



GREEN BRIEFING

JUNE 2026 EDITION

“Cost to Workers: ZERO. Benefit: LIFETIME”

Courtesy: GMS

Till Date

868

Training Sessions

13,805

Workers Trained

70

Topics Covered



FIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN SHIP RECYCLING

Ship recycling yards involve several activities taking place at the same time. Cutting teams may be working inside the vessel, cleaners may be removing waste, material teams may be moving steel sections, and supervisors may be coordinating work across different areas. Fire risk increases when these activities are not planned and controlled properly.

Fire is one of the most serious hazards in ship recycling because hot work is part of daily operations. Gas cutting, heated steel, electrical tools, and temporary power systems can create ignition sources. At the same time, vessels may contain fuel residues, sludge, oily waste, paints, insulation, plastics, wood, cable materials, and trapped vapours.

A small spark can become a major incident if it reaches oil, waste, gas, or hidden combustible material. Fire prevention must start before work begins and continue until the work area is checked after completion.

Dr. Anand Hiremath, CEO of the Sustainable Ship and Offshore Recycling Program (SSORP), explained this during training discussions:

“Fire prevention in ship recycling begins before hot work starts. If workers understand the fuel, the heat source, and the surrounding spaces, most fire incidents can be stopped before they begin.”

This month’s training focused on identifying fire hazards, preventing ignition, responding safely during an emergency, and improving daily fire control practices across ship recycling yards.

TRAINING REACH AND PRACTICAL FOCUS

Fire prevention and response training was delivered to workers, gas cutters, helpers, fire watch personnel, supervisors, and yard teams. The sessions focused on conditions that workers face every day during dismantling.

The training covered:

- Why fire risk is high in ship recycling
- The fire triangle
- Fire prone locations onboard
- Hot work control
- Gas free verification

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- Preventive measures to avoid fire hazard
- Isolation of fuel, gas, electrical, and hydraulic systems
- Control of combustible materials
- LPG and oxygen cylinder safety
- Fire watch duties
- Alarm raising and evacuation
- Firefighting equipment awareness
- Lessons from previous incidents

The sessions were linked to practical yard situations. Workers discussed cutting in engine rooms, dismantling accommodation areas, removing pipelines, working near bilges, opening tanks, handling cylinders, and clearing combustible waste.

The focus was simple. Workers should know what to check before starting work, what to watch during work, and what to do when fire warning signs appear.

WHY FIRE RISK IS HIGH IN SHIP RECYCLING

Fire risk is high in ship recycling because heat, fuel, and oxygen are often present in the same work area.

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Heat comes from cutting torches, hot slag, electrical faults, friction, and heated steel. Fuel can be found in oil residues, sludge, grease, rags, paint, wood, plastics, cable insulation, rubber, packaging waste, and gas leakage. Oxygen is present in air, and oxygen cylinders used for cutting can increase fire intensity if leaks or unsafe handling occur.

The condition of the vessel is not always fully known. A tank may look empty but still contain vapour. A pipe may seem disconnected but still hold oil. An engine room may appear cleaned but still have oily insulation behind machinery. An accommodation area may contain furniture, panels, bedding, paper, cloth, wood husk, foam/Styrofoam, and plastic materials that burn quickly.

Mr. Rahul Singh, SSORP Coordinator in Alang, highlighted this during training:

“In ship recycling, the worker may be cutting one place, but the fire may start somewhere else. That is why nearby, lower, and hidden spaces must be checked before and during hot work.”

This message is important because sparks and hot slag can travel through holes, drains, gaps, pipe openings, cable routes, and deck penetrations. The place being cut is not always the place where the fire begins.



COMMON FIRE RISK AREAS

- Engine rooms
- Fuel tanks
- Sludge tanks
- Settling tanks
- Cargo tanks
- Pump rooms
- Bilges
- Double bottom tanks
- Accommodation areas
- Cable trunks
- Electrical rooms
- Foam insulated bulkheads or cold rooms
- Hidden spaces behind bulkheads

Every high risk area must be checked before cutting starts

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UNDERSTANDING THE FIRE TRIANGLE

Fire needs three things: heat, fuel, and oxygen. If one of these is removed or controlled, fire cannot start.

Workers were trained to use this simple idea before hot work. If heat cannot be avoided because cutting is required, fuel must be removed or protected. If fuel cannot be fully removed, the job needs stronger controls, supervision, fire watch, and equipment readiness. If oxygen cylinders are used, hoses, fittings, regulators, and valves must be checked carefully, and cylinders should be placed far away from the work area.

Fire prevention is not only about having extinguishers nearby. It is about stopping heat from reaching fuel in the first place.

Simple control questions include:

- What material is near the cutting point
- What is behind the plate or pipe
- What is below the work area
- Are oily rags or waste nearby
- Are hoses in good condition
- Is the area gas free where required
- Is fire watch present
- Is firefighting equipment ready

Workers should not begin hot work if any answer is unclear.

HOT WORK PLANNING

Hot work must be planned before it begins. Cutting, welding, and grinding should only start after the area has been inspected and authorized.

The inspection should cover the exact cutting point, nearby areas, lower decks, adjacent compartments, and connected spaces. Workers should check for oil marks, sludge, insulation, waste, gas smell, damaged hoses, electrical cables, and hidden combustibles.

Work authorization confirms that the job has been reviewed and the required controls are in place. It also helps supervisors coordinate other work happening nearby.



Mr. Amrish Pandey, SSORP Coordinator in Alang, explained:

“Fire prevention depends on small controls being followed every time. A clean work area, checked hose, active fire watch, and clear communication can prevent a major incident.”

Hot work should stop immediately if conditions change. Smoke, unusual smell, leaking gas, unexpected oil/fluid, hidden waste, or abnormal heat should be reported before work continues.

GAS FREE VERIFICATION AND SYSTEM ISOLATION

Gas free verification is required before cutting tanks, pipelines, bilges, confined spaces, machinery spaces, and any area where flammable vapours may be present.

An empty space is not always a safe space. Vapour can remain after liquid is removed. Residues can release gas when heated. Connected pipelines may allow vapour to return. For this reason, gas testing must be completed by competent persons as per yard procedure.

System isolation is also required before cutting. Fuel systems, electrical systems, gas systems, hydraulic systems, and pressurized lines must be made safe. Residual energy must be controlled before work begins.

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Muhammad Usman, Coordinator in Pakistan, described the need for checking during sessions in Gadani:

“Workers should not guess whether a tank, pipe, or bilge is safe. If there is doubt, stop and call the supervisor. A few minutes of checking can prevent a serious fire.”

This is especially relevant when workers are cutting old pipelines or opening spaces with unknown contents. Guesswork has no place in hot work safety.



BEFORE DISMANTLING A PIPE OR TANK

- Confirm what the system carried
- Check if it is drained
- Check if it is isolated
- Verify gas free status where required
- Look for smell, staining, sludge, or leakage
- Inform the supervisor if anything is unclear
- Hot work on any pipeline is not allowed; open the pipelines manually or use a manual saw to dismantle pipelines

A pipe that looks empty may still be dangerous.

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CONTROL OF COMBUSTIBLES AND HOUSEKEEPING

Poor housekeeping increases fire risk. Waste materials can catch fire from sparks, hot slag, or heated metal. Combustible waste should not be allowed to collect near hot work areas.

Materials to remove include oily rags, plastic waste, wooden pieces, packaging, rubber, paper, paint chips, insulation waste, and cable waste. Work areas should be cleaned before hot work, maintained during work, and checked again after work ends.

Housekeeping also helps emergency response. Clear walkways allow workers to escape quickly. Clear access allows firefighting teams to reach the location. Clear storage reduces the amount of material available to burn.

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Workers were reminded that housekeeping is not a separate cleaning activity. It is part of fire prevention

SAFE USE OF LPG AND OXYGEN CYLINDERS

LPG and oxygen cylinders are used regularly in cutting work. They must be handled carefully because unsafe equipment can cause leaks, flashbacks, hose fires, and explosions.

Before use, workers should check cylinders, hoses, regulators, fittings, torches, and flashback arrestors. Hoses must be free from cracks, burns, cuts, and loose connections. Damaged equipment must not be used.

Cylinders should be secured upright and kept in shade away from work area, falling materials, vehicle movement, and sparks. Oxygen cylinders must be kept free from oil and grease. LPG cylinders must not be dragged, dropped or lifted manually.

Cylinder valves should be closed during breaks and after work. Hoses should not be left pressurized when not in use. Any gas smell or hissing sound must be reported immediately.

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Mr. Zamil Uddin, SSORP Coordinator in Bangladesh, noted during training discussions:

“Cylinder safety must be checked before each use, not only during inspections. A damaged hose or loose connection can turn routine cutting into an emergency.”



CYLINDER SAFETY CHECK

- Inspect hoses before work
- Check fittings and regulators
- Confirm flashback arrestors are fitted
- Keep cylinders upright and secured
- Keep cylinders away from heat
- Close valves during breaks
- Report leaks immediately
- Never use damaged equipment

Safe cutting begins with safe equipment.



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FIRE WATCH RESPONSIBILITIES

The fire watch is a key fire prevention control during hot work. This role must be active and focused. A fire watch should not perform other tasks at the same time.

The fire watch must observe the cutting area, nearby spaces, lower decks, adjacent compartments, and areas where sparks may travel. The person must look for smoke, burning smell, hot slag, gas leakage, unusual heat, and smouldering material.

Fire watch should continue for the required period after hot work ends. Some fires begin slowly after hot slag reaches hidden waste or insulation. A quick glance is not enough when the area has many hidden spaces.

The fire watch must know how to raise the alarm and where firefighting equipment is located. If a warning sign appears, the fire watch must stop the work and inform supervision immediately.

EARLY WARNING SIGNS

Many fire incidents can be controlled if warning signs are noticed early. Workers must not wait for flames before taking action.

Warning signs include smoke, burning smell, unusual heat, gas odour, hissing sound, sparks reaching waste, smouldering insulation, or hot material near combustibles. When a warning sign appears, workers should stop work, warn nearby personnel, inform supervision, and raise the alarm if needed.



IF YOU SEE A FIRE WARNING SIGN

- Stop work
- Warn nearby workers
- Move away from danger
- Inform the supervisor
- Raise the alarm if fire is suspected
- Do not hide or ignore small smoke
- Do not continue cutting until cleared

Early reporting prevents escalation.

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FIRE RESPONSE AND EVACUATION

During a fire, personal safety comes first. Workers should not try to fight a fire unless they are trained, the fire is small, the correct equipment is available, and there is a clear escape route.

The first action is to raise the alarm. Nearby workers must be warned. Hot work must stop. Gas and power should be isolated only if it is safe to do so. Workers should evacuate through designated routes and move to the assembly point.

Supervisors must account for personnel at the assembly point. Missing workers must be reported to emergency teams immediately.

Workers should not enter smoke filled areas. They should not return for tools, phones, or personal items. They should not re-enter affected areas until authorized.

Firefighting equipment should be kept visible and accessible. Extinguishers, fire hoses, hydrants, sand buckets, fire blankets, and foam equipment are useful only when workers know where they are and access is clear.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS FROM TRAINING SESSIONS

During the training sessions, workers responded strongly to practical examples. Many workers understood that cutting creates sparks, but some had not fully considered how sparks travel to lower decks or hidden spaces.

In Alang, sessions focused on hose inspection, flashback arrestors, fire watch, and spark control. Workers discussed the importance of checking below the cutting point before work starts.



In Chattogram, workers discussed accommodation fires, combustible waste, and cylinder handling. Trainers reinforced the need to remove bedding, plastic, panels, and waste before hot work.

In Gadani, the focus was on tanks, bilges, and pipeline safety. Workers discussed situations where a space looked empty but had smell or residue. This helped reinforce the need for gas free verification.

Across yards, supervisors observed that workers were more willing to stop work when smoke, smell, or gas leakage was noticed. This behaviour change is one of the main goals of fire safety training.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR INSIGHTS

SSORP coordinators observed that fire prevention improves when training is linked to daily work.

Mr. Rahul Singh observed that workers in Alang responded well to demonstrations showing how sparks can travel beyond the cutting point.

Mr. Amrish Pandey noted that supervisors have a major role in coordinating hot work with cleaning, lifting, and material movement.

Muhammad Usman observed that workers in Pakistan understood the response sequence better when it was broken into simple steps: stop work, raise the alarm, isolate if safe, evacuate, and report.

Mr. Zamil Uddin reflected that workers in Bangladesh connected strongly with examples on cylinder leaks, accommodation fires, and combustible waste because these risks are visible in daily yard work.

Together, these observations show that fire safety training works best when it is repeated, demonstrated, and supported by supervisors.

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PRACTICAL FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR WORKERS

Before starting work, workers should confirm:

- Work authorization is completed
- Work area is inspected
- Lower and adjacent spaces are checked
- Combustible materials are removed
- Gas free status is confirmed where required
- Hoses and cylinders are inspected
- Fire watch is present
- Firefighting equipment is nearby
- Escape route is clear
- Supervisor instructions are understood

During work, workers should remember:

- Watch where sparks fall
- Keep hoses away from hot metal
- Report gas smell immediately
- Stop work if smoke appears
- Keep waste away from cutting areas
- Follow fire watch instructions
- Close valves during breaks
- Report unsafe conditions without delay

After work, workers should confirm:

- Cutting area is checked
- Lower deck is checked
- Waste is removed
- Cylinders are closed
- Hoses are stored safely
- Fire watch continues as required
- Supervisor is informed

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SAFER YARDS THROUGH FIRE PREVENTION AWARENESS

Fire prevention in ship recycling depends on planning, housekeeping, equipment checks, supervision, and worker awareness. No single control is enough by itself. A clean work area, safe cutting equipment, active fire watch, gas free verification, and clear communication must work together.

Workers should never assume that a space is safe because it looks empty. They should never ignore smoke, smell, or heat. They should never continue work when conditions change. A short pause for checking is better than a fire emergency.

Training helps workers recognise that most fires give warning signs before becoming serious. When workers report early, supervisors act quickly, and emergency routes remain clear, the yard becomes safer for everyone.

Dr. Anand Hiremath shared this message with participants during closing discussions: "Fire safety is not only about extinguishing flames. It is about building the habit of checking, questioning, and stopping work before a spark becomes a fire."

FIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE, KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Most fires are preventable
- Hot work must be planned and authorized
- Tanks, pipes, and bilges must not be assumed safe
- Adjacent and lower spaces must be checked
- Combustible waste must be removed
- Good housekeeping reduces fire risk
- LPG and oxygen equipment must be inspected before use
- Fire watch must stay alert and focused
- Smoke, smell, heat, and gas leakage need immediate action
- Alarm must be raised early
- Evacuation routes must remain clear
- Firefighting must be done only by trained personnel when safe
- Workers must not re-enter affected areas without authorization
- Supervisors must coordinate simultaneous work
- Fire prevention begins before the first spark is generated

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“Safe work is built in quiet moments, when people check, prepare, and choose not to take shortcuts.”



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ROUND-UP OF MONTHLY TRAINING ACTIVITIES – FIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE IN SHIP RECYCLING

Country	Training No.	Yard	Course Date	No. of Trainees
 Bangladesh	854	Z. H. Steel Ltd.	04-06-2026	14
	855	Master Steel & Oxygen Ltd.	13-06-2026	17
	856	SH Enterprise	17-06-2026	17
	860	Janata Steels Ltd	22-06-2026	7
	867	Mehreen Ship Recycling	24-06-2026	14
	868	Dynamic Ship Recycling Industries	25-06-2026	13
 India	861	Shree Ram Shipping Industries Pvt. Ltd	22-06-2026	15
	862	Madhav Industrial Corporation	22-06-2026	22
	863	Leela Responsible Recycling LLP	22-06-2026	18
	864	Leela Ship Recycling Pvt. Ltd.	23-06-2026	13
	865	Green Tara Recycler LLP	24-06-2026	14
	866	Inducto Steel Ltd	24-06-2026	12
 Pakistan	857	Jamaluddin & Co	18/06/2026	14
	858	Prime Green Recyclers	18/06/2026	21
	859	SAP Green Recycling	18/06/2026	13

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