

IT'S GOOD TO TALK!

Posted on 31.05.2024 by Adam Parnell



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EditionMFB 75

Editorial

Once again we feature a wide selection of different incidents, and we are grateful to all our reporters for sending them to us. Without them, Maritime *FEEDBACK* would not exist.

In this edition we have three different types of fire, two hand injuries and a variety of other unfortunate events but there are some common threads running through them. Perhaps the most obvious is the need for better communication, whether it is between crew members or with shore personnel or the vessel's management. This is a theme we see very often in our reports, and by now it should be obvious that good communication is vital to safe operations. If you see something which is not right, you should feel empowered to speak up. And if you are discouraged from voicing your concerns then it may be wise to look for a company where safety is taken more seriously.

Teamwork and the benefits of mutual support also feature prominently, especially when people must work alone. Does anybody oversee the crew handling mooring ropes on your vessel, and does

the electrician get the support he needs? Do management and local agents ensure you have the details you need to stow and carry cargoes safely? Do your officers receive the support they need from shore management when they face pressure from external sources to cut corners?

In this edition we use the word 'escalate', which means passing your concerns up the chain of command. If you see a potential problem, inform a senior officer who can escalate your report to the master. The master can then escalate it to the DPA if necessary. Good officers will always take you seriously and deal with your concerns.

Until next time, stay safe.



