

## Mechanic got burns due to fire in portable generator

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During refuelling, petrol (gasoline) spilled around generator and ignited.

### What happened?

A marine mechanic went to the workshop container to refuel a portable generator intended for bilge cleaning tasks, as there was no electrical supply available at the dock. During the refuelling, petrol (gasoline) spilled around the generator, which was in poor condition and lacked rubber bushings. When the mechanic dragged the generator across the asphalt to clean the spill, friction produced a spark that ignited the fuel. Attempting to move the petrol (gasoline) can and close the door, he sustained minor burns on his right arm. Nearby workers promptly extinguished the fire and provided first aid.

#### IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



Line of fire



*Position of portable generator while refuelling*



*Area of work*



*Showing rubber bushings not present*

### Why did it happen?

- There was a lack of procedure and risk assessment: The refuelling operation had no defined process, and associated risks were not identified or controlled.
- There should have been a designated area for this potentially hazardous activity. The refuelling was conducted without oversight and outside a safe, approved location.
- There was no easy access to firefighting equipment: The portable generator was positioned such that it was difficult to easily reach fire extinguishers.
- The equipment was in poor condition: The generator lacked rubber bushings, which could have prevented sparks being caused when it was dragged over concrete.
- Inadequate maintenance and housekeeping: General disorganization and lack of preventive maintenance contributed to unsafe conditions in the workshop.

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