

# Safety Alert

**Number:** 16-06

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**Subject:** Microwave Incident

## What Happened / Narrative

Recently an MSF member had an incident involving a microwave on one of their vessels that had the potential to be a lot more severe than it actually was.

## Why Did it Happen / Cause

A crewmember was heating some food in the microwave which had a built in grill. The crewman operated the microwave incorrectly and instead of setting it to 55 seconds using microwave power; he set it for 55 minutes using the grill. He then left the microwave unattended.

The smell of burning was noticed by a passing crewman, who immediately switched off the microwave.

There was a piece of anti-slip matting on the microwave turntable dish; this was smouldering due to prolonged exposure to the grill element. No extinguishing medium was needed.

## Corrective Actions Taken / Recommendations

### Action

- Discuss this at your next safety meeting. Informing all present that whenever cooking food in the microwave, that the correct settings are used.
- Do not leave microwaves unattended. Nor set the dial for more time than is needed.
- Also, do not leave matting in the microwave. It is to be used only when necessary and never as the norm.

Fire on a ship is not a desirable situation. This type of incident is easily avoided if we follow the simple procedures above.

## Photographs / Supporting Information



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