

Petrol driven equipment left stored in an emergency generator room

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Stored snowblower created an unnecessary fire and explosion risk, as well as blocking access around critical equipment.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls

What happened?

During a routine “safety round” on a vessel, a snowblower was found stored inside the emergency generator room. At first, the crew saw no issue with this setup. But a closer look revealed the following:

- The snowblower still contained flammable fuel (petrol/gasoline).
- Pilot ladders were stored right next to it.
- All of this was inside a machinery space full of ignition sources.

This created an unnecessary fire and explosion risk, as well as blocking access around critical equipment. The snowblower was moved.



What could have been done better?

- Always store petrol/gasoline powered equipment, fuel, and other flammable substances, in a safe, designated area.
- Keep the emergency generator room clear for emergencies - no loose equipment, no fuel, no excuses.
- When storing potentially flammable stores or equipment, ask this question: “If this catches fire, what else goes with it?”
- Treat all machinery spaces as high-risk zones, not general storage - don’t place fuel, tools, or random gear in machinery spaces.

Lessons

- A small oversight could become a major incident – stay alert, stop and think.
- Just because something “fits” somewhere doesn’t mean it “belongs” there.
- If something “feels wrong”, speak up, challenge the habit before it becomes the norm.

Actions to consider

- Review onboard storage and house-keeping procedures and practice – an untidy workplace is an inherently unsafe workplace.
- Double-check all machinery spaces during inspections.

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