



AWO Joint Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 21 – 22, 2009

Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

Safety Subcommittee Meeting Report

January 20, 2009 2:00 p.m.

1. **Safety Statistics Working Group:** The working group met to develop recommendations to be presented to the Executive Committee at its February meeting on actions that AWO could take to increase participation in the AWO Voluntary Safety Statistics Program. Recommendations of the Working Group include adding a requirement to the Responsible Carrier Program that companies track data in the following areas:

- a. Man-hours
- b. Fatalities
- c. Recordable injuries
- d. Lost time injuries
- e. Falls overboard

The working group recommended that AWO add a surcharge to member dues assessments to cover the cost of the independent contractor that collects and compiles the data. The working group also recommended that quarterly generic safety data be published in the *AWO Letter*; that the Safety Committees establish a mentoring program to assist members in developing their statistics tracking; and that a Safety Statistics Procedure Manual be developed as a resource to guide companies in the proper methods of collecting and reporting injury data.

Members of the Voluntary Safety Statistics Working Group are:

Mike Weisend, Chairman -- AEP River Operations
Matt Baker – Moran Towing Company
Doug Carlson -- Seabulk
Rob Castro -- Marathon
Jeff Greenhill -- Marathon
Lora Ferraro -- Hile Group
Paul Hassler -- JB Marine
Julie Hile -- The Hile Group
Stan Knight -- AEP River Operations
John Patterson -- Ingram Barge



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Bob Roosevelt -- Vane Brothers
Jim Smith -- Magnolia Marine

2. **Lesson Plan Subcommittee:** Lesson Plan Subcommittee Chairman Donnie Hall, Hunter Marine, reported that his committee had completed several draft lesson plans that will be sent to members two at a time for review between now and April. Plans should be ready for approval by the full committee at its Spring meeting.

Members of the Lesson Plan Subcommittee are:

Donnie Hall, Chairman – Hunter Marine
Glenn Cowan – Fryoux Tankerman Service
Ronda Echols – Echo Towing
Jo Ann Fridge – SGS – PSC
Robbie LeBlanc – Cenac Towing
Andy Norval – Blessey Marine
Donna Said – Alter Barge Lines
Chris Vecellio – Higman Barge

3. **Crew Alertness Subcommittee:** The Crew Alertness Subcommittee received an update from Chairman Jo Ann Salyers, Salyers Solutions, that the five Crew Endurance Guides developed by the Subcommittee are now complete and will be posted on the AWO Web site. The Endurance Guides are tools to encourage good crew endurance practices related to Environmental and Operational Improvements; the effects of Caffeine and Nicotine; Stress; Light Management and Watch Schedules. The Endurance Guides provide information and recommendations to reduce fatigue and improve the quality of life, both aboard vessels and at home.

Members of the Crew Alertness Subcommittee Committee are:

Jo Ann Salyers, Chairman – Salyers Solutions
Jason Adams – Ingram Barge Company
Jonathan Bennett – U.S. United Barge Line
Joe Garuccio – ARTCO
Jim Hawkins – T J Hawks, LLC
Molly Isnardi – Upper River Services
Leslie Jenkins – Jantran, Inc.
Toni Macksey – AccuTrans
Chuck McAllister – ARTCO
Dana Winemiller -- AccuTrans
Ron Wunderlich – ARTCO



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4. **Fall Overboard Subcommittee:** Chairman Jim Smith, Magnolia Marine, reported on the goals and work done by the Fall Overboard Subcommittee. The subcommittee—through collaboration, challenging old thinking, and advocacy -- is working to raise awareness of falls overboard with professional mariners and industry leaders with the ultimate goal of keeping each person safe and injury free. As a means to accomplish these goals, the subcommittee requests that all members of the Safety Committees who experience a fall overboard incident during the Voluntary Safety Statistics quarterly reporting period complete a Fall Overboard (FOB) questionnaire. This questionnaire should be submitted along with quarterly submission statistics to the Hile Group. A job aid will be created to assist in filling out this questionnaire. The Hile Group will send a reminder with a form attached if a company reported a FOB for the quarter but did not submit a FOB form. The form is designed to develop information related to the circumstances and causes of falls overboard. Chairman Smith shared the form with the subcommittee and explained that it is a simple one page document that is easy and quick to fill out and provides important information that can be used to develop more targeted programs to reduce or prevent falls overboard.

The subcommittee also recommends a requirement for Fall Overboard Prevention Training for all crew members as part of the Human Factors section of the RCP. This recommendation will be presented to the Responsible Carrier Program Accreditation Board and Executive Committee at their February meetings. If both groups agree with the subcommittee's recommendation, it will be brought before the AWO Board of Directors for final approval at its April meeting.

Fall Overboard Subcommittee members are:

Jim Smith, Chairman – Magnolia Marine
Lora Ferraro – The Hile Group
Jim Fletcher – Team Services/Liquid Transfer
Steve Richards – BP Shipping
Jo Ann Salyers – Salyers Solutions
Tim Sizemore – AEP River Operations

4. **Firefighting Subcommittee:** Firefighting Subcommittee Chairman John Lawrence, K-Sea Transportation, reported that his subcommittee had made little progress since its last meeting. John recommended that in the future the subcommittee plan to do its work at the main meetings, bringing four or five “lessons learned” that could be shared with the subcommittee. As an example, he reported that he had collected information on the causes of 27 fire related incidents, most occurring on tugs. These incidents included 10 engine room electrical incidents, seven incidents related to house keeping and six



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mechanical failures. Of all the incidents, only one ultimately resulted in an actual flame. No common cause could be identified for these incidents. For the next meeting the subcommittee will work to identify resources for firefighting training and will share that information with the Safety Committee.

Members of the Firefighting Subcommittee are:

John Lawrence, Chairman – K-Sea Transportation
Bob Bennington – Dann Ocean Towing

5. **Safety with Super-Strength Synthetic Lines Subcommittee:** Chairman Doug Carlson reported on a meeting of several members of the subcommittee held in conjunction with the AWO Fall Convention in Seattle. At that meeting, the subcommittee discussed the need to revisit past work done on structural failures of deck fittings as the result of the tremendous additional stresses associated with super-strength lines. The Subcommittee agreed to begin work on a guideline on how to choose the proper line for various work applications.

Members of the Super-Strength Lines Subcommittee are:

Doug Carlson, Chairman – Seabulk International, Inc.
Don Hinson – Penn Maritime, Inc.
Russ Johnson – Dunlap Towing



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AWO Joint Safety Committee Meeting Report

The AWO Interregion and Coastal Safety Committees held their ninth annual joint meeting in New Orleans on January 21 and 22. This meeting was held in conjunction with the Southern Region Annual Meeting in order to promote vertical alignment between the work of the Safety Committees and the overall priorities of AWO by providing Safety Committee members and Regional Meeting attendees the opportunity to attend each others' meetings, and gain greater understanding of the safety and advocacy issues facing the association. Vertical alignment is designed to improve communication between: the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the Safety Committees in order to accomplish work that augments AWO's advocacy efforts and involves a larger segment of the membership in the work of the Safety Committees.

The meeting opened with Coastal Safety Committee Chairman Gail Johnson, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, and Interregion Safety Committee Chairman Stan Knight, AEP River Division, welcoming 69 AWO members representing 56 member companies.

During the meeting, attendees heard from several invited speakers beginning with Rick Hicks, Randy Smith Training Solutions, who presented a training session on developing a safety culture that recognizes and promotes safety 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Attendees also participated in a drawing to receive a book describing the concept and providing suggestions on how to develop this safety culture in their own organizations. Also addressing the committee was Coastal Safety Committee Vice Chairman Jeff Slesinger, Western Towboat Company, who gave a presentation on the use of bridge simulators as an onboard assessment tool. Slesinger's presentation included a video of a simulation on the Mississippi River showing the value of bridge simulators as both an evaluation and learning tool. Other speakers included Steven Richards, BP, who introduced TMSA², a new vetting tool being used by major oil companies; Spencer Collins, Enterprise Systems Analytics, who discussed a computer program to manage a company's safety management system; and, Dominic Ingerto, Sensure Security Solutions, who provided a demonstration of a Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC) card reader. This device is hand-held and can verify the worker's identity using biometric data included on the TWIC card. Dana Teicheira, Tugboat Compliance Systems, gave a demonstration of a software system, developed with his real-world tugboat experience, to help towing companies manage all facets of their safety management systems including training, inspections and documentation.

The second day of meetings opened with remarks from Merritt Lane, Chairman of the AWO Board of Directors and Tom Allegretti, President of AWO. Mr. Lane's comments focused on the need and value of the efforts to improve the vertical alignment between



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the work of the Safety Committees and the priorities of the association. Mr. Allegretti directed his remarks toward efforts and issues currently facing the association, and areas where the safety committees clearly have a role to play including CEMS leadership, Subchapter M implementation and safety statistics.

In addition to invited speakers, Joanne Salyers, Salyers Solutions, Chairman of the Crew Alertness Subcommittee, introduced a Crew Alertness Guide developed by her subcommittee as a tool to present practical guidance on implementing various CEMS principles. Jim Smith, Magnolia Marine, introduced a new fall overboard (FOB) questionnaire developed by his Fall Overboard Subcommittee that is designed to gather information on the causes of falls overboard occurring at member companies. Donnie Hall, Hunter Marine, presented a number of lesson plans developed by his subcommittee that were designed for the use of members in training their crews. Lora Ferraro, The Hile Group, gave a report on historical trends developed through the AWO Voluntary Safety Statistics Program. A new CD developed by AEP River Operations on Fall Overboard Prevention was introduced by Tim Sizemore, AEP River Operations, and a “lesson learned” was presented by Jim Fletcher, Marine Compliance, on a slipping hazard that can be created by the application of epoxy deck paint.

In their final actions, both committees approved their safety priorities for 2009 which remain essentially unchanged from 2008. They are as follows:

2009 Safety Priorities

Coastal Safety Committee

Crew Alertness
Managing Fire Risk in the Offshore Environment
Communication and Improved Crew Safety Performance
Safety with Super-Strength Synthetic Lines

Interregion Safety Committee

Crew Alertness
Fall Overboard Prevention
Communication and Improved Crew Safety Performance

- Leadership Skills
- Staph Infections
- Navigation Technologies
- Safety Statistics



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Members of both committees appreciated the opportunity this unique gathering of towing vessel safety officers afforded them in sharing information and reaffirming Safety Committee priorities.

For further information on the Safety Committees, please contact Bob Clinton at (703) 841-9300, extension 253, or via email at bclinton@vesselalliance.com.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Joint Safety Committee meeting will be held on January 19-20, 2010 in New Orleans.

Attachments:

- Attendance List
- AWO Crew Alertness Subcommittee Report
- Crew Alertness Guides
- Data Collection System
- Falls Overboard Presentation
- FOB Questionnaire
- Injury Statistics Presentation
- Simulator Presentation
- Statistics Graph
- TWIC Readers Presentation