

Battery fire with subsequent gas explosion

In the evening of Thursday 10 October, there was a small fire in the battery room onboard the passenger ferry “Ytterøyningen”. Firefighting commenced and the ferry travelled to harbour using its own machinery, where passengers and crew were evacuated on land. In the morning of Friday 11 October, there was an explosion below deck, in or in connection with the battery room.

The Norwegian Maritime Authority recommends that all shipowners with vessels that have battery installations, carry out a new risk assessment of the dangers connected to possible accumulations of explosive gases during unwanted incidents in the battery systems.

In addition, we refer to «*Important Communique regarding Ytterøyningen Battery Fire*» (attached), containing recommendations from the battery supplier “Corvus Energy”.

It is extremely important that vessels are not operating without communication between the EMX (Energy management system) and the battery packs, as this may result in a breach in the transfer of important system data to the EMS/bridge.

The sequence of events has not been established. The Safety Message will be updated when additional facts, information and causal connections are available.

Lars Alvestad
Acting Director General

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Head of Department

This document has been approved electronically, and therefore has no hand-written signatures.

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IM-038

ROH

Rev 01

Dato: 04.06.2015

