

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



Press Release

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Contact: Benjamin Strong
(212) 669-7762 office
(917)545-6676 mobile
benjamin.m.strong@uscg.mil

GREEK AMVER TANKER RESCUES 7 FISHERMEN

NEW YORK – A Greek oil tanker participating in the Amver system was contacted by a United States Coast Guard law enforcement aircraft and diverted to rescue seven Ecuadorian fishermen after their boat sank 170 miles off the Columbia Ecuador coast June 5, 2009.

The tanker Andes, en route to Esmeraldas to load product, was notified by a United States Coast Guard aircraft on a routine patrol that the fishermen were in distress. The master of the Andes quickly mustered the crew and turned his ship in the direction of the sinking fishing boat.

The Coast Guard aircraft dropped life rafts and survival equipment to the seven fishermen as the Andes headed to their rescue.

Within two hours of being notified, crewmen on the Greek flagged tanker, managed by the Tsakos Group, observed flashing lights near the distress position. As darkness fell, the Coast Guard aircraft continued to circle over the survivors and direct the tanker to their location.

The master of the Andes maneuvered the tanker alongside the life rafts and the Andes crew began rescue operations. According to the Andes master “Because of the high freeboard and the elderly crew in the lifeboats we readied a rescue boat to launch if the last attempt was unsuccessful.” The last survivors, with the help of additional Andes crewmen, were able to make the transfer between the life raft and the tanker.

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.

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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 3,600 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.

Survivor photo:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/3653795471/>

Photo of the tanker Andes:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/3654592624/in/set-72157620258410431/>

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