

TECHNICAL CIRCULAR – WK 42

FIRE DETECTION & FIXED FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM CHECKS



MARINER'S UPDATE
COMPLIANCE WITH SIMPLICITY

FIRE DETECTION & FIXED FIREFIGHTING SYSTEM CHECKS

Early detection and a system that works first time can decide how a fire ends. A technical refresher on keeping both ready.

<u>Topic</u>	Fire detection, alarm panels and fixed fire-extinguishing system checks
<u>Applies To</u>	All vessels with fixed fire detection and fire-extinguishing systems
<u>Why Now</u>	Faults in detection and fixed systems often stay hidden until the moment they are needed



WHY THIS STILL MATTERS

A fire at sea gives a crew very little time. Detectors can be fouled by dust, oil mist or paint, panels can carry unreported faults, and fixed systems can be compromised by corroded pipework, seized valves or release arrangements left in the wrong position. None of this is obvious from a casual walk-round.

Regular testing and honest records are what turn a system that looks ready into one that is ready. A silenced alarm or an isolated detector loop that is never restored removes protection exactly where it may be needed.



ROUTINE CHECK LIST

- Test detectors and manual call points on a planned rotation, and confirm each alarm registers at the panel and in the correct zone.
- Review the panel for active faults, disabled loops and silenced alarms, and restore or report anything left isolated.
- Check fixed system release stations, pre-discharge alarms and valves are clearly marked, accessible and in the correct position.
- Inspect cylinders, pipework, hoses and nozzles for corrosion, damage and secure fixing, and confirm servicing and pressure checks are in date.
- Check fire pumps, fire mains, hydrants and quick-closing valves operate freely, and record all tests and defects.

FOUR RULES WORTH REPEATING

Rule	Reminder
Never leave it isolated	If a detector, loop or alarm is disabled for work, log it, tell the bridge and restore it as soon as the job is done.
Secure before servicing	Before any work on a fixed system, make sure it cannot discharge by accident, using the maker's and company procedures.
Know the sequence	Every officer should know how to release the system, how to account for everyone first, and what must be shut down before release.
Respect the space	After a discharge, no one enters until the space is ventilated, tested and declared safe.

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