

TIP OF THE MONTH – B.A. COMPRESSOR FAILURE



- **HELMET ELEMENT 11 'Emergency Preparedness' – Item 9 'Deck'**
- **SIRE 2.0 Questionnaire – 5.2. Fixed Fire Protection Systems, 10.7 Fire Protection Measures**
- **SOLAS, Chapter II-2, regulation 14 (Operational readiness and maintenance)**
- **IMO: MSC.1/Circ.1432 'Revised guidelines for the maintenance and inspection of fire protection systems and Appliances'.**

INCIDENT

During an onboard preparation for PSC, the PAS auditor observed that the ship's Breathing Air Compressor was in need of maintenance and the responsible Officer was not familiar with its operation and inspection to ensure good condition.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The improper use or maintenance of the Breathing Air Compressors may lead to serious incidents. Leaking or damaged hoses or connectors can be quite dangerous as they could break. Under pressure, broken hoses or hoses that come loose from the system due to failed connectors can whip around and cause serious injuries.

BEFORE USING A BREATHING APPARATUS

- Inspect all parts prior and after use to ensure their proper condition.
- Always wear the appropriate protective clothing and accessories.
- Report on time any defects or suspicious operation of the equipment and ensure smooth flow of information.
- Keep the maker's instructions and emergency steps readily accessible to the users.
- Insert a copy of the maker's instructions into the ship's Fire & Safety manual.
- Include detailed instructions regarding the Compressor's periodical maintenance and checklists in the Company's PMS.
- Be able to provide records of routine checking, maintenance, and refilling, as well as total running hours and risk assessment that took place, as per user's manual.
- Ensure that the seafarers are familiar with the subject equipment and provide additional training, if required.
- Run a safety campaign to raise awareness about the possible defects and smooth operation of B.A. Compressors.

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