



WHERE THERE'S SMOKE: A fire engine on its way to the Duncan Dock where the Chinese trawler Don Sang was still smouldering yesterday after catching alight on Thursday. PICTURE: JASON BOND

Firefighters battle blaze on trawler moored in Cape Town dock

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FIREFIGHTERS continue a battle to extinguish the blaze aboard a Chinese trawler, the Don Sang, at the Duncan Dock in the Cape Town Harbour, four days after the vessel moored.

The trawler moored on Thursday night and the fire started soon after.

Cape Town Fire and Rescue Services spokesman Theo Layne said the fire started in the ship's hold where cardboard and netting was stored, and after the vessel's fuel caught alight, the fire spread.

Yesterday entry to the terminal was restricted to disaster management staff as firefighters worked throughout the day to contain the flames on board

the trawler, as temperatures soared to 38°C.

"We have a crew on standby monitoring the situation as the vessel has about 10 tons of ammonia gas on board. At the moment there is no immediate danger as the fire is contained in the floor section," Layne said. Ammonia was a colourless gas that was very harmful and might be fatal if inhaled.

he stressed.

In a statement issued late last night, Transnet Port Terminals' Chief Executive Karl Sockkwa said cargo handling operations at the Cape Town Container Terminal had resumed as normal since 7pm yesterday.

"The fire damage is contained to the vessel only and Transnet Port Authority is

managing and monitoring the situation on a 24-hour basis."

A tug sprayed sea water from the sea side yesterday while at 6pm firefighters were still trying to "cool the ship by spraying it with water from the land side.

One man was evacuated and treated for smoke inhalation on Saturday but did not require any additional treatment.

Layne added that a pollution officer had been on the scene to assess the possible environmental damage and they were still waiting on his outcome.

"We are still waiting to go on board the Don Sang to assess the situation. When the situation is deemed to be safe firefighters will board the ship and work from on deck."

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