

[Home](#) » [News](#) » [Operations](#) » [Cargo Handling](#) » Antwerp investigates dockworker deaths

[Share](#) [Email](#) [Print](#)

Antwerp investigates dockworker deaths

16 Apr 2015

An investigation is underway to find the cause of death of three dockworkers who died cleaning out the hold of a ship laden with coal in Antwerp's Waasland harbour at the weekend.

The three experienced dockworkers, employed by Euroports and CEPA, were apparently the victims of toxic gases created by the coal the *M/S Frontier* was carrying, the East Flanders prosecutor's office has confirmed.

They were found unconscious by their colleagues but all attempts to revive them failed. An investigation into the cause of the incident is underway, but it has been suggested that a mistake may have been made in ensuring adequate ventilation was available to the hold.

In a statement, Euroports said: "The thoughts of Euroports and CEPA go in the first instance to the family, friends and workmates of three colleagues in these difficult circumstances."

A spokesperson from Antwerp Port Authority told *Port Strategy* that its condolences are also with the family. They said that thankfully incidents of this type of magnitude are very rare and that the port has an excellent safety record.

"Although there are strict health and safety measures in place for this type of operation, it is however down to the individual parties involved to ensure that they are abided by," they told *PS*.

Paddy Crumlin, of The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), said: "We can never relax on port safety and accident prevention. Antwerp is a port where health and safety is taken very seriously, and, like the three men's trade unions, we are confident that a full investigation will take place into what happened and how any resulting lessons can be implemented."

He added that dock work is dangerous work and everyone involved must always do everything possible to minimise the risks.

It's understood that the captain of the vessel is currently being questioned regarding the incident.



Port deaths: Antwerp has an excellent safety record

[Find a business](#) [RSS Feeds](#)

[Advertise for FREE](#) [Free e-news](#)

Latest Jobs...

Terminal Operator

The ****Terminal Operator**** will perform duties in support of the safe operation of a l...

Terminal Manager

Coordinates, directs and supervises all transportati operators within a terminal in...

Event Sales Executive

We have a fantastic opportunity for an experienced and talented sales executive to jo...

Event Senior Sales Executive

We have a fantastic opportunity for an experienced and talented sales executive to jo...

Port Operator

Peel Ports is More than Ports. It's a unique network that connects everything from po...

Media Sales Manager

We have a fantastic opportunity for an experienced and talented media Sales Manager t...

[More...](#)

IMAGES FOR THIS ARTICLE - CLICK TO ENLARGE



Image copyright © Mercator Media 2015, or image used with permission of the copyright holder unless otherwise stated.

LINKS TO RELATED COMPANIES AND RECENT ARTICLES ...

[Antwerp Port Authority](#)