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ADVICE TO CHECK FOR FIRE OR HEAT DAMAGE NEAR TO DECKLIGHT

Now the summer is here the Boat Safety Scheme advises boat owners with 'bullseye' decklights fitted in cabin roofs or decks, to check areas beneath for signs of scorching that could lead to a boat fire.

They have been in use on many boats for 100 years or more and domed glass or bullseye decklights as they are known, come in various guises to provide daytime lighting to dimly lit inboard spaces. They work by refracting sunlight, but in the same way a magnifying glass can be used to burn paper there may be a risk that if the sun's rays are focused by the decklight on to combustible material then scorching can occur, or even worse, fire.

Graham Watts BSS Manager said, 'the risk is not high, but if you have bullseye decklight fitted, my advice is to check any surfaces below it for signs of scorching. Even if there is no sign of damage make sure that anything that can easily start to burn, such as fabric, wood or paper, is kept at least 300mm away from decklights'.

A recent example of 'roof' lining being burned away and scorching of insulation foam.



The BSS has issued the advice following several reports in recent years of fires and near incidents caused by the magnified energy of the sun through such decklights.

– ENDS –

Notes

The Boat Safety Scheme (BSS) is a public safety project owned jointly by British Waterways and the Environment Agency. It has also been adopted by at least 12 other navigation and harbour authorities. The objectives set for the Scheme are to help address the risks of fire, explosion and pollution introduced by vessels that have been inadequately equipped or maintained and to advise and inform boat owners about pollution avoidance and how to keep themselves and their crews safe. All of these objectives relate to the use of boats, their installations and appliances.

These objectives are met through setting minimum condition requirements related to the installations on boats, supported by an examination regime. They are also met through a process of public communication both by the Scheme directly, and through partnerships with other organisations.

BSS advice contacts

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