



## AWO Interregion Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

**Date:** April 29 – 30, 2009

**Location:** Chicago, Illinois

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### **Safety Subcommittee Meeting Report**

April 29, 2009            10:00a.m.

1.     **Lesson Plan Subcommittee:** Lesson Plan Subcommittee Chairman Donnie Hall, Hunter Marine, reported that due to business demands he had been unable to complete the draft lesson plans on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Bob Clinton agreed to review the draft plans and put them in the AWO format so they could be approved and posted on the AWO Web site. The subcommittee next discussed future projects and agreed that the lesson plans are still extremely useful and should continue to be produced. Ideas for future topics include illness prevention, facility emergencies, and the effects of injuries in the work place.

Members of the Lesson Plan Subcommittee are:

Donnie Hall, Chairman – Hunter Marine  
Glenn Cowan – Fryoux Tankerman Service  
Ronda Echols – Echo Marine, Ltd./Echo Towing Service Inc.  
Jo Ann Fridge – SGS Petroleum Service Corporation  
Robbie LeBlanc – Cenac Towing Company, Inc.  
Andy Norval – Blessey Marine Services, Inc.  
Donna Said – Alter Barge Line, Inc.  
Chris Vecellio – Higman Marine Services, Inc.

2.     **Fall Overboard Subcommittee:** Subcommittee Chairman Jim Smith, Magnolia Marine Transportation Company, reported on the completion of the falls overboard questionnaire. The subcommittee next discussed the observation that falls overboard continue to be especially frequent in fleeting operations. It was suggested that AWO redistribute the report on crew fatalities that was completed in the mid 1990s [http://www.americanwaterways.com/commitment\\_safety/Vessel\\_Crew\\_Fatalities\\_QAT.pdf](http://www.americanwaterways.com/commitment_safety/Vessel_Crew_Fatalities_QAT.pdf). It was further suggested that AWO include a reminder of the need to prevent falls overboard in the AWO newsletter.

Fall Overboard Subcommittee members are:



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Jim Smith, Chairman – Magnolia Marine Transportation Company  
Jim Fletcher – Team Services/Liquid Transfer  
Steve Richards – BP Shipping USA  
Charlie Ritchie – McNational, Inc.  
Jo Ann Salyers – Salyers Solutions, LLC  
Tim Sizemore – AEP River Operations

3. **Safety Statistics Subcommittee:** Bob Clinton reported to the group on the Board of Directors' decision to add a requirement to the Responsible Carrier Program that members track the number and rate of fatalities, falls overboard, lost time, and recordable injuries. As part of this change, the Board of Directors has requested that the Subcommittee begin work on a Safety Statistics Manual and Mentoring Program to assist members in collecting and recording safety statistics.

Members of the Voluntary Safety Statistics Working Group are:

Mike Weisend, Chairman -- AEP River Operations  
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.  
Julie Hile -- Hile Group  
Stan Knight -- AEP River Operations  
John Patterson -- Ingram Barge Company  
Bob Roosevelt -- The Vane Brothers Company  
Jim Smith -- Magnolia Marine Transportation Company



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### AWO Interregion Safety Committee Spring Meeting Report

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1. **Opening Comments:** The Spring meeting kicked off with a safety briefing from Paul Hassler, JB Marine Service, 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 alignment, the Committee will begin working on the development of a strategic plan to guide the committee in the future and ensure that it continues to meet our members' needs as safety professionals, and supports the goals and priorities of AWO. Stan told the group that it must be actively involved, and provide feedback to AWO on legislative issues in the maritime industry that affect health, safety, security and the environment such as Subchapter M, Crew Travel, CEMS, Medical Standards, TWIC, etc. In closing, Stan reminded attendees that it is imperative that the Safety Committee continues to work to enhance the overall safety and health of mariners.

2. **Strategic Planning:** The Committee next began work on developing a strategic plan to guide its work. Julie Hile, The Hile Group, led attendees through an exercise designed to identify what the group sees as priority issues. Copies of the notes from this effort are posted on the AWO Web site. The Committee will continue this project at its next meeting in September.

3. **Fall Overboard Prevention:** Continuing its work on preventing falls overboard, the Committee invited Mr. Lindsay Lion of Mobilarm Crewsafe to introduce two new technologies to reduce the response time in the event of an unobserved fall overboard. The first, Crewsafe, is a wireless safety network designed to improve the workplace safety of marine employees by keeping track of the crew at work at all times. A series of wireless routers creates a monitoring and reporting web that automatically detects emergencies involving personnel and can initiate a full-scale alert within seconds of an incident such as a man overboard event occurring. Each employee carries a small transceiver -- a Tag -- whose wireless signal keeps them connected to the network via a series of wireless routers. The second device is the first fully automated Marine Survivor Locating Device that utilizes the existing VHF marine radio infrastructure to transmit a "Mayday – Man Overboard" distress message and real-time coordinates of the person in the water. Within seconds of the person going overboard, the emergency message is automatically broadcast via the VHF radio band to all vessels in range, ensuring that a swift rescue can be made without waiting for land based SAR assets to react. The device



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requires no onboard infrastructure and it can be taken aboard any vessel that the employee is assigned to, making it a very flexible safety option.

3. **CEMS:** Bob Clinton briefed the Committee on the preliminary results of an online survey conducted by AWO and the Coast Guard. While the survey is still being analyzed, some important information has come immediately to light. Specific areas mentioned as difficulties for companies implementing CEMS include crew and management resistance, especially in the area of modifying work schedules and watch change. However, the survey also reveals several areas where companies report success in their implementation efforts; providing better nutritional choices, encouraging exercise, noise management and environment/quarters improvement. Next steps will include convening the Crew Endurance Working Group to review the data and develop a plan to improve members' understanding of CEMS and further encourage implementation.
4. **Behavior Based Safety:** The Committee received a presentation from Jason Adams, Manager - Safety, Training & Environment, Ingram Barge Company, on efforts to reduce crew injuries. Mr. Adams' presentation began with a discussion of "Zero Harm," which begins with hazard recognition and efforts to reduce these hazards through processes and systems to an As Low As Reasonably Possible (ALARP) level. Jason described several behaviors that lead to reduced risk. Those behaviors are: Plan – all work; Accept – accountability for safety; Care – for each other; and, Lead – by example.
5. **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES):** Bob Clinton reviewed the NPDES and Vessel General Permit requirements including the 26 types of vessel discharges covered by the requirement that went into effect on February 6, 2009.
6. **RCP Changes:** Bob Clinton reviewed the changes to the Responsible Carrier Program that went into effect on May 1, 2009. These changes include requiring companies to track the number and rate of manhours, fatalities, recordable injuries, lost time injuries, and falls overboard and adding a requirement for fall overboard training for all crewmembers. Bob also reviewed a new audit requirement that former members applying to rejoin the association be required to show 90 days of documentary evidence of compliance with the requirements of the RCP in order to complete the initial RCP audit required of returning members.
7. **Audit Types:** Bob Clinton delivered a short presentation on the different types of audits including: First-party audits, also known as internal audits; Second-party audits by a company of its vendors; and, Third-party audits, like the RCP audit, conducted by an independent, certified party with no financial or management role in the company being audited.



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8. **Reception Sponsor:** The Interregion Safety Committee wishes to thank its generous reception sponsors, JB Marine Service, Inc. and Magnolia Marine Transportation Company.
  
9. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Interregion Safety Committee will be held on September 9-10, 2009 in St. Louis. The next meeting of the Joint Safety Committee will be held on January 27 -28, 2010 in conjunction with the Annual Southern Region Meeting in New Orleans

### **Attachments:**

- Attendance List
- Flipcharts and Notes
- Mobilarm Presentation
- Mobilarm Brochure
- Mobilarm VPIRB
- CEMS Survey Presentation
- NPDES Presentation
- RCP Changes Presentation
- Audit Types Presentation