



# Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

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The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU), published the investigation report No 405/18 on 21 July 2020. The report deals with the destruction of the main engine's turbocharger of the BALTIC BREEZE and the subsequent fire in the engine room. The report is available on:

[https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications\\_node.html](https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications_node.html)

### **Marine casualty – destruction of the main engine's turbocharger with subsequent fire in the engine room of the BALTIC BREEZE**

On 14 October 2018, the Singapore-flagged vehicles carrier BALTIC BREEZE was en route from Drammen (Norway) to Cuxhaven. When the ship approached the pilot transfer position, the speed was to be reduced. While powering down the main engine, the turbocharger was damaged resulting in the explosive disintegration of the compressor side at about 0200. The oil leaking ignited. The crew succeeded in extinguishing the fire with ship resources. The damage led to a blackout. Therefore, the ship dropped anchor in the German Bight near buoy E3.

The master notified the Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) German Bight immediately after the incident occurred. The VTS forwarded the information to the other competent authorities. In the further course, the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies assumed overall control of the operation and arranged for a firefighting unit from the Cuxhaven fire department to be winched down onto the ship. When this firefighting unit declared the ship safe, the BALTIC BREEZE sailed to Cuxhaven with tug assistance.

Here, the investigation to determine the cause of the damage of the turbocharger was commenced.

Within the scope of the investigation, five possible causes for the destruction of the turbocharger were identified, two of which are considered probable. The reasons are depicted in the report. Since the investigation could not identify a clear cause of the accident, the report does not comprise safety recommendations.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations as well as other publications of the BSU are available on

[https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications\\_node.html](https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications_node.html)

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