disinfection protocol an additional initiative to protect drivers and passengers from COVID-19 during the pandemic is the installation of protective plexiglass shields in all company shared vehicles.

Applicable  
Life Saving  
Rule:



An internal modification has been designed to create a barrier between the driver and passengers in the back seat. Two vehicles have been modified thus far.



Front view



Back seat view



Side view

Members should encourage their personnel to keep on exploring new ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

All – not just drivers – are reminded to **frequently clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.**

## 3 COVID-19: Positive Observation – Maintaining Social Distancing During Toolbox Talks and Meetings

### What happened?

The local mooring department of a contractor member has enforced strict physical distancing in external areas for toolbox talks (TBT) and other operational meetings.

Circle markings on the ground to indicate how far apart individuals should stand while attending a toolbox talk meeting. This initiative was proposed and fully implemented by the local team.



Applicable  
Life Saving  
Rule:



## 4 Ignited Hand Sanitiser

### What happened?

Someone got his hands burnt when alcohol based hand sanitiser caught fire. The person was using alcohol based hand sanitiser as recommended during the Corona pandemic. The person touched a surface before his hands were completely dry. Due to static electricity, the fumes from the hand sanitiser ignited with an almost invisible flame on both hands. The person quickly managed to get to a sink to extinguish the flames.

**Applicable  
Life Saving  
Rule:**



**Consequence: First and second degree burns!**

**What were the causes? What went wrong?**

The person did not '*identify all energy sources*' – alcohol based sanitiser is inherently flammable and hence a potentially hazardous source of energy.

Members may wish to refer to:

- ◆ [Burns suffered in confined space](#) [injured person was *not fully aware* of the flammable nature of the aerosol contact cleaner he was using.]