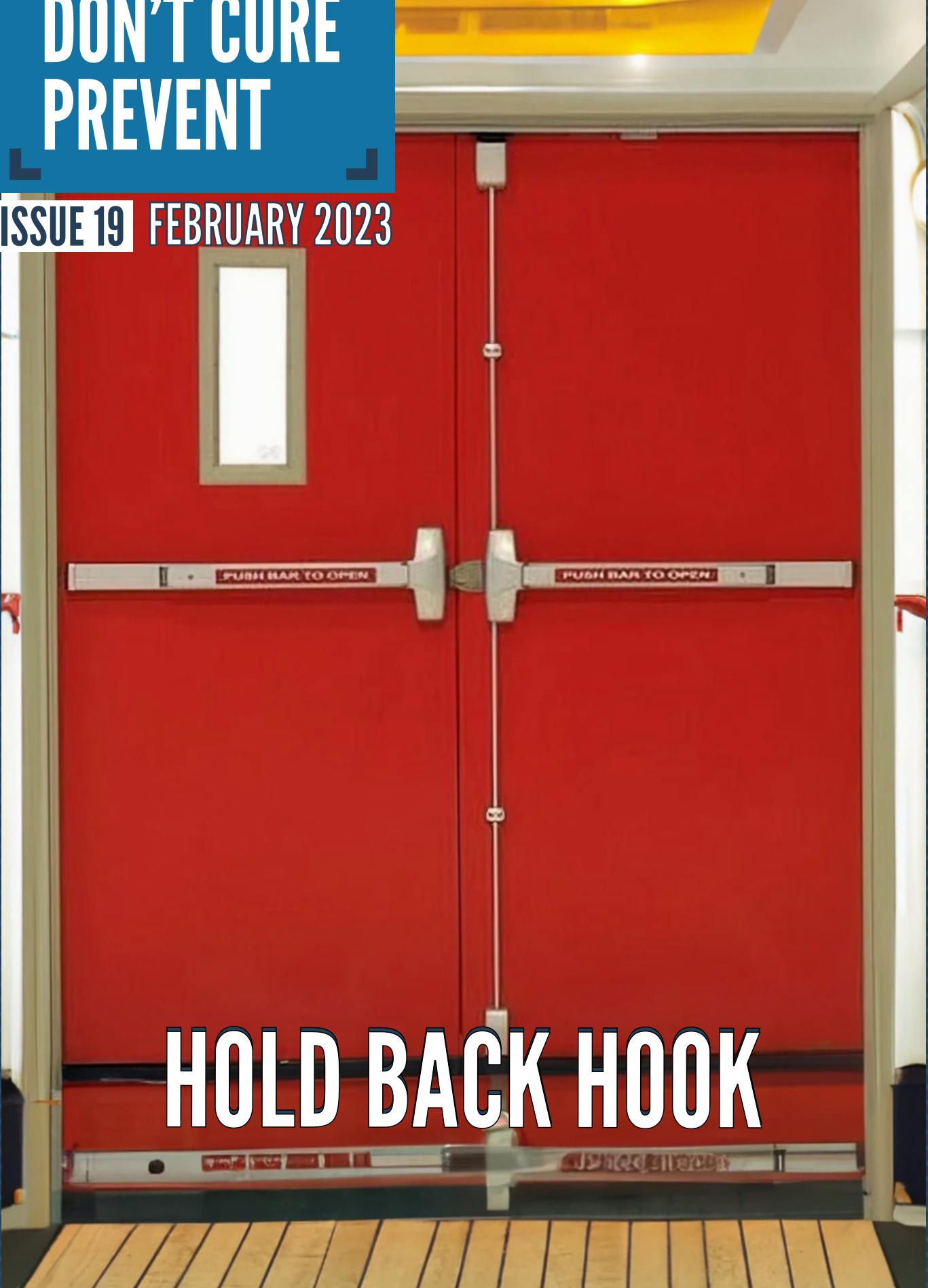


DON'T CURE PREVENT

ISSUE 19 FEBRUARY 2023

A photograph of a red fire door in a ship's corridor. The door is closed and features a silver hold back hook mechanism in the center. Two horizontal silver push bars are mounted on the door, each with a red label that reads "PUSH BAR TO OPEN". A small rectangular window is visible on the left side of the door. The floor is made of light-colored wooden planks.

HOLD BACK HOOK



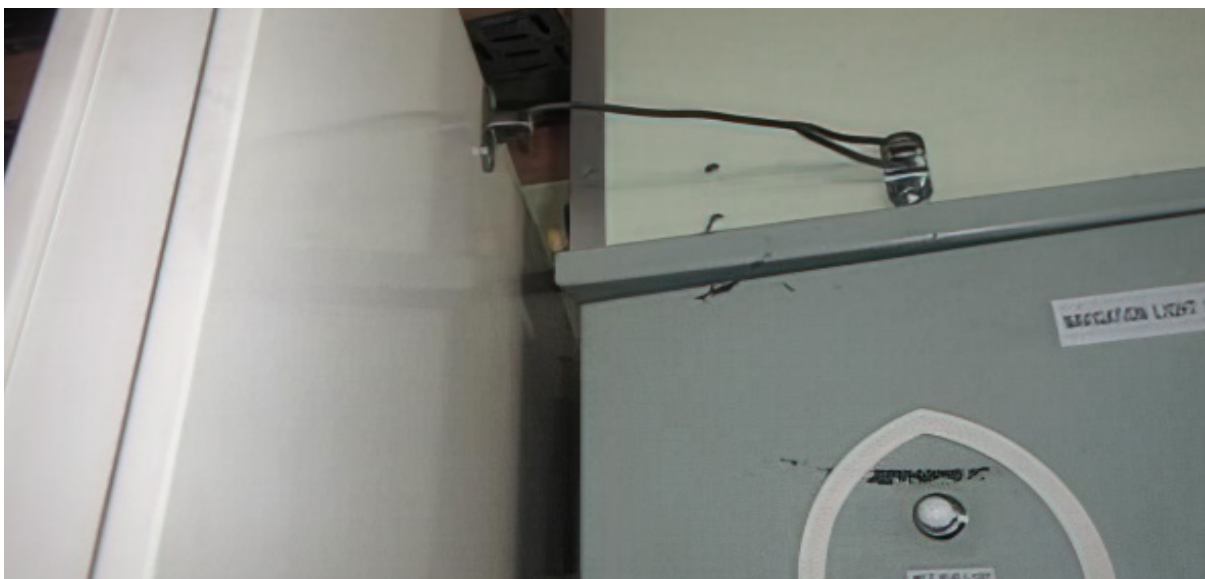
HOLD BACK HOOK



CASE

While the PAS Assessor was guiding the seafarers on board to get prepared for a Port State Control inspection, it was observed that during the fire drill, a number of automatic self-closing doors were not closed. Moreover, the PAS assessor noticed that the automatic self-closing fire door was held back with a hand made hook, whilst the Master and C/O were not aware of the said malfunction. On the contrary, the relevant records related to fire doors' inspections were indicating good operational order.

The subject finding is critical for the vessel's safety and opposed to promoting a safety culture and behavioral awareness program. Among others, such findings may cause complications during PSC, vetting inspections or class surveys.



REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

AS PER SIRE 2.0, 1ST EDITION, CH. 5.2.16

The self-closing doors should not be held-open with non-approved methods such as, tiebacks, hooks, wedges or other arrangements.

AS PER SOLAS 2.0, 1ST EDITION, CH. II – 2, REQ. 9.4.1.1.5.4

Hold back hooks not subject to central control station release are prohibited.

AS PER HELMET, ELEMENT 4 'SAFETY', ITEM 10

Fire doors should be in a safe operational condition, provided with self-closing mechanism and unobstructed.



WHAT WENT WRONG?

- ❌ Non-compliance with regulations and Company's procedures.
- ❌ Lack of situational awareness and understanding the importance of fire doors.
- ❌ Inadequate motivation and supervision.
- ❌ Lack of good seamanship and safety culture.
- ❌ Hidden risks have not been identified/emphasized.



OUR SUGGESTION

We suggest the following actions with the aim to prevent such cases from occurring:

- 🕒 Highlight the vital importance of proper inspection and test of the self-closing fire doors.
- 🕒 Emphasize Company's procedures regarding maintenance plan and checks.
- 🕒 Ensure proper monitoring of such equipment during daily safety round.
- 🕒 Ensure understanding by the Senior Officers on the vital role of the Safety Culture.
- 🕒 Ensure that drills in various emergency scenarios are exercised in accordance with the regulations.



BEST PRACTICE

- ✅ Follow the Company's inspection and maintenance program.
- ✅ Raise awareness of the importance of the fire fighting system.
- ✅ Pay attention during the daily safety round for the proper working of the fire doors.
- ✅ Carry out drills in a way to ensure understanding and situational awareness.
- ✅ Maintain a good seamanship.

REMEMBER:

- ▶ To prevent unexpected safety issues, daily safety rounds are essential.
- ▶ Follow the regulations and implement good seamanship.
- ▶ The proper training built a strong Safety Culture.

 **PREVENTION AT SEA**

DON'T CURE PREVENT

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,
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