AMVER 50th anniversary

Press Release

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TURKISH AMVER TANKER NETS FIRST AMVER SAVE OF 2008

Solo sailor with hip injury plucked from the middle of the Atlantic

NEW YORK – A 61 year old British sailor is counting his blessings after being plucked from the middle of the Atlantic Ocean in the first Amver rescue of 2008.

The Brit, sailing to the United Kingdom on his 38 foot sailboat Padolu, fell and inured his hip 655 nautical miles north east of Bermuda. He quickly notified British search and rescue coordinators in Falmouth, UK who in turn notified the United States Coast Guard.

Fortunately the United States Coast Guard Atlantic Area Rescue Coordination Center was able to locate the Amver participating tanker Action, a Turkish owned oil tanker sailing to New Haven, CT from Europe. The 822 foot tanker, owned by the Geden Lines of Istanbul, Turkey, was only 5 hours away when it diverted to assist.

The Action's Captain notified United States Coast Guard rescue coordinators that weather conditions were making rescue operations difficult. "The Padolu is not under command, she cannot use her engines and cannot proceed to our ship" stated the Action's Captain, "Because of the sea condition there is a very high risk that she can have damage and sink without any rescue operation" he added.

With that, the Captain and crew of the Action rigged a system to allow the injured sailor to climb aboard the 822 foot tanker. The crew of the Action then coordinated with United States Coast Guard flight surgeons and administered ice to the sailor's injuries.

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The Action continued on its journey to New Haven, CT where the injured sailor was met by United States Coast Guard personnel, transferred to emergency medical services and taken to the hospital.

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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