

GLOBALPANDI

Circular for P & I Clubs

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Correspondents for:

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Huge explosion at the oil refinery Amuay

A huge explosion has taken place at the Venezuela's main oil refinery Amuay part of the Paraguana Refinery Complex, located in the Falcon State, resulting in the death of at least 24 people and injures to 82 so far. The accident does not affect the other refinery in the area (Cardon) although assessment is being carried out as they are interconnected through pipes system. Injured people are being taken to hospitals in Falcon State and also to Maracaibo where there is a special unit for burns patients.

The blast occurred at 01:11 (05:41 GMT) on Saturday 25th August and it is said to be caused by a gas leak forming a cloud which exploded igniting two storage tanks and other facilities at the refinery, according the explanation given by Mr. Rafael Ramirez, Minister of Energy and President of PDVSA. Although the Amuay refinery is one of the biggest in the world, producing over 645,000 barrels a day, Mr. Ramirez has said that the accident will not affect the production nor the distribution in the internal market. Even so, visible damages to infrastructure (9 tanks) and nearby houses can be observed. The government has deployed a significant number of firemen and health teams to cope with the emergency, which includes armed forces to ensure the security and prevent riots. From the operational standpoint the refinery has been stopped for two days until the situation is under control and the evaluations are completed.

It is important to point out that the area of the explosion where the tanks are located is far from the marine terminal, so it did not affect ships berthed there; however, following the incident marine operations have been

also suspended and it would appear that ships will be taken to the anchorage area, but little information is still available. We will continue monitoring the matter and revert as practicable.

Should you need any assistance or further information regarding the topic stated above, please feel free to contact:

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