

Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System
U.S. Coast Guard



Press Release

Date: February 22, 2010

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Amver ships save school children in dramatic high seas rescue

NEW YORK – Two Amver ships rescued all 64 students and crew of the Canadian sailing vessel Concordia after it sank 344 miles off the coast of Rio de Janeiro Wednesday, February 17th.

Brazilian rescue authorities diverted the Philippine flagged Hokuetsu Delight and the Cayman Island flagged Crystal Pioneer to the scene of the distress. According to a press release from West Island College Class Afloat, parent organization of the Concordia, Brazilian rescue aircraft located a safety boat and life rafts on the evening of February 18th.

The Crystal Pioneer, an Amver participant since November 2008, located the lifeboats early Friday morning February 19th. News reports stated the Crystal Pioneer could not begin rescue operations until first light due to the darkness and rough seas. The Crystal Pioneer, managed by MMS Company Ltd, rescued 20 people while the Hokuetsu Delight, managed by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, rescued the remaining 44 students and crew. The Hokuetsu Delight has been participating in Amver for 10 years.

By Saturday, February 20th all the Concordia survivors had arrived safely in Rio de Janeiro.

Amver, sponsored by the United States Coast Guard, is a unique, computer-based, and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to persons in distress at sea.

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With Amver, rescue coordinators can identify participating ships in the area of distress and divert the best-suited ship or ships to respond. Prior to sailing, participating ships send a sail plan to the Amver computer center. Vessels then report every 48 hours until arriving at their port of call. This data is able to project the position of each ship at any point during its voyage. In an emergency, any rescue coordination center can request this data to determine the relative position of Amver ships near the distress location. On any given day there are over 3,700 ships available to carry out search and rescue services. Visit <http://www.amver.com> to learn more about this unique worldwide search and rescue system.

Photos of the rescue can be found here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4381256183/>

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amver/4381256181/>

Please credit all photos: Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.

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