

Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System
U.S. Coast Guard



Press Release

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AMVER INTRODUCES INSTANT SURFACE PICTURE ACCESS

NEW YORK – The United States Coast Guard Amver (Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue) system has just made the job of search and rescue easier for the entire world. Today, rescue coordination centers around the world can quickly contact the United States Coast Guard via a new Web based application, and obtain a surface picture of Amver participating commercial vessels that are willing and ready to come to the aid of fellow mariners in distress.

Search and rescue coordinators simply enter some basic information about the distress such as location, type of distress, and contact information. Once entered this request is sent to the United States Coast Guard Atlantic Area Command Center and quickly processed. United States Coast Guard personnel confirm the requester is a legitimate rescue coordination center and immediately sends a list of Amver vessels nearest the distress location.

While this service has been available for many years there has never been a real time method for search and rescue personnel around the world to request it from the United States Coast Guard. “This unique approach will undoubtedly add another tool for the search and rescue controller and lead to more lives saved at sea” stated Captain Christopher Hall, Chief of Search and Rescue for the United States Coast Guard. “I hope the international community will take advantage of this feature and make it part of their standard operating procedures” he stated.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea. With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,200 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

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