



AWO Interregion Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 9 – 10, 2009

Location: St. Louis

Safety Subcommittee Meeting Reports

September 9, 2009 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1. Lesson Plan Subcommittee: Lesson Plan Subcommittee Chairman Donnie Hall, Hunter Marine, was unable to attend; however, the Subcommittee reviewed the progress of its latest project to develop a number of lesson plans addressing personal protective equipment. The Subcommittee agreed that this project was concluded with the completion, and posting on the AWO Web site, of eight lesson plans developed by the Subcommittee, including: Eye Protection; Head Protection; Hand Protection; Hearing Protection; Personal Flotation Devices (PDF); Protective Clothing; Protective Footwear; and Respiratory Protection. The Subcommittee next turned its attention to a discussion of possible subjects for future lesson plans that would prove valuable to AWO members. The Subcommittee agreed that it would review existing lesson plans and determine if there is a need to develop a new lesson plan addressing H¹N¹ (Swine Flu) virus. As a first step, Danna Said, Alter Barge Line, and Atward Anderson, Terral River Services, will begin this review and report back at the next meeting. The Subcommittee next discussed the need for a lesson plan on Stretching and Exercise. Molly Isnardi, Upper River Services, will share a stretching program she uses at her company that may be of use to members of the Safety Committee. The Subcommittee next agreed that a topic for a future lesson plan is safety precautions related to vessel lay-up. This subject came to light as a result of a serious casualty experienced by a crew member who was burned as result of some hot work being performed on a vessel during a repair period. Stan Knight, AEP River Division; John Moren, McNational; Jo Ann Salyers, Salyers Solutions; Doug Hosszu, Upper River Services; Paul Hassler, JB Marine; and, John Frye, Higman Marine Services, will begin to develop information that should be included in a possible lesson plan.

Members of the Lesson Plan Subcommittee are:

Donnie Hall, Chairman – Hunter Marine
Atward Anderson – Terral Marine Services, Inc.
Glenn Cowan – Fryoux Tankerman Service
Ronda Echols – Echo Marine, Ltd./Echo Towing Service Inc.
Jo Ann Fridge – SGS Petroleum Service Corporation
Molly Isnardi, Upper River Services



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Andy Norval – Blessey Marine Services, Inc.

Donna Said – Alter Barge Line, Inc.

John Frye – Higman Marine Services, Inc.

2. Fall Overboard Subcommittee: Subcommittee Chairman Jim Smith, Magnolia Marine Transportation Company, reported on the status of the falls overboard questionnaire and efforts to provide this information to the Hile Group for future inclusion in the AWO Voluntary Safety Statistics Report. The subcommittee next discussed the observation that falls overboard continue to be especially frequent in fleeting operations. Chairman Smith reported that upon further examination of the reported falls, it became apparent that while the majority of falls overboard did come from fleeters, the majority of those fleeters were actually part of major AWO member companies with line haul operations, and not companies exclusively engaged in fleeting operations. It was suggested that AWO reach out to these companies and encourage representatives from these operations to attend future Safety Committee meetings.

Fall Overboard Subcommittee members are:

Jim Smith, Chairman – Magnolia Marine Transportation Company

Lora Ferraro – The Hile Group

Jim Fletcher – Team Services/Liquid Transfer

Steve Richards – BP Shipping USA

Jo Ann Salyers – Salyers Solutions, LLC

Tim Sizemore – AEP River Operations

3. Crew Alertness Subcommittee: Subcommittee Chairman Jo Ann Salyers, Salyers Solutions, shared with the group the latest draft of another in the Crew Endurance Guides, this one dealing with Body Mass Index (BMI) and how that calculation affects a crewmember's health and alertness. The Draft Guide will be reviewed by the Subcommittee; once approved by the Joint Safety Committee it will be posted on the AWO Web site along with the previous six Alertness Guides.

Members of the Crew Alertness Subcommittee are:

Jason Adams – Ingram Barge Company

Joe Garuccio – ARTCO

Molly Isnardi, Upper River Services

Chuck McAllister – ARTCO

4. Safety Statistics Subcommittee: Subcommittee Chairman Mike Weisend reported on a meeting held on September 8 to develop the AWO Voluntary Safety



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Statistics Instruction Manual. Mike told the group that the working group had carefully reviewed the first draft of the manual and suggested extensive changes. Another draft of the manual will be shared with members of the Subcommittee and presented to the Joint Safety Committee at its meeting in January 2010.

Members of the Voluntary Safety Statistics Working Group are:

Mike Weisend, Chairman -- AEP River Operations
Jason Adams – Ingram Barge Company
Matt Baker – Moran Towing Corporation
Doug Carlson -- Seabulk International, Inc.
Rob Castro – Marathon Oil Company
Jeff Greenhill – Marathon Oil Company
Lora Ferraro -- Hile Group
Paul Hassler -- JB Marine Service, Inc.
Stan Knight -- AEP River Operations
Sam Pounds – Tidewater Barge
Bob Roosevelt -- The Vane Brothers Company
Jim Smith -- Magnolia Marine Transportation Company



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AWO Interregion Safety Committee Fall Meeting Report

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1. Opening Comments/Speakers: The Spring meeting kicked off with a safety briefing from Jeremy Dyer, Marquette Transportation, followed by opening comments from Chairman Stan Knight, AEP River Operations, reminding everyone that the Interregion Safety Committee is the only forum addressing safety and the prevention of injuries in the tugboat, towboat and barge industry. Stan went on to say that it is imperative that our committee be vertically aligned with the overall goals and objectives of AWO. To facilitate this continuing effort the Committee will continue working on the development of its strategic plan to guide the committee in the future and ensure that it continues to meet members' needs as safety professionals, and supports the goals and priorities of AWO.

Stan then invited Mr. George Foster, AWO Vice Chairman of the AWO Board of Directors, to the podium to address the Committee. Mr. Foster began by congratulating the Committee on its efforts to improve safety, saying that he and the Executive Committee understand and appreciate the great job, and many accomplishments of the Committee. Mr. Foster went on to say that our industry is facing many challenges, including the transition to Towing Vessel Inspection, challenging economic times, and an activist Congress that has a predisposition to increased regulation. Mr. Foster reminded the Committee that it is our employees and our customers who are our greatest assets and we have an obligation to provide efficient, safe, conditions for both. Addressing the need to improve the collection of safety statistics, Mr. Foster reminded everyone that we need better participation in the AWO Voluntary Safety Statistics Program saying, "We have a safe industry, and we should collect these numbers to prove it!" Mr. Foster concluded his remarks by pledging, as a leader of AWO, and as the owner of a company providing a wide range of marine services, to support the work of the Committee, and reminding members, "Our mariners deserve our best efforts!"

Stan thanked Mr. Foster, and then introduced Mr. Peter D. Squicciarini, Coast Guard Towing Vessel Manager. Mr. Squicciarini began his remarks by writing the words "RESPECT THE MARINER" in large capital letters on a flipchart. There are many ways to respect the mariner, he said, but first and foremost is by doing everything we reasonably can to prevent any injury or death; that goal is the prime mission of the new Coast Guard Towing Vessel Inspection program and his personal goal in his newly created position as Towing Vessel Manager. Mr. Squicciarini went on to say that respecting the mariner also means that Coast Guard boardings should always be constructive, promote safety, and encourage a reasonable level of safety equally aboard all towing vessels. There is



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significant Congressional interest in promoting and upgrading safety in the towing industry. The Coast Guard has responded by adding over 100 examiners/inspectors and recognizes that “we have to get it right,” as he said Mr. Squicciarini concluded his remarks by assuring the Committee that, as members of AWO already complying with the Responsible Carrier Program, they were well placed to experience a smooth transition to vessel inspection. In closing, Mr. Squicciarini encouraged all members of the towing industry to consider him a resource and not hesitate to contact him with any questions or problems that arise during the transition to inspected status. Mr. Squicciarini’s contact information is as follows:

Mr. Peter D. Squicciarini
USCG Towing Vessel Manager
U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area (Api)
431 Crawford Street
Portsmouth, VA 23704
(757) 398-7720
peter.d.squicciarini@uscg.mil

2. Strategic Planning: The Committee next began work on developing a strategic plan to guide its work. Vice Chairman Jim Smith, Magnolia Marine and Lora Ferraro, The Hile Group, led attendees through a group exercise in which Committee members completed a Strategic Plan Development Questionnaire. Information gained through this exercise will be compiled by the Hile Group and used in finalizing the Committee’s strategic plan at the Joint Safety Committee meeting on January 27-28, 2010 (A copy of this questionnaire is included with these minutes).

3. Communication and Improved Crew Safety Performance: Chairman Stan Knight next introduced Dr. Anne-Marie Puricelli, Area Medical Director for Concentra Medical Centers, who delivered a presentation on prevention and response measures related to the H¹N¹ or Swine Flu Virus (A copy of Dr. Puricelli’s presentation is included with these minutes).

Improving Company Safety With Computer Based Vessel and Shoreside Management Systems Update. The Committee next received an update from Spencer Collins, Enterprise Systems Analytics (ESA), on a software program designed to assist companies in tracking their safety management system. A demonstration of this software was first introduced to the Joint Safety Committee meeting in January and Committee interest led to the need for an updated presentation detailing the latest changes to the program.

Eric Arlet, Patterson Winch, demonstrated an innovative new barge winch called a YoYo Winch which uses a system where the winch wire is wound on the drum in one single layer



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similar to how the string on a child's yoyo is wound. This design eliminates "bird nesting" and kinking of the wire, providing an unprecedented level of safety and ease of use. Eric also demonstrated a barge winch that uses a nylon strap method similar to that used by highway truckers to secure cargo. Both systems have the potential to reduce crewmember injuries and were examined with great interest by members of the Committee (A copy of Mr. Arlet's presentation is included with these minutes).

Stan Knight gave a brief demonstration of techniques associated with the Move Smart program recently begun by AEP River Operations. Move Smart emphasizes using martial arts principles to control body movement and avoid injury.

Jim Smith gave a presentation on the work of the Fall Overboard Prevention Subcommittee noting the recent addition of a requirement to the RCP for Fall Overboard Training for all crewmembers. Jim also summarized information from the Voluntary Safety Statistics Program on the need to continue to develop strategies to reduce the unacceptable number of these incidents experienced by our industry (A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes).

Martin Glenday, Moxie Media, gave a presentation on a new computer based training program that provides a suite of training programs that can be used to meet the training requirements of the RCP. Each of these training suites makes extensive use of video and includes a test of the subject matter covered (A copy of Mr. Glenday's presentation is included with these minutes).

4. CEMS: Bob Clinton briefed the Committee on the results of an online survey conducted by AWO and the Coast Guard. General Survey Findings concluded that there is a high degree of general awareness of the CEMS program but only half of the members surveyed have actually implemented elements of the program. Companies' main focus has been on efforts to provide sufficient time to sleep, improve berthing, diet and exercise. Education efforts have **not** resulted in sufficient knowledge of how to implement CEMS. There exists a lack of a basic understanding of the need to use light management to optimize endurance. And finally, the incorrect notion that the main objective of CEMS is to change watch schedules has led to widespread crewmember resistance (A copy of this presentation is included with these minutes).

Based on the results of the survey the Coast Guard-AWO Safety Partnership National Quality Steering Committee has recommended that the Coast Guard and AWO undertake the following actions. First, the Coast Guard should modify the curriculum for Coaches and Experts Training to improve understanding of the CEMS process, stress the criticality of light management and regular risk assessments, and deemphasize schedule changes. Second, focus Coast Guard communications on emphasizing that CEMS is the proper



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approach to improving crew endurance and that companies should embrace the CEMS principles in their operations. Finally, AWO should address CEMS in the RCP by adding non-required questions about CEMS implementation to the Responsible Carrier Program Audit Checklist and provide auditors with guidance in assessing companies' CEMS implementation efforts (A copy of the report to the National QSC is included with these minutes).

5. Safety Statistics: Bob Clinton gave a presentation on the latest Coast Guard statistics on crew fatalities, oil spills and vessel casualties. These numbers provide a picture of a safe industry that continues to experience improvements in all areas. The report also includes new data gathered from 2692 reports to the Coast Guard of crew injuries. This new data set holds the promise of providing new insight on areas where the Safety Committee should focus its efforts (A copy of this report is included with these minutes).

6. Lesson Learned: Mr. Joseph Garuccio, Divisional Compliance Officer, American River Transportation Company (ARTCO), presented a lesson learned from a fall overboard incident experienced by his company. ARTCO maintains a library of incidents that are shared with employees through Safety Alerts. These Safety Alerts are distributed to employees and are designed to increase safety awareness (A copy of this Safety Alert is included with these minutes).

7. Reception Sponsors: The Interregion Safety Committee wishes to thank its generous reception sponsors, Kirby Inland Marine and LeBeouf Bros. Towing, L.L.C.

8. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be the Joint Safety Committee held on January 27 -28, 2010 in conjunction with the Annual Southern Region Meeting in New Orleans

Attachments:

- Attendance List
- Strategic Planning Questionnaire
- H¹N¹ Presentation
- YoYo Winch
- Fall Overboard Prevention Presentation
- Moxie Media Crew Training Presentation
- CEMS Survey Presentation
- National QSC Presentation
- Coast Guard Safety Statistics Presentation
- ARTCO Safety Alert