

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



Press Release

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AMVER TANKER RESCUES 5 FROM DISABLED SAILBOAT

NEW YORK – Five men on a voyage from Bermuda to Cruz Bay, St. John’s suffered a rudder casualty on their sailboat and were rescued by the Amver participating tanker Atlantic Prosperity approximately 195 nautical miles north of St. Thomas.

The men were aboard the sailing vessel Epiphany, sailing from Bermuda to St. John’s when they suffered the rudder malfunction. As weather conditions began to deteriorate the master of the Epiphany activated his emergency beacon and was contacted by U.S. Coast Guard personnel. The Coast Guard immediately diverted the Atlantic Prosperity, a Panamanian flagged tanker, 70 miles from its course to rescue the sailors.

The master of the Atlantic Prosperity, despite 30 knot winds and 10 foot seas, quickly embarked the crew of the Epiphany. The survivors were taken to San Juan, Puerto Rico where U.S. Coast Guard personnel met them and released the tanker to continue on its voyage.

“We are very pleased with our master and crew's professional rescue operation which rescued five sailors from the distressed sailing boat safely under difficult sea conditions” stated Yoshikazu Hirose, spokesperson for the Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, owner of the Atlantic Prosperity.

“The tanker crew was very accommodating” said the crew of the Epiphany “We are very appreciative of the work the tanker and U.S. Coast Guard to coordinate our rescue” they added.

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.

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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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