



Press Release

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Contact: Benjamin Strong
(212) 232-3862 office
(917) 545-6676 mobile
benjamin.m.strong@uscg.mil

AMVER tanker assists in rescue of 5: VIDEO AVAILABLE

NEW YORK – The Amver participating tanker Aqualeader assisted in the rescue of five sailors after they alerted rescue personnel they were in distress 120 miles southwest of Monterey, Calif., on Saturday, January 31, 2015.

The distress was confirmed by a C-17 transport plane flying near the distress location. Crew members from the aircraft located a sailboat near the distress location. Rescue personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard Eleventh District launched rescue helicopters from Air Stations San Francisco and Los Angeles along with diverting the Liberian flagged tanker to assist. The Aqualeader was only 20 miles from the sailboat.

The captain of the 813-foot tanker arrived on scene and made one rescue attempt but was unable to come safely alongside the 65-foot sailboat. The Aqualeader's crew reported waves were eight to ten feet and winds were ten knots gusting to 12 knots. The Aqualeader then positioned itself to block the waves and wind, providing a lee for the helicopter crews who hoisted the five survivors to safety.

The survivors were flown to shore with no injuries and the Aqualeader resumed its voyage. The Aqualeader, managed by Unisea Shipping of Athens, Greece enrolled in Amver on November 7, 2011 and has earned three Amver participation awards.

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.

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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. On any day there are over 7,000 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.

Video available here: <http://www.dvidshub.net/video/389708/coast-guard-rescues-5-people-sinking-sail-boat-off-coast-monterey#.VNje2VPF9tJ>

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