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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-O/G-M//  
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UNCLAS //N16711//  
ALDIST 216/99  
COMDTNOTE 16711

SUBJ: OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY ON COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

- A. CCGEIGHT NEW ORLEANS LA 151230Z APR 99 NOTAL
- B. MARINE SAFETY MANUAL, COMDTINST M16000.7, VOL I, CH 10
- C. MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT MANUAL, COMDTINST M16247.1A, ENCL 6
- D. NAVAL ENGINEERING MANUAL, CHAP 077, COMDTINST M9000.6B
- E. NAVSHIPS TECHNICAL MANUAL 074, VOL III

1. THIS MESSAGE DISSEMINATES THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF A AND REMINDS BOTH COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL EXAMINERS AND BOARDING OFFICERS OF THE CONFINED SPACE ENTRY HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS.

A. ON 11 APR 99, THE 3 PERSON CREW ABOARD THE 62 FT F/V POSEIDON WAS FOUND DECEASED IN A FISH HOLD WHILE OPERATING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO. THE MARINE SAFETY OFFICE IN MOBILE IS INVESTIGATING THE CASUALTY. THE EXACT CAUSE OF DEATH IS UNKNOWN, BUT SEVERAL POSSIBLE CAUSES ARE BEING CONSIDERED INCLUDING ASPHYXIATION.

B. ON 2 OCT 98, A CREWMEMBER ABOARD THE 100 FT F/V JOHN N DIED FROM EXPOSURE TO HYDROGEN SULFIDE GAS WHILE THE VESSEL WAS MOORED IN NEW BEDFORD, MA. A SECOND CREWMEMBER, RENDERED UNCONSCIOUS WHILE ATTEMPTING TO RESCUE THE FIRST CREWMEMBER WAS QUICKLY RESCUED BY A FIREFIGHTER AND SURVIVED.

C. ON 16 JAN 96, 3 CREWMEMBERS ABOARD THE 30 FT F/V EL NINO DIED OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING WHILE THEY WAITED OVERNIGHT TO OFFLOAD THEIR CATCH.

2. ALL COAST GUARD PERSONNEL SHALL FOLLOW ESTABLISHED CONFINED SPACE ENTRY PROCEDURES WHILE CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES. THE PROCEDURES FOR MARINE SAFETY PERSONNEL ARE LISTED IN REF B AND THE PROCEDURES FOR BOARDING OFFICERS ARE LISTED IN REFS C THRU E.

3. FISHING VESSEL EXAMINERS AND BOARDING OFFICERS SHOULD SHARE THE ACCOUNTS OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS MENTIONED HEREIN WITH THEIR SHIPMATES AND THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR DUTIES. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT WE LEARN FROM THESE EVENTS TO PREVENT SUCH OCCURRENCES IN THE FUTURE.

4. PRUDENT MEASURES SHOULD INCLUDE THE VERIFICATION OF HAZARDS DURING EXAMINATIONS/BOARDING. INTERVIEWS WITH MASTERS/CREWS PRIOR TO AND DURING INITIAL SAFETY INSPECTIONS TO ASCERTAIN SAFETY HAZARDS THAT MAY BE PRESENT DURING THE COURSE OF BOARDINGS/EXAMINATIONS ARE APPROPRIATE.

5. ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO COMDT, G-MOC, LT JOE PAITL, (202) 267-0507 OR COMDT, G-OPL, LT KIRSTEN MARTIN, 202-267-1017.

6. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED.

7. RADM R. C. NORTH, ASST COMDT FOR MARINE SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RADM E. R. RIUTTA, ASST COMDT FOR OPERATIONS, SENDS.

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