

## **Fleet Memorandum #2 (Post for Public Review)**

### **Overview**

A small to medium fire was reported on the R/V GeoExplorer while she was in dry dock in Sri Lanka. Contractors were welding in the engine room when residual oil in the bilge was ignited by a spark from the welding operations. The chief engineer and a dock worker suited up with SCBA to extinguish the fire. The fire was extinguished using salt water. Equipment was subsequently tested to ensure that water and fire did not cause any damage. A fire watch was not on stand by and a hot work permit had not been filed.

This incident did not result in any serious damage or injury, but easily could have. Any hot work must be viewed as a potentially serious fire hazard and reviewed before any operations may begin.

### **Mitigation**

Any fire on a vessel is a serious issue that can result in injury and/or loss. TDI-Brooks has a policy for hot work on vessels. All hot work is a permitted operation and requires that a hot work permit be filed prior to commencement. This includes all contract welding as well as TDI personnel. The permit serves as a job JSA in that a checklist is provided to ensure that operations may be conducted safely.

1. Review the welding SOP in the Safety Management Manual with vessel officers. Emphasize what is considered hot work, that a permit must be filed and reviewed by engineering department. A fire watchman must be on stand-by with a fire extinguisher at all times.
2. A survey must be done of the area in which hot work is to be conducted for flammable materials. All potentially flammable material must be removed prior to beginning hot work.
3. Do not assume that contractors know what they are doing and understand all the risks on your vessel. You know it better than they do and must review and approve all hot work permits. We can not assume contractors will take responsibility for their actions and must be vigilant.

Thank you for your cooperation and please direct any comments and suggestions to Susanne McDonald, HSE