



Fires on Container Vessels – avoidable?

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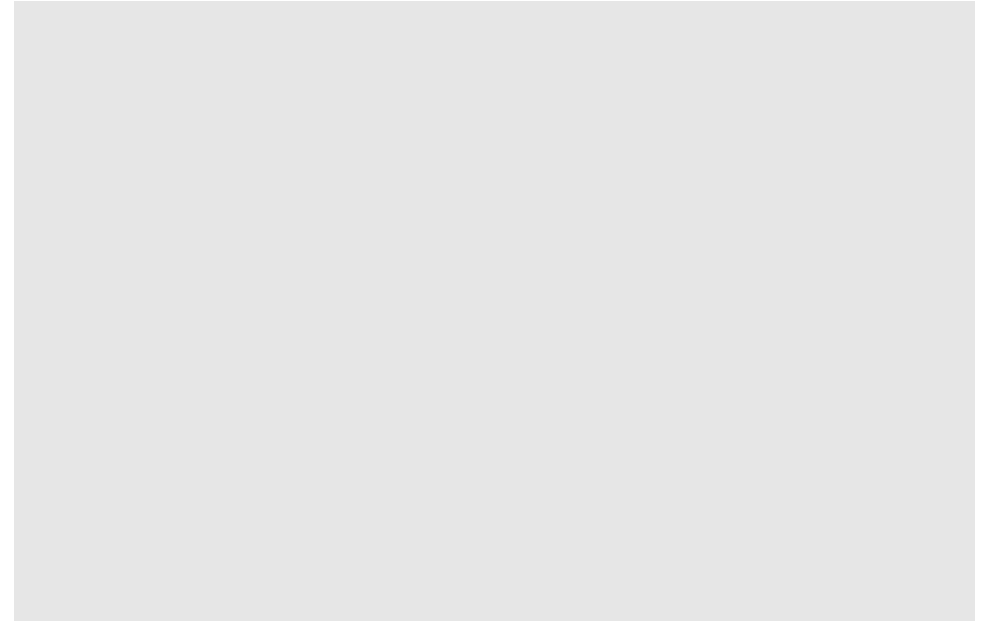


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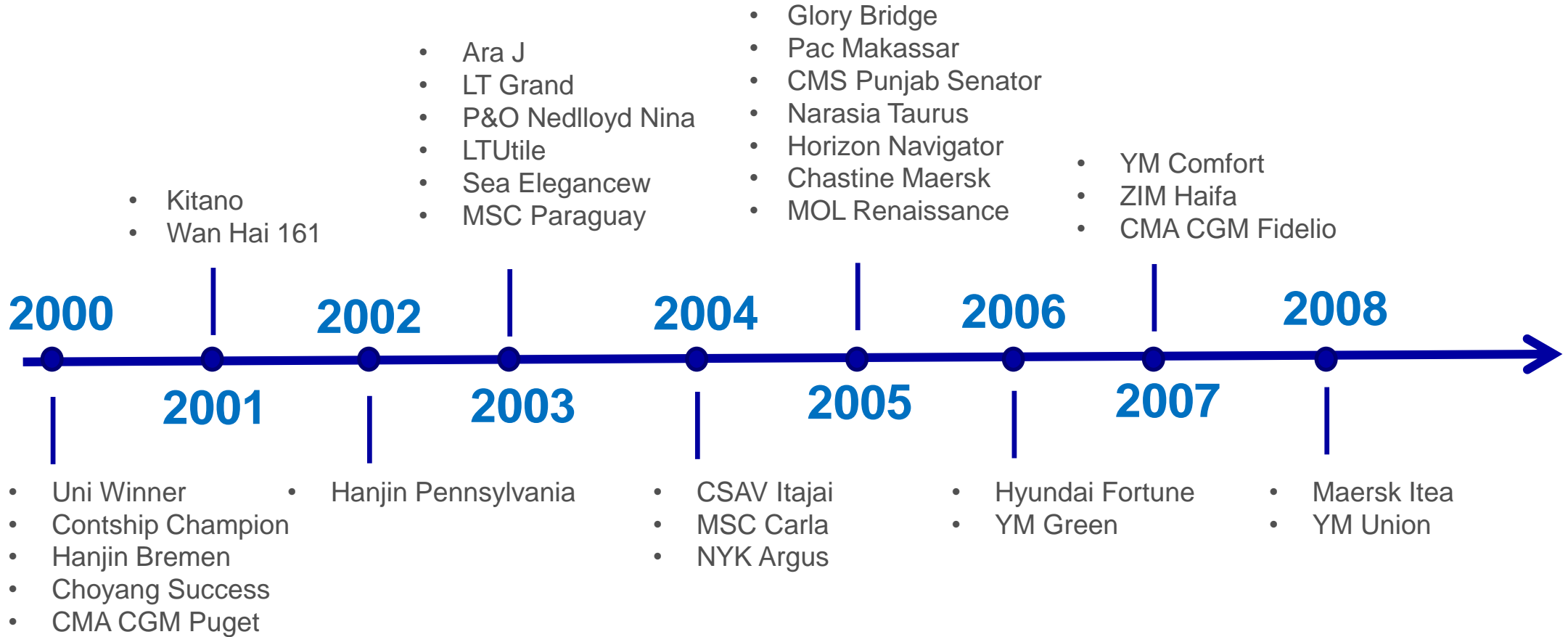


A typical incident

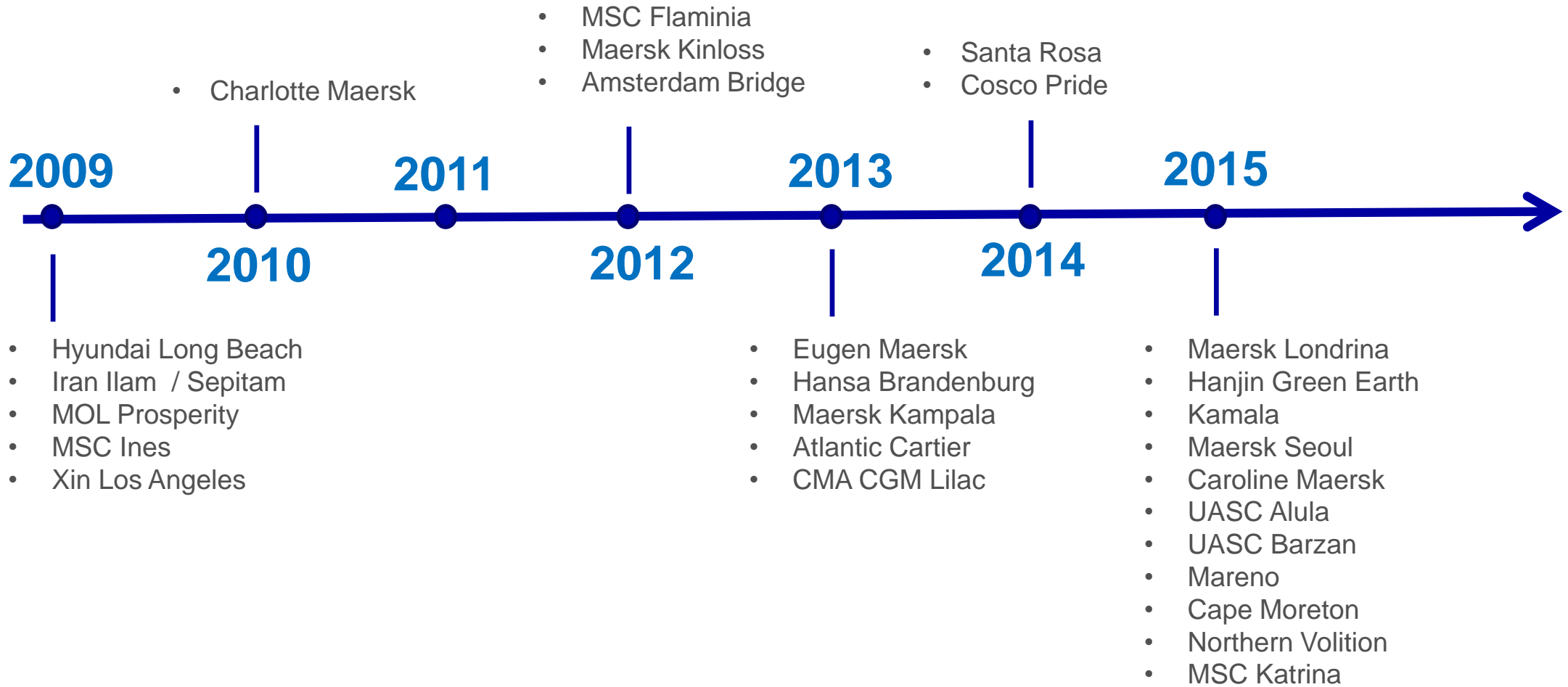
- One container on-board carries **misdeclared cargo** which is dangerous / easy inflammable
 - One container on-board **catches fire** due to insufficient handling
 - **Detection** of the fire happens too late
 - **Containing** or **extinguishing** of the fire fails
 - **External help** is not immediately available
 - The **fire spreads** and major parts of the vessel and the cargo get destroyed
- **Danger for crew's life; major damages to vessel and cargo; environmental risks**



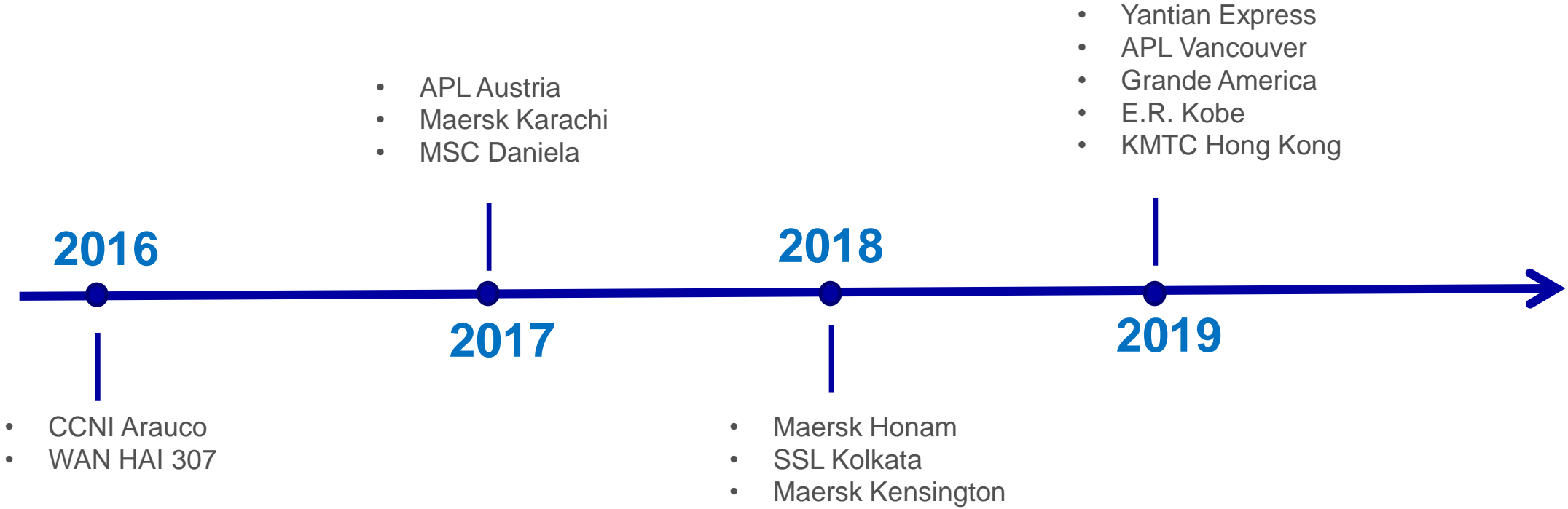
Container ship fire time line



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Container ship fire time line



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A number of challenges to tackle



1. Avoid **misdeclaration** of cargo
2. Ensure appropriate **handling and stowage** on-board
3. Improve **detection** of fires on-board
4. Improve **fire-fighting capabilities** of the vessel
 - a. **CO₂ in the holds** doesn't work for containers
 - b. Fire-fighting equipment **on deck** is not sufficient
 - c. **Seafarers** are no fire-fighters
5. **Fire separation** on the vessel

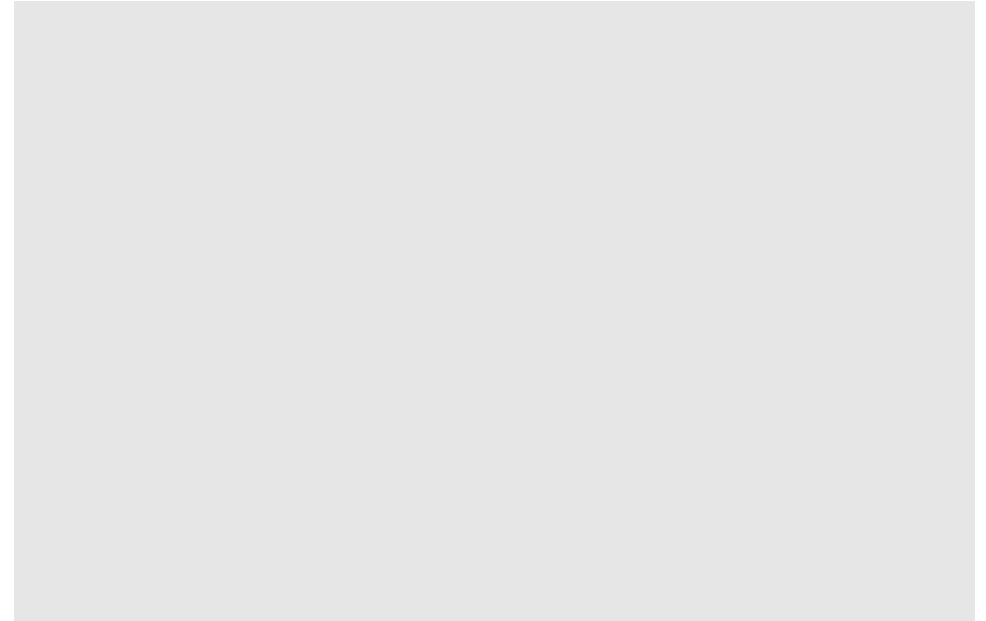
➤ **A holistic approach is needed**

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Problems

- **Misdeclaration** has to be efficiently and reliably detected in order to avoid insufficient handling
- The **essential factor** dealing with fires **is time**, but external help comes only after hours or days
- Crew has only **equipment** to fight against incipient fires, but ships don't have detection systems for incipient fires
- The **use of CO₂** under deck is ineffective, time-consuming and dangerous for the crew
- **Fighting large fires** puts the crews' lives at risk and is ineffective
- Once a fire broke out, it **spreads further and further**



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Way ahead



IUMI would like to address all these challenges short-term together with all relevant stakeholders

- Procedures to avoid **misdeclaration**
- Regulation to improve **detection**
- Regulation to **improve fire-fighting capabilities on-board**
- Means to segregate a fire on-board – **fire compartments**

IUMI Position Paper:

<https://iumi.com/opinions/position-papers>



That's it!

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