

IMCA Safety Flashes summarise key safety matters and incidents, allowing lessons to be more easily learnt for the benefit of all. The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on members sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Please consider adding safetyreports@imca-int.com to your internal distribution list for safety alerts or manually submitting information on incidents you consider may be relevant. All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate.

1 Safety Flashes – a review of 2022

This is a summary of the 29 IMCA Safety Flashes published during 2022. All the published safety events or incidents are available on the IMCA website as individual web pages at <https://www.imca-int.com/safety-events/>. Safety Flashes, comprising a number of events or incidents collected as a PDF, are circulated to members (only) by email.

The 29 Flashes covered 76 individual incidents or events shared by IMCA members. A further 64 incidents or events from information already in the public domain, from different trade bodies and/or regulators, were shared as being of interest. It should be noted that Safety Flashes are intended to be read by our members' offshore crews, and by office-based safety professionals.

IMCA Safety Flashes are aligned with the IOGP Life-saving Rules. 25% of our members' incidents or events involved the "Line of Fire" rule. 22% were "By-passing Safety Controls". For completeness it should be noted that an incident or event might fall under *more than one* IOGP Life-saving Rule – or under none at all.

- **Line of Fire:** Of the 19 incidents or events categorised under "Line of Fire", six were LTIs. Two were dropped objects. Four were finger injuries, three were foot injuries. Other incidents included an AB caught between when a load was lifted suddenly, a person carried overboard when caught by a moving object, and equipment on the quay being damaged by a crane when a vessel started listing.
- **By-passing Safety Controls:** Within the 17 incidents or events categorised under "By-passing Safety Controls", we see things happening such as a fire door being wedged open, an oil tank sight glass being wired open, unnoticed sub-surface power cables being cut, poorly maintained seals on an emergency hatch, and improperly secured cargo shifting during heavy weather.
- **Equipment failure** accounted for 8 – over 10% - of the incidents or events. Six of these events involved failure of chain hoists, slings, rollers, mooring lines or connections during lifting or mooring operations.
- **Fire or potential fire** was involved in 4 incidents or events: a lifejacket battery caught fire; there was a flash fire on an Oxygen gas quad hose. A USB power bank caught fire and there was a clogged dryer exhaust with potential for a fire. Only one electric shock incident was shared by IMCA members in 2022.
- **Dropped objects:** our members shared three dropped object incidents in Safety Flashes this year. A pipe was dropped from pipe supports; a plate fell from the main mast; and a member took a focus on diverse third party dropped objects including heavy pipes, rigging failures through to nuts and bolts, all having the potential for personal injury.

IMCA welcomes Safety Flash submissions from all members. The information shared is dealt with in the utmost confidentiality, is published anonymously, and only with clear written permission from the contributor. The easiest option is for an IMCA email address to be added to a company internal distribution list – several contractors have done this. Members can send information to IMCA in any format, provided the text can be copied, or you may use the submission template found [here](#).

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2 The Safety Flashes of 2022

Reference	Items	Published
IMCA SF 29/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIB: Engine room fire flashover • Clogged tumble-dryer exhaust fan - potential for fire • Dummy hot stab ejected during leak investigation • Near miss: load lifted without notice putting crew in the line of fire • Open toed shoes on an escalator (not work related) 	Dec 2022
IMCA SF 28/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIB: Worker falls between vessel and quay • Accidental swallowing of paint thinners • Near miss: pipe dropped from pipe supports • Oil tank sight glass push buttons wired open • BSEE: Unsafe chemical use and disposal 	Dec 2022
IMCA SF 27/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIB: “pinkie is no longer perkie” • LTI: person suffered serious crush injuries • LTI: burns to forearms • LTI: Foot trapped between pipes • MAIB: A scalding injury 	Dec 2022
IMCA SF 26/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIB: Flooding and sinking of the survey workboat Bella • Vessel collision with underwater objects in harbour • Oil leakage from vessel crane onto quayside • BSEE: A note on repetitive strain injuries • Connection failure during lifting operation 	Nov 2022
IMCA SF 25/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIB: mv Teal Bay mooring fatality • Failure of moorings during heavy weather • BSEE: Hazards associated with cranes on idle facilities • BSEE: Unsafe crane working practices result in injury • USCG: Hidden corrosion on deck fittings can cause dangerous failures 	Nov 2022
IMCA SF 24/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on third-party dropped objects • Hydraulic Oil Leak to Sea from Downline Fitting • BSEE: Poor preparation prior to hot work leads to fires • Failure to plan properly: electrician sustains serious burns (UK HSE) • Live sub-surface power cable inadvertently cut • Near miss: oily rag activated smoke sensor in vessel laundry area 	Nov 2022
IMCA SF 23/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serious injury during mooring operations: rope parted • Failure of slings during loading operations • BSEE: Stored Energy in Slings Causes Multiple Injuries • Damage to chain hoist subsea • Unsafe transportation and packing arrangements 	Oct 2022
IMCA SF 22/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diver Finger Injury – Scrubber Blower Fan • BSEE: Unsecured Pressurized Hoses Result in Hand Injuries • Cook’s arm scalded while removing food from oven 	Oct 2022

Reference	Items	Published
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTI: fractured finger during anchor handling • LTI: person struck by uncontrolled swing in chain 	
IMCA SF 21/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSEE - “Green hats” – training and supervision of short service employees • American P&I Club: Vessel grounding - fatigue was a factor • MAIB: Capsize and sinking of fishing vessel Joanna C – vessel stability 	Sep 2022
IMCA SF 20/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTI: Diver suffered crush injury to finger • High potential incident - Foot trapped under ram cylinder • Fall leading to serious personal injury • Chemical burns to body • Personal injury – burns from hot engine oil to body and face 	Sep 2022
IMCA SF 19/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third-party truck not in appropriate or safe condition • Machinery breakdown leads to a collision • Equipment found live: drawings incorrect for Lock-out/Tag-out • MSF: CO2 system left non-operational after servicing • Accidental release of free-fall lifeboat 	Aug 2022
IMCA SF 18/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flash fire on Oxygen gas quad hose • Damage to flexible riser • USCG: Unexpected Dangers: Lifeboat Remote Control Wires • A focus on journey management • Mixing of cleaning chemicals 	Jul 2022
IMCA SF 17/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken Chinese Finger • Incorrect operations result in failure of hoist • Man overboard from anchor handler tug • Don’t ASSUME – verify and check • IOGP: Squeezed hand due to unintentional activation of winch 	Jul 2022
IMCA SF 16/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSEE/USCG: Dealing with extreme weather events • American P&I Club: Extreme bollard pull • Lost Time Injuries due to a failed mooring line • LTI – Struck when anchor wire end pulled free of drum clamps • Damage to bulwarks during overboarding of mattresses 	Jul 2022
IMCA SF 15/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatal crush incident between platform supply vessel and fast rescue craft (2012) • High potential: electric shock near miss • Fire at sea – some timely reminders (Safety4Sea) • NTSB: watertight doors – vessel sank after flooding • Infection: a scratched elbow turns into an LTI 	Jun 2022
IMCA SF 14/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crosby – Important safety notice for 7/8" 6.5t Anchor Shackles 	Jun 2022

Reference	Items	Published
IMCA SF 13/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface decompression near-miss • Near miss: grinder disc rotation set up in the wrong direction • USCG: Exceeding electrical duty rating can lead to failure • Searchlight fell from vessel during heavy weather • MSF: Corrosion in fire-fighting equipment 	Jun 2022
IMCA SF 12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explosion - hot work in a flammable atmosphere (Transport Malta) • Process Safety Fundamentals – IOGP / Step Change • IOGP: Dropped object with potential for injury - riser release • Safe Use of Ladders and Stepladders • This is not a drill...an LTI during a drill (MSF) 	May 2022
IMCA SF 11/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riggers injured while disconnecting rigging • Near miss: Floor Plate fell from Main Mast during storm • MAIB: Loss of containers overboard – task seen as routine • Maintenance and painting – two incidents • MSF: Manual Handling Injury During Bulk Hose Operations 	May 2022
IMCA SF 10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications: LTI finger injury during lifting operations • COBRA System - Hose coupling cross threaded • Diver experienced an air flow restriction • Subsea transponder wire parted • MAIB: Blockage of fixed CO2 fire extinguishing system pilot hoses 	Apr 2022
IMCA SF 09/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIB Safety Digest 1/2022 • USB power bank (Lithium battery) fire • USCG: Lithium battery fire • UK HSE: worker died following fall from crane platform • Riggers struck/trapped by pipe section 	Apr 2022
IMCA SF 08/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mooring near miss: Guide roller pin suffered material failure • American P&I Club: Fire Started from cutting torch work • NTSB: Dangerous engine failure – improper torquing • MSF: Unsafe Cargo Transfer Using Pallets • UK HSE: worker falls from height during oil platform decommissioning 	Apr 2022
IMCA SF 07/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAIB: Unexploded ordnance - subsea explosion causes injury and damage • MAIB: Flooding, capsize and foundering of small vessel after issues with towing wires • Overcoming Language Barriers • MSF: Contact between Vessel and Offshore Installation • Stored energy release: Two fatalities with tyres (IOGP) 	Mar 2022
IMCA SF 06/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatal fall from collapsing scaffolding on a merchant vessel • Non-fatal man overboard incident • Line of fire: pinched finger between door and frame • Get it fixed!! Deteriorated seals on emergency hatch 	Mar 2022

Reference	Items	Published
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSF: Foreign object in eye 	
IMCA SF 05/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit to Work and Isolation procedure not followed • MSF: LTI – Fall from Height (control of work during SIMOPS) • UK HSE: Poor control of work - worker suffered serious injuries • Fractured finger while handling metal plates • UK HSE: Liquid petroleum gas (LPG) leak 	Feb 2022
IMCA SF 04/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment on quay damaged when vessel started listing • UK HSE: Offshore crane boom hoist failures • Cargo shifted during heavy weather • NTSB: Engine Failure leads to fire aboard offshore supply vessel • NTSB: Failure to disconnect and secure vehicle batteries led to fire 	Feb 2022
IMCA SF 03/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near miss: divers umbilical drawn beneath a load • Incorrect as-built drawing configuration • Engine room fire on a ferry • Radio interference from damaged equipment affects other vessels • Life raft lashing parted in rough weather 	Jan 2022
IMCA SF 02/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bailout manifold failure • Master links came free from lifeboat release hooks, releasing the lifeboat • Three bolts sheared on a lifting trunnion • Hose management and chemicals: crew person felt ill • Chemical reaction: person injured during grouting operations 	Jan 2022
IMCA SF 01/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American P&I Club: unfamiliarity with semi-portable fire extinguishers • Lifejacket battery caught fire • Fire door left wedged open • UK HSE: uncontrolled movement of fabrication caused injury • LTI: person fell down hatch inside crane pedestal 	Jan 2022