

Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 11-41

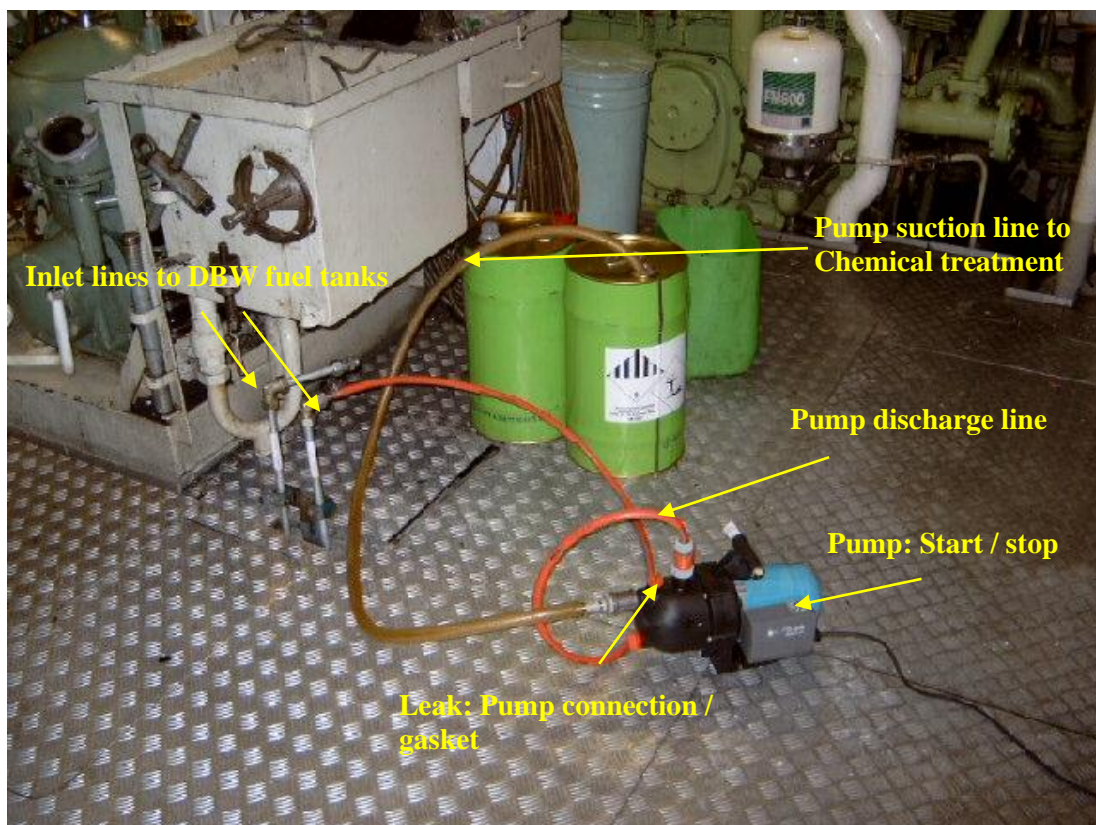
Issued: 23rd November 2011

Subject: Biocide Accident

During the treatment of ships fuel tanks with Biocide chemical an incident occurred, where the Injured Party was sprayed around the face and upper body with Biocide. This resulted in eye abrasion and skin irritation and led to the Injured Party being evacuated from the vessel to ashore for further medical examination and treatment.

Event

The pump had picked up suction and the transfer of Biocide into the fuel tanks was underway. It was at this point a small trickling leak was observed at the pump discharge connection / gasket. The Chief Engineer being aware of this leak continued as the operation was about to complete.



The Motorman, in the vicinity noticed the leak and came quickly over to intervene. Without warning the Motorman knelt over the pump and pushing the coupling down in an attempt to stop the leak. This inadvertently released the coupling, projecting chemical upwards into his face and upper body, also spraying the deck head showering down onto the Chief Engineer.

Findings

“Stop the Job”:

How do you stop a job safely?

Always communicate your intentions and always stop the job in the safest possible way.

Equipment:

Always use the appropriate designed equipment for the task.

The equipment and quick-release fittings used for the transfer of this chemical were actually designed for garden use.

Procedures and Processes:

Procedures and processes are there to protect the individual and not to hamper or complicate the task.

The Company “Chemical handling” process not followed.
Task Based Risk Assessment not conducted.
The Company Management of Change process not followed.
Toolbox talk not conducted.
Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) was available but the information was not followed.

Protection:

Personal Protective Equipment is the last line of defence.

The Personal Protective Equipment recommended from the MSDS was not worn, however was available in abundance.

Think about your next task and think how you can avoid injury!