



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

Federal Higher Authority subordinated to the Ministry of
Transport and Digital Infrastructure

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Press Release 8/16

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) hereby gives notice that the investigation report was published on 20 May 2016. The report deals with the fatal accident on board the ORTEGAL TRES off the Shetland Islands on 27 May 2015. Upon request the report will be forwarded. Alternatively this report – as well as all previous reports – is available on the website <http://www.bsu-bund.de> and can be downloaded.

Short version:

Fatal accident on board the fishing vessel ORTEGAL TRES on 27 May 2016 off the Shetland Islands

At about 2130 local time on 27 May 2015 smoke was seen on board the fishing vessel ORTEGAL TRES, coming out of a cabin during a fishing voyage on high seas off the Shetland Islands. Upon opening the door a fire was discovered there. The fire could be extinguished by using two fire extinguishers. A 21 year old able bodied seaman was found

lifeless in the berth in the cabin. Immediately initiated attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful.

The fatal accident is due to the development of a smoldering fire at a fan heater. This fan heater was taken on board without the knowledge of the ships command. Clothes or rubber boots hung

above the fan heater and caught fire.

It is likely that the accident occurred without third-party responsibility.

The investigation report was published by the BSU on 20 May 2016 and is available on www.bsu-bund.de.

Long version:

Fatal accident on board the fishing vessel ORTEGAL TRES on 27 May 2016 off the Shetland Islands

At about 2130 local time on 27 May 2015 smoke was detected on board the fishing vessel ORTEGAL TRES, coming out of a cabin, during a fishing voyage on high seas off the Shetland Islands. Upon opening the door a fire was discovered there. The fire could be extinguished by using two fire extinguishers. A 21 year old able bodied seaman was found lifeless in the berth in the cabin. Immediately initiated attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful.

The fatal accident is due to the development of a smoldering fire at a fan heater. Clothes or rubber boots hung above the fan heater and caught fire.

Normal heating was provided by oil radiators permanently mounted on the walls and operated with alternating current of 230V. The fan heater which obviously caused the accident was reportedly a fan heater taken on board by the crew. This fan heater was reportedly a normal household fan heater operating by means of a fan and heater wires. According to the information supplied by the owner in Ullapool, Scotland, this fan heater was seized by British authorities. However, the BSU was not able to determine which authority took the fan heater off the vessel or its whereabouts.

The owner replaced most of the electrical system in the cabins, which are to be inspected on a weekly basis in the future so as to prevent possibly unauthorised modifications to the cables or the installation of unauthorised electrical appliances.

In all likelihood the accident occurred without third-party responsibility.

The publication of safety recommendations is dispensed with.

The investigation report was published by the BSU on 20 May 2016 and is available on www-bsu-bund.de.

Volker Schellhammer
Director