



Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) ~ 'Sea of Change' Firefighting at Sea Project ~

NEWSLETTER ~ ISSUE NO.2

May 2003

The 'Sea of Change' is an MCA sponsored Firefighting at Sea Research Project, in cooperation with Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate and the Chief & Assistant Chief Fire Officers' Association.

The Project's primary objective is to have in place a local authority Fire Brigade integrated response to incidents involving firefighting, chemical hazards and rescue at sea'....

Recent Events:-

A fire that occurred on the ship, 'Oriental Highway' on the 4th March 2003 was dealt with by East Sussex Fire Brigade, this is the second incident the Brigade have dealt with in six months. It is hoped more details on this incident will be available for the CACFOA Marine Operations Networking Group at their next meeting in June.

A mini questionnaire was circulated to the CACFOA Marine Operations Networking Group in February 2003 and a further questionnaire was circulated to Chief Fire Officers of all 39 coastal Fire Brigades February/March 2003. This was to ascertain the current status of coastal Fire Brigades in relation to dealing with incidents at sea. This detail will be included in Project Objective 2.3.3, due July.

During March, a 'field' trip to twelve Brigades took place to evaluate in more detail outcomes from the questionnaire circulated in February. Some of the Brigades currently provide a response to incidents at sea others do not and it was interesting and useful to gain the perspective from both. Additional visits are being considered for May.

The '1st International Fire On Ships' conference was held in London during March. This gave an 'international' footing for formally launching the Project and papers were received from speakers in diverse marine disciplines. Included were papers presented by Chief Fire officer Alan Riddet (Chair of the CACFOA Marine Operations Networking Group) and Divisional Officer Mervyn Kettle (MCA 'Sea of change' Project Manager). Both papers can be found on the Project webpages

Project Board

The Project Board (see Newsletter1) now includes Martin Hill from the Fire Health and Safety Directorate Fire Policy Division of ODPM (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) and Assistant Firemaster Andrew Harrison of HMFSI (Scotland)

Training

Prior to the commencement of the Project, the CACFOA national group had formed a training sub group to look at the marine training elements. This group has now met twice and details can be found in the Members Area of the website.

Project Objectives Action Plan

The Objectives are now laid out in the website members pages in the form of an 'exception report'

Internet Information:

The 'Sea of Change' Internet website, which is supported by the MCA will be the primary tool in the future with regards the sharing of information and 'Newsletters' will be kept brief and direct readers to the webpages.

The Project website (www.mcga.gov.uk/sandr/firefighting/index.htm) has been recently updated thanks to the efforts of MCA staff. The members pages can be accessed following registration with the Project Manager by completing the details shown at the 'Networking and Contacts' pages in the public areas.

Additional website information is as shown below:-

MCA ~ www.mcga.gov.uk

CACFOA: www.fire-uk.org

CACFOA Marine Operations Networking Group ~ www.fire-uk.org/offshore.htm

New Dimensions Group (NDG) ~ www.fire-uk.org/

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