



OIL & NATURAL GAS CORPORATION (WOU) KARMACHARI SANGHTANA

AFFILIATED TO - PETROLIUM & GAS WORKERS' FEDERATION OF INDIA

Reg. No. (By - II - 8268)

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REF. : ONGC/KS/579/2019

DATE : 07/03/2019

To,
The C & MD,
ONGC,
PDDU Urja Bhavan,
5, Nelson Mandela Marg,
New Delhi 110070.

Director (Offshore),

Director, (T&FS),

Director (HR),

Subject : Non reporting of fire accidents as well as not taking corrective measures in improving faulty and non-functioning systems by concerned OIMs.

Respected Sir,

It has been reported that there was massive fire on BHS platform on 9th Feb. 2019 at 23.05 hrs. on top deck in OIL EXPANSION TANK. There was no fire alarm in control room. The fire was spotted by crew members on duty and they had alerted the other crew members on board and brought to the notice of control room. As there was no fire alarm in control room the control room members would have been in danger.

It is painful to note that such a big fire have not been reported as per the laid down procedures i.e **"Accident Report"**. The manipulated and false report has been submitted by only mentioning there was heavy fumes, followed by activation of ESD. Again after four days the above said incident, fire was spotted in the vent of same OIL EXPANSION TANK on 13th Feb. 2019 by the crew members of SA at 5.45 hrs. This incident of fire was also taken very lightly and was reported as minor incident.

At the outset such repeated incidents confirms that routine safety checks are over looked or the concerned OIM is help less as he is either not provided with the required sensors or spare parts, neither automation systems are not functioning, as the fire pumps did not start on Activation of ESD.

Following observations are noted which are of very serious in nature as it is exposing our human resources as well as our installations in most unsafe conditions as well as in unsafe hands of OIMs who are reluctant in reporting the incidents in its true proportion, we are invariably concerned and want to bring to your notice as there are always more than 225 POB, which is an unsafe activity by itself :

- There was no fire alarm in control room as there are no smoke detectors focusing on Hot Oil Expansion Tank.
- Fire pumps did not start in Auto mode when ESD was pulled from control room. Crew members had to rush to start the fire pump manually.
- The paging system in BHS is non-operational for more than 4 years.

Many major fire incidents have taken place during last three years. Please find attached the copy of the same for your perusal. In all the incidents on platform, no correct picture has been given by OIM's, which is very serious matter. What made them to hide these incidents reason best known to them? It shows that authorities on board are playing with lives of the persons on board.

On 18th Dec. 2018 there was major leakage in BHS - surge tank V-320 resulting in heavy oil leakage in sea and spilled oil reached BHS high pressure flare. There was also PSD at BHS which caused carryover of oil through HP Flare line. The Fire Ball from HP Flare outlet fell down on the spilled oil, which caught massive fire on the sea surface which lasted for almost 2.0 hrs.

Three ships NB Prasad, Samudra Sevak and VMS-6 were called for firefighting. You can see at sr. no. 3 what report was submitted by OIM of BHS which was not only disgusting but demoralizing the crew members on board as they feel that there is no one to take care of them.

On 13/10/2017 at lower deck of BHS Rs. 3.6" Gas injection pig indicator valve assembly was totally ruptured and torn down. As a result they have to stop Gas injection to R53 sector, isolating and depressurizing the line. They had to remove the Pig indicator assembly along with the damaged valve and installed a blind flange. **No report of this incident was submitted.**

On 12/9/2017, "**M/s HAL Offshore**" employees doing hot job on lower deck for new MOL installation project. There was heavy amount of crude oil spilled on sea surface below spider deck. Accidently a welding spark fell on sea surface which caught massive fire which was subdued after almost one hour, once again no fire incident report was submitted by OIM.

The fire incident of 6/12/2016 was reported as it is.

Sir BHS platform is aged now and requires frequent maintenance and repairing. The process platform BHS was installed in the year **1980 (SA) & 1982 (SLQ,BHS)**. More than 35 years have been completed. The huge structure in the sea is in dilapidated condition now and requires replacement. All the machineries equipment's systems, panels are in rusting condition. Moreover our casual attitude towards the incidents and maintenance of platform have worsen the condition of platform. Which is putting the life of our employees in danger. The above incidents shows the negligence of our responsible officers towards our employees.

Even after such dire incidences, our employees are working hard to maintain the production of oil and gas. We must address all these incidences. Otherwise there will be repetition of BHN incident again.

The human life is more precious than anything.

The attitude of our authorities towards such serious incident is horrible, your esteemed authority is requested to give direction to all OIM's in the field that they should not hide such incidences or otherwise they have to face disciplinary action, or it forcing us to go into some action like food boycott followed by strike.

We are very sorry to inform you that the prevailing circumstances are compelling us to send this letter to "**Director General of Mines Safety**".

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,



(Pradeep Mayekar)
General Secretary

Copy to :

1. ED - Chief ER, ONGC, Gr. Hills, Tel Bhavan, Dehradun.
2. ED - HRO, ONGC-WOU, Gr. Heights, Bandra (E), Mumbai 51.
3. ED - MH Asset, ONGC-WOU, V. Bhavan, Bandra (E), Mumbai 51.
4. ED - B & S Asset, ONGC-WOU, V. Bhavan, Bandra (E), Mumbai 51.
5. ED - N & H Asset, ONGC-WOU, V. Bhavan, Bandra (E), Mumbai 51.
6. GGM - HDS, ONGC-WOU, 11 High, Sion, Mumbai 17.
7. GGM - HDS-Deep Water, ONGC-WOU, 11 High, Sion, Mumbai.
8. GGM - I/c Ch. HSE, ONGC, PDDU Urja Bhavan, N M Marg, New Delhi 70.
9. GM - I/c Head Offshore Safety, Gr. Heights, BKC, Bandra (E), Mum. 51.
10. GM - I/c, Corporate IR, ONGC, Gr. Hills, Tel Bhavan, Dehradun.
11. DGM - I/c, IR, ONGC-WOU, Gr. Hts, Bandra (E), Mumbai 51.
12. Dy. CLC (CL), Shramraksha Bhavan, Chunabhatti, Sion, Mum 22.
13. Director General of Mines Safety, C.G.O. Complex - Block, 6th Floor, Seminary Hills - Nagpur, Maharashtra.