



# E&C OFFSHORE DIVISION

## SPECIAL HSE BULLETIN

001 / 2019

### Flash-fire accident onboard pipe-lay barge

#### General info:

Type of incident:	Flash-fire accident onboard pipe-lay barge
Activity	Repair activity on Injection Mold Polypropylene coating machine
Location:	Azerbaijan
Date:	08/05/2019
Time:	18.44

#### Event Description

During pipelaying activities, Injection Molded Polypropylene (IMPP) equipment, in coating station, got stuck. Immediately after pipelaying activities were stopped and repair operations started.

In the following days the crew started to dismantle the machine to investigate the problem. It was discovered that the piston was stuck inside the Polypropylene accumulator chamber. While trying to pull out the stuck piston, a vapour cloud blew out from the accumulator chamber. The cloud ignited resulting in 14 people injured and fire onboard the Pipelay Barge. The fire was extinguished by the barge crew.

After medical evacuation one of the injured crew members died at the hospital

#### Immediate actions

- Injured Personnel were treated in the barge clinic and then evacuated to the local hospital for immediate treatment and stabilisation.
- Dedicated air ambulance were organised to transfer the injured persons to specialised centres abroad within the following two days.
- Investigation team was appointed and mobilised onsite.
- The barge operations were stopped and barge was towed to quay side.



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### Preliminary Recommendations

While the Investigation is currently ongoing some general recommendations listed here below are confirmed:

- Be aware that Polypropylene shall always be kept within the temperature range as per Safety Data Sheet.
- Check that the IMPP equipment has a reliable integrated control system to monitor the Polypropylene accumulator chamber temperature to prevent overheating;
- Heating of the system shall only be carried via the integrated control system
- The range of repair operations that may be conducted by the user shall be established in consultation with the manufacturer.