

Safety Awareness Topic of the Month

Fire Safety



Figure 1 H₂S gas detector was mounted at height.

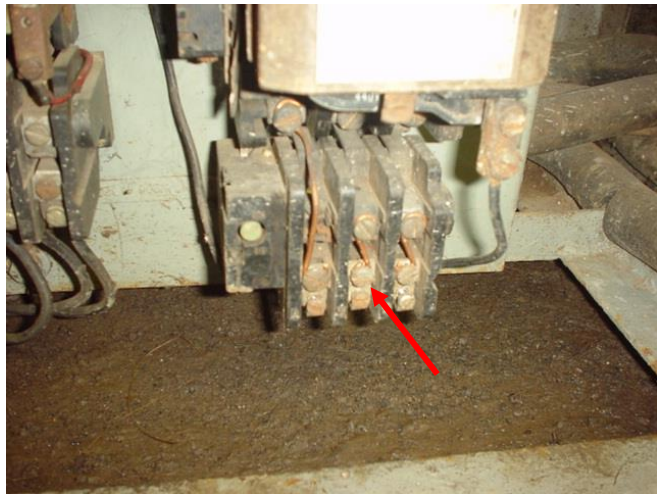


Figure 2 Thermal overload protection element of this circuit breaker was bypassed with big copper wires.

From the recent inspections carried out, there were several critical findings noted concerning fire safety equipment and fire risk increased by bad practices/neglect at electrical equipment.

During the survey, it was noted that several of the H₂S gas detectors were mounted at position which was a considerable distance away from deck level and would not be able to work as per design (Figure 1). Some were also noted to be with error / warning messages displayed. It was recommended that the H₂S gas detectors are installed close to deck for proper detection as H₂S is heavier than air. (Refer to IMO 2009 MODU Code section 9.12.1) Also, ensure that the rig fire and gas detection is part of the rig PMS. All detection systems along with sensors/detectors shall be identified, tasks specified, and the time intervals between tests stated.

There was a circuit breaker inside the main switchboard where its thermal overload protection element was bypassed with big copper wires. This is a potential fire hazard and the overload relay should be replaced immediately. (Refer to IMO 2009 MODU Code section 5.6.13) It was also recommended to ensure that circuit breakers and thermal overloads are tested through current injection test periodically. (Refer to IEEE 242 sections 16.5 to 16.15; NFPA 70B chapter 11; AS/NZS 3019:2007 Section 2.8/5.6/5.8)

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