



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

] **OSH Circular 2016-09** (28 September 2016)

Wave of Shipboard & Shoreside Fires!



Over the last several months, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of fires aboard commercial trading vessels and marine terminals, globally. Most often, such fires are the result of improper HazMat packaging or stowage. Other times, the result of hot work being conducted too close to cargo stows. Whatever the case, it's important for longshore workers and stevedore managers to appreciate that in the United States there are established regulations that are meant to ensure appropriate emergency plans and procedures are in place with which to reliably react to such emergencies... and that workers and managers are trained in how to effectuate those plans and procedures.

In sum, OSHA's regulations at [29 CFR 1917.30](#) and [29 CFR 1918.100](#) require marine cargo handling employers to "...develop and implement..." written emergency plans that address "... actions employers and employees must take to ensure employee safety from fire and other emergencies."

In those plans, there should be adequate procedures dealing with reporting emergencies, establishment of alarms, evacuation routes, counting of heads after an emergency, identification and contact information of action plan administrators..... and, very importantly: the training of workers who are assigned emergency coordination duties and of all those workers to whom the plan applies.

Use the [blue links](#) above to access the full text of the relevant OSHA regulations, and be in touch with the ILA~USMX JSC if you require assistance in understanding them.

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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