

## Marine Fire Fighting Symposium Panel Discussion

**Purpose:** To ensure the coordinated response to a marine-related fire in the Prince William Sound (PWS) Captain of the Port (COTP) zone.

**Background:** In early May 2008, the Regional Citizens Advisory Committee (RCAC) will hold a Marine Fire Fighting Symposium. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Valdez is presently updating its Marine Fire Fighting (MFF) Plan, and RCAC will host a panel discussion to address the below issues and validate the Plan.

**Participants:** State Fire Marshall, Valdez Fire Department, Cordova Fire Department, RCAC, SERVS, Crowley, VMT, tank vessel operators, contracted salvage and fire fighting experts, SWAPA, CG MSU, JPO, FBI, DOI, ADEC.

Issue: **What actions would the vessel take for a fire on a tank vessel berthed at the VMT?**

*Comments:*

- How would the vessel communicate a fire to the VMT?
- What is the capability of the vessel's crew to fight a fire on board each tank vessel (e.g., number of persons available, amount of foam on the vessel)?
- What are the fixed fire fighting systems on each tank vessel and when might they be activated?
- There have been cases of teams entering spaces too soon after the discharge of the fixed fire fighting system, causing the fire to reflash. Who would decide when to reenter the space, what factors would he or she consider, and what precautions would he or she take?

Issue: **What actions would the VMT take for a fire on a tank vessel berthed at the VMT?**

*Comments:*

- How would the VMT communicate the fire to the City of Valdez and the Coast Guard?
- If the tank vessel on fire was moored at the VMT, would transfer operations be secured at all berths?
- Would the VMT be either fully or partially evacuated and who would make this decision? In the case of a partial evacuation, who might remain?
- Would VMT fire fighters assist the vessel's crew or the VFD in extinguishing the fire? Who would make this decision? How would VMT fire fighters communicate with the vessel and with other fire fighting resources?
- Would VMT fire fighters go on a vessel that the vessel's crew had been unable to extinguish?
- There are monitors that can put foam on the berth and the vessel. When might these monitors be used and who would make the decision to use them? How often are they tested? How much foam is available at the VMT and what surface area would this protect? How much foam is immediately available in Anchorage for replenishment?

Issue: **What actions would the Valdez Fire Department (VFD) take for a fire on a tank vessel berthed at the VMT?**

*Comments:*

- The VFD trains to enter and fight a fire on board a tank vessel. If the vessel's crew requested assistance, would the VFD fight the fire alongside vessel crew? How would they communicate?
- Would the VFD fight a fire that the vessel's crew declared out of control?
- What mutual aid agreements are in place with nearby fire departments, what resources might be requested, and how long would they take to arrive?
- Where would the VFD establish the Incident Command Post?

Issue: **What actions would the escort tugs take for a fire on a tank vessel berthed at the VMT?**

*Comments:*

- The escort tugs have monitors that can be used to fight the fire. When would they use those monitors and how can they be used effectively? What is the foam capacity on board the escort tugs? What is the range and discharge rate of the monitors? Has this ever been tested?
- How would the vessels communicate with other fire fighting resources?
- How safe would it be for the escort tugs to approach a tank vessel on fire?

Issue: **What actions would the vessel operator take for a fire on a tank vessel berthed at the VMT?**

*Comments:*

- What outside resources would a tank vessel operator call on for assistance?
- How long would it take for outside assistance to arrive on scene and what would they arrive with?

Issue: **What actions would the MSU take for a fire on a tank vessel berthed at the VMT?**

*Comments:*

- The MSU would most likely close Port Valdez at least in the vicinity of the incident (i.e., the security zone).
- The MSU is responsible for providing a Marine Fire Fighting Coordinator (MFC) who assists the incident commander regarding vessel fire fighting (e.g., stability issues). Where should the MFC report for a vessel fire at the VMT?

Issue: **What actions would SERVS take for a fire on a tank vessel berthed at the VMT?**

*Comments:*

- Should SERVS responders attempt to contain the spill or could the contained product be an explosion/flammability hazard?
- How close should SERVS responders be allowed to the tank vessel on fire? Do they have PPE? What sort of air monitoring would need to take place?
- How will fire fighting resources communicate with SERVS responders? Will SERVS responders be under the tactical control of the incident commander? Is there an evacuation signal that would be given?
- Is there fire boom and should it be used?

Issue: **Would we move a tank vessel on fire and to where?**

*Comments:*

- Would we consider moving a tank vessel on fire away from the VMT because of concerns over the safety of the VMT and its personnel?
- Would the escort tugs move a vessel that was on fire?
- What are the procedures for executing this move?

Issue: **How long would it take to get resources from outside of PWS and what actions would be taken while waiting?**

*Comments:*

- What would local resources do to contain the fire?
- What are the best tactics to employ while waiting for outside resources?
- Is there a significant risk of explosion and what could be done to mitigate this risk?
- What air monitoring should be done?
- What resources would arrive from outside PWS and how long would this take?

Issue: **What is the status of the salvage and fire fighting regulations and what will be the likely impact?**

*Comments:*

- A rulemaking proposal to 33 CFR 155 calls for the pre-positioning of fire fighting and salvage equipment as part of vessel response plans. This implementation of this rulemaking has been suspended until 12 Feb 2009. Will this suspension be the last?
- What will the impact of the regulation be if the rule is implemented?

*Note:* These questions would most likely be answered before the panel discussion and those answers could then possibly be presented to all Panel participants for validation.

Issue: **MSU Valdez MFF Plan:**

*Comments:*

- The Plan shows possible groundings, mooring, and anchorage sites. Are there any concerns with these?
- The Plan provides an organizational structure given different fire fighting scenarios. Are there concerns with this structure?
- The Plan details communications coverage throughout PWS. Are there additional communications possibilities?

Issue: **What issues might arise if the tank vessel fire occurred in PWS outside of Port Valdez?**

*Comments:*

- Would the State Fire Marshall lead this effort?
- Would VFD fight the fire, regardless of whether it was outside of their jurisdiction?
- Would Cordova FD fight the fire, regardless of whether it was outside of their jurisdiction?
- Where might the ICP be located?

Issue: **Miscellaneous.**

*Comments:*

- If terrorism was suspected, how might the response be affected?