



Press Release

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BURNING MERCHANT SHIP RELIES ON AMVER VESSELS FOR ASSISTANCE

NEW YORK – Battling a fire 1,300 miles off the coast of Cape Cod, Mass. Thursday morning, the merchant ship *Sea Venus* was assisted by several Amver vessels.

The *Sea Venus*, a 577 foot Panamanian flagged vessel with a crew of 23, was en route from Rhode Island to Belgium when the fire erupted.

Coast Guard watch standers at the Rescue Coordination Center Norfolk, in Portsmouth, VA received a satellite distress signal from the *Sea Venus* at 7:30 am Thursday and coordinated assistance using an aircraft and vessel from the Canadian Navy and two Amver participating merchant vessels, the *Challenge Plus* and *Olympian Highway*.

The *Sea Venus*, managed by the Tsuneishi Group of Japan, initially reported that the engine room fire was extinguished and they didn't need assistance but in a subsequent distress call the crew reported the fire had reignited.

The *Challenge Plus*, a Singapore flagged merchant vessel, was released while the *Olympian Highway*, operated by Kawasaki Kisen Kiasha Limited of Japan, embarked 14 of the 23 *Sea Venus* crewmembers. The *Olympian Highway* will remain on the scene until the tug *Atlantic Oak* arrives Saturday.

According to Canadian Naval officials on the scene, "The crew had a barbecue Thursday night and seems to be in good spirits. They have enough food and water to last."

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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. 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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