

## Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 12-23

Issued: 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Subject: Unattended Toaster

A recent Near Miss report has highlighted the potential risk of fire onboard as a result of leaving a toaster unattended whilst making toast.

A crewmember using the toaster switched it on then walked away and forgot about it. The result was that the toast caught fire, creating a lot of smoke in the mess room. Fortunately another member of the ship's company was in the vicinity at the time and instantly switched the toaster off. The toaster was not of the pop up type and is served with a manual handle to pop up the toast once it is ready.

This was potentially, a highly hazardous occurrence resulting from a relatively simple and everyday task. All personnel are reminded to ensure that all tasks are conducted in a safe manner, especially everyday routines; as complacency leads to accidents. Toasters are a fire hazard if they are not used correctly and left unattended. You would not leave a toaster unattended at home so why do so onboard a ship?

All vessels are to ensure that all personnel are reminded of the dangers of leaving toasters in use unattended.

