Summary Of Incident
A gas bottle exploded in a lifeboat of a vessel during the process of charging it up from the Breathing Apparatus Air Compressor.

The Master of the 8 years-old vessel was in proximity of the lifeboat and he was very seriously wounded. The bottle was quite old with different numbers/dates.

The photographs below speak for themselves. Unfortunately one person was injured – imagined the results if this happened on the deck area with more people around.

Lessons Learnt
(1) The incident related to Life Saving Equipment, which indicated the lack of inspections and maintenance programs.

(2) Ensure air cylinders or gas bottles are all in good condition. EU guidelines are:
Visual inspections every 2 years and pass hydro-test requirements every 5 years

(3) Cylinder(s) in poor condition should not be moved or depressurized and should be roped off and warning sign(s) clearly displayed