



Press Release

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Amver teams up to rescue 4 French sailors

NEW YORK – Four French sailors were rescued by a French container ship after their sailboat capsized over 1,000 miles east southeast of Bermuda on Thursday, December 2nd.

The crew of the sailboat activated their Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) which set off a course of events involving multiple rescue centers and the Coast Guard's Amver system. 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.

U.S. Coast Guard authorities asked the British flagged container ship, CMA CGM La Scala, to divert and search for the stricken boat. Upon arriving on the scene the captain of the 1,000 foot container ship maneuvered around the capsized vessel and reported he didn't see anyone on the boat. Rescue authorities said the people were likely in the water. The crew of the La Scala were able to locate the four sailors and hoist them onto the container ship.

The crew of the CMA CGM La Scala administered aid and ensured the four survivors were taken care of. The La Scala will disembark the sailors when they reach the Suez Canal December 12, 2010.

The CMA CGM La Scala, part of the CMA CGM company of Marseille, France, has been actively reporting to the Amver system since it enrolled on October 10, 2010.

"It's amazing stuff," said Thomas Botzenhart, search and rescue controller at the Coast Guard 5th District Command Center. "It just goes to show you that these Amver vessels are like force multipliers for the Coast Guard and gives us the ability to render assistance to mariners anywhere in the world."

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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 almost 4,000 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.

Low resolution photo available at: <http://flic.kr/p/8YUkXi>

Low resolution photo available at: <http://flic.kr/p/8YUm1V>

Audio of the ship calling U.S. Coast Guard available at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpC3ueQnwpA>

Or: http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?g2_itemId=1062623

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