

## **MPC highlights faulty diesel heater dangers**

Lives are being put in danger by the use of copied spare parts for diesel heaters in small craft, the Maritime Professional Council (MPC) of the UK has warned, in the first industry Alert it has posted since its launch.

MPC member, the International Institute of Marine Surveying (IIMS), reports that it has become aware of the danger to life associated with the use of cheap spare parts in diesel heater installations on yachts and small craft.

In an article in the IIMS technical journal, IIMS Immediate Past President, Geoff Waddington writes: "Over the last few years the marine industry, in particular, has suffered from a number of fatalities due to carbon monoxide poisoning, some caused by faulty or incorrectly installed diesel heaters."

The article describes how the situation is being made worse by the entry into the market of very cheap, poor quality spare parts and even DIY kits for complete heater systems. It points to an incident where tragedy was averted only by the operation of a carbon monoxide alarm. Such alarms can be lifesavers and should be installed in all small craft with cabins, whether or not they have diesel heaters.

In its journal, aimed primarily at surveyors of small craft, IIMS explains in some detail the dangers of faulty diesel heaters and the precautions that ought to be taken. It emphasises the importance of correct installation and maintenance.

MPC believes it is important to make the boating community and the workboat sector aware of the very real dangers of buying cheap copies of genuine equipment and also to alert policy makers to this serious issue.

Launched in September last year, MPC was established to give the various maritime professional bodies a stronger voice when policy issues are discussed at all levels. In its first few months of existence MPC has already tackled a number of important issues and has participated in, or is preparing submissions for, official consultations on topics including: seetime requirements for trainee officers, the safety of personal watercraft, autonomous vessels and coding requirements for workboats.

Download the full article at <https://bit.ly/3NvQst6>.

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The Honourable Company of Master Mariners encourages and maintains a high and honourable standard of ability and professional conduct in the officers of the British Merchant Navy.

International Institute of Marine Surveying

IIMS is the leading professional body for the marine surveying profession with over 1,000 members whose job it is to survey and inspect vessels of all shapes and sizes.

#### Institute of Seamanship

The Institute of Seamanship promotes seamanship through education and training as a practical skill requiring knowledge, experience and common sense.

#### The Maritime Volunteer Service

The MVS is a UK-wide maritime training and community support charity that operates under Maritime & Coastguard Agency regulations for commercial vessels. It has a fleet of around 50 craft including one national training vessel which undertakes coastal voyages.

#### The Nautical Institute

The aim of The Nautical Institute is to promote professionalism, best practice and safety throughout the maritime industry and to represent the interests of their members.

#### Trinity House

Trinity House is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers, providing education, support and welfare to the seafaring community with a statutory duty as a General Lighthouse Authority to deliver reliable, efficient and cost-effective aids to navigation service for the benefit and safety of all mariners.

#### United Kingdom Maritime Pilots Association

The UKMPA represents approximately 500 highly skilled UK Maritime Pilots. Their role is to safely navigate ships in and out of the United Kingdom's waterways and ports.