

Saving Lives at Sea Since 1958



The Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System

## WHAT IS THE AUTOMATED MUTUAL ASSISTANCE VESSEL RESCUE SYSTEM?

It is commonly known as Amver.

Amver was established in 1958.

The Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a computer-based voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

## HOW DOES AMVER WORK?

Merchant ship owners or managers enter specific information about their vessels into the Amver database on what is known as a search and rescue questionnaire or SAR-Q.

Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report their locations every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call.

Search and rescue controllers are able to predict the position of each ship at any point during its voyage.

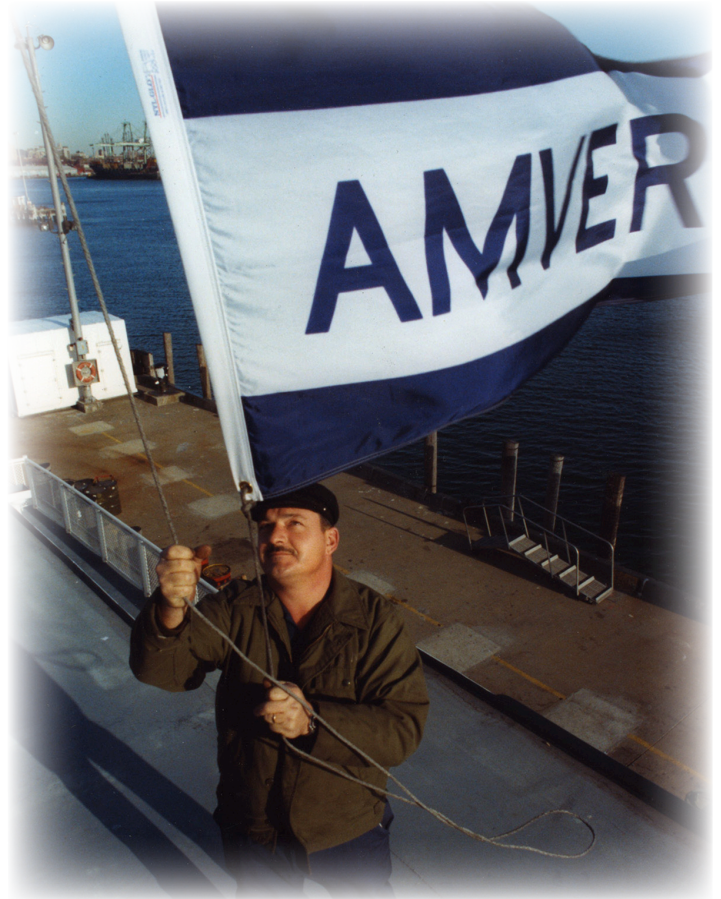
The position of each participating ship is displayed in an Amver surface picture or SURPIC.

In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this SURPIC to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location and divert the best suited ship or ships to respond.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN AMVER?

Any commercial vessel, regardless of nation or flag, over 1,000 gross tons on voyages of 24 hours or greater is encouraged to enroll and participate in Amver.

Other vessels such as private yachts, research vessels, and even floating production storage and offloading vessels (FPSOs) can enroll.



## WHO PARTICIPATES IN AMVER?

There are thousands of vessels enrolled in Amver, representing hundreds of countries.

On any given day there are over 7,000 vessels available to divert and assist in a distress situation.

## **WHY SHOULD SHIPS PARTICIPATE IN AMVER?**

Amver's success is tied directly to the number of merchant vessels regularly reporting their position. The more ships on plot, the greater the chance a ship will be identified near the position of distress.

Ships incur no additional obligation to respond than already exists under international law of the sea. Since Amver identifies the best ship or ships to respond to a distress, it releases other vessels to continue their voyage, saving fuel, time and payroll costs.

Information sent to Amver is protected and used only in maritime emergencies.

Amver provides an additional measure of safety by allowing rescue coordinators to compress the search area in the event a participating ship is unreported or overdue.



## **HOW DO I ENROLL IN AMVER?**

Visit <http://www.amver.com> and click on "Enrollment"

Enter pertinent information on the Amver Search and Rescue Questionnaire or SAR(Q)  
<http://www.amver.com/sarqform.asp>

Once your vessel has been added download the Amver Ship Reporting Manual  
<http://www.amver.com/manual.asp>

Vessels may begin reporting to Amver immediately after enrolling.



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **RELATED SITES**

U.S. Coast Guard Office of Search and Rescue  
<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg534/default.asp>

U.S. Coast Guard Activities Europe  
<http://www.uscg.mil/acteur>

U.S. Coast Guard Activities Far East  
<http://www.uscg.mil/D14/feact>