

FREMANTLE HIGHWAY

Update from social media 26 July 2023 – 10:00 hrs

A salvage vessel has managed to establish an emergency connection with the burning freighter north of Ameland. With this connection, the salvage vessel Hunter keeps the ship in a controlled position, the Coast Guard reports.

According to a Coast Guard spokesman, the emergency connection is necessary to maintain control over where the vessel is going. "It is rudderless, there is no one on board anymore," said the spokesperson. It is also dangerous, because there is still a fire on board. As far as possible, a location that is as safe as possible, between two traffic lanes, has been chosen and every effort is made to keep the vessel clear of obstacles at sea.

The connection made is not very solid, according to the spokesperson, but it was the only thing possible at the time. The connection at the rear of the ship will in any case remain until a possibly stronger towing connection can be made.

The Fremantle Highway is still on fire, according to the Coast Guard, which previously indicated that one of the possible scenarios is that the ship sinks. According to the spokesperson, this scenario is the most taken into account in the preparations that are now being made. "At the moment, several parties such as salvage companies and Rijkswaterstaat are looking at the best possible way to limit the damage as much as possible." According to the spokesperson, the authorities absolutely want to prevent liquids ending up in the water as fuel. "We're doing everything we can to prevent that."

The 200 meter long ship has 2857 cars on board, 25 of which are electric cars. The fire was first detected near electric cars. Whether it originated there and why, is still unclear. The electric cars make firefighting more complex, according to the spokesman, because batteries are not so easy to extinguish.

Update 26 July - 11:00 hours

Multtraship is the salvage operator.
Will contact them for update.

Have also spoken with the vessel's agent, who are currently arranging the necessary care for the crew.

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