

Mid-America Regional Quality Steering Committee

TASK STATEMENT

April 3, 2007

I. TASK TITLE

Analysis of Eighth Coast Guard District Casualty Data

II. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Coast Guard - Eighth District has collected and compiled towing vessel casualty data on a continual basis since January 1, 2006. The casualty data collected during this period includes towing vessel casualties as described as reportable to the Eighth District headquarters.¹ The Eighth District has and will continue to provide reportable casualties sorted by type of casualty, time of casualty, and the waterway on which the casualty occurred.

In January and February of 2007, this casualty data was presented by Eighth District staff to the towing industry during two AWO annual regional meetings. The Eighth District suggested that the data indicated an increased trend in towing vessel casualties over the period of time that the data has been collected, specifically that the casualties increased in January 2007 by more than 50 percent vs. January 2006.

In March 2007, the leadership of the River Industry Executive Task Force (RIETF), the Mid-America Regional Quality Steering Committee (RQSC), the Eighth District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) met to discuss the most effective means for the Eighth District, the Corps and the towing industry to evaluate and analyze the data and consider possible corrective actions.

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

While the casualty data collected provides the raw numbers needed for evaluation, it does not provide the Eighth District, the Corps or the industry with conclusive information (such as trends or root causes). Nor does the data provided suggest appropriate measures to continue the industry's multi-year goal to continually decrease casualties.

In an effort to develop a complete picture of the casualty data, the Eighth District, the Corps and industry members of RIETF asked the Mid-America RQSC to

¹ The U.S. Coast Guard - Eighth District matrix directing what casualties must be reported to the Eighth District from the Sector level is attached.

evaluate and analyze the data. The groups also requested that the RQSC further determine what appropriate measures would address identified problems.

In addition to analyzing the data collected for the period January 2006 to January 2007, the Eighth District, the Corps and industry members of RIETF asked the RQSC to evaluate data collected during future periods.

IV. TASK

Establish a Quality Action Team (QAT) comprised of expert members of the Coast Guard, the Corps and industry personnel for the purpose of evaluating and analyzing casualty data, specifically to perform the following tasks:

- a. To review Eighth District casualty data collected during the period January 2006 through January 2007, including:
 - i. Extent that data is in need of standardization
 - ii. Extent that data contains complete information to use as an evaluation tool
 - iii. Identify additional data that is available and would improve future efforts at evaluation
- b. To identify potential patterns and causal factors, by:
 - i. Sorting data into meaningful categories
 - ii. Identify commonalities between types of casualties
 - iii. Analyze data based on:
 1. seasonality
 2. geography
 3. time of day/watch
 4. company
 5. sequence of events
 6. other factors determined by QAT
- c. Analyze the consistency between the Eighth District's and the national MISLE (Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement) database.
- d. Develop courses of action to minimize casualties, including Coast Guard, industry and Corps courses of action.
- e. To establish periodic and standardized review of casualty data, including review of sudden increases and drops in the casualty rate.

V. ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

The RQSC will meet in May 2007 to establish the QAT and to begin discussions for accomplishing the tasks requested by the Eighth District, the Corps and RIETF. The RQSC should establish a timeframe in which the QAT will complete each task.

Task (e) will continue until the RQSC determines that it is no longer necessary.

VI. RQSC CONTACTS

Eighth District Contact: CAPT Tim Close or his appointed representative

Industry Contact: Lynn M. Muench or her appointed representative

Corps of Engineers Contact: Mike Kidby or his appointed representative