

Operational Alert's inform Signal Mutual Members of serious incidents within the Mutual which resulted in permanent disability, death or a significant near miss. If you have similar operations, please share this Operational Alert with operation managers, supervisors, equipment operators, and all affected employees. It is imperative that management, at all levels review their operations for similar hazardous conditions or acts and their controls.

INCIDENT: FIRE HOSE COUPLING SEPARATION

SUMMARY

The testing and inspection of fire protection equipment have long become a normal operation for the maritime industry, especially in the shipyard industry. This process is more than just pressure testing equipment and if done incorrectly could pose a risk to employees both performing testing and using the equipment for its designed purpose.

RECENT INCIDENT

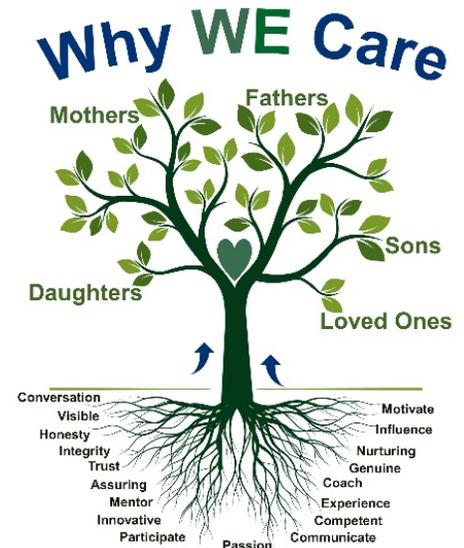
A ship repair employee was in the process of charging a temporary fire main hose to facilitate the member's temporary service plan. In the process of charging the hose, the brass coupling separated from the hose resulting in the employee being struck by the hose and experiencing a same level fall.

Upon investigation, the Member determined that several other hoses had been noted to be leaking at the couplings prior to the incident. Although these could be indications of a manufacturing defect, it is also an indicator that hoses could be "charged" in an abrupt manner known as "water hammer".

CONSIDERATIONS

The governing test procedure guidance (**NFPA 1962-2018**) specifically calls for the gradual charging of the fire hose to prevent coupling separation.

- ✓ Compare your test and activation procedure to verify that the entire NFPA 1962-2018 test procedure is incorporated.
- ✓ Ensure those performing testing understand and are aware of the requirements and hazards.



Safety. Live It. Share It.



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KEY REQUIREMENTS

1. Each hose shall be marked around its full circumference at the end or back of each coupling or collar to determine if the coupling or collar has slipped.
2. Personnel should stay clear of couplings during charging.
3. The pressure shall be raised slowly at a rate not greater than 15 psi per second.
4. Personnel shall never stand in front of the free end of the hose, on the right side of the hose, or closer than fifteen feet on the left side of the hose or straddle a hose in the test layout during the test.



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