

## **MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 224/2022**

(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

### **Fire accident happened inside a typhoon shelter**

#### **The Incident**

A fire broke out near the galley on the main deck of a locally licensed pleasure vessel (the vessel) while mooring in the private mooring area of the Aberdeen South Typhoon Shelter. The owner of the vessel (the owner) tried to extinguish the fire using the fire extinguisher on board but without success. He then called the police for assistance. After receiving the report, the Fire Services Department deployed fireboats to the scene to put out the fire on the vessel. As the fire spread to other pleasure vessels in the typhoon shelter, a number of nearby pleasure vessels were eventually burnt or sunk, and a person was sent to hospital for medical treatment after inhaling smoke and feeling unwell.

2. The investigation revealed that the fire started on board near the galley, but the cause of the fire could not be determined. The fire caused the leakage of fuel oil from the vessel into the sea, then the ignition of fuel oil led to the spread of the fire, as well as the burning or sinking of several pleasure vessels moored in the private mooring area.

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## **Lessons Learnt**

3. To avoid similar accidents in the future, owners of pleasure vessels should arrange regular inspections of cabins during mooring to detect potential fire hazards as early as possible.

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Government of the HKSAR

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