

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



Press Release

Date: June 20, 2007

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AMVER PARTICIPATING TANKER RESCUES CREW OF SUNKEN TURKISH VESSEL

NEW YORK – Quick thinking on the part of rescue coordinators in Turkey and skilled ship handling by the master of the tanker Fairchem Steed led to the successful rescue of all 19 crewmen aboard the ill fated merchant ship Alexandra C which sank in heavy weather off the coast of Yemen.

Rescue coordinators in Turkey called the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Atlantic Area Rescue Coordination Center requesting assistance when they realized there were simply no resources available to respond to the sinking ship. The USCG search and rescue experts quickly queried the Amver database and identified the tanker Fairchem Steed which they diverted to the last known position of the sinking vessel.

According to Mohan Iyer, Captain of the Fairchem Steed, “We proceeded at full speed to the distress location.” Fortunately Captain Iyer and his crew were only 53 miles from the distress location.

Captain Iyer notified the USCG search and rescue coordination center that the crew of the Alexandra C “... was safe and healthy with no casualties.” The Fairchem Steed is proceeding to its next port of call in Mumbai, India where company officials from the sunken ship were arranging for the crew’s return home.

The Amver system is a voluntary, worldwide ship reporting system. 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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