

IAATO Marine Safety Notice 2016/01

Further Recommendations to Enhance Marine Safety following the ship evacuation of MV *Le Boreal*.

Background

Following the passenger evacuation of MV *Le Boreal* while at the start of a voyage to South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula, the IAATO Marine Committee offers the following safety advisory:

1. Prompt action resulting from the pro-active evaluation and understanding of potential risks, can save lives and greatly assist in maintaining calm, positive crowd control.
2. Consideration should be given to having sufficient handheld satellite voice communications systems to facilitate good communications onboard life craft or during long power blackouts.
3. Good communications with the passengers, their families, and the media and within the IAATO operators will greatly facilitate good reputation management.
4. Core field staff can greatly assist in effective crowd management.
5. Anti-slip paint and/or additional lifelines in the vicinity of the lifeboat station may assist in managing loading of lifeboats in extreme or difficult situations.

Additional points for consideration by IAATO member vessel operators:

1. Consideration should be given to managing sanitation during muster station, evacuation and in life craft.
2. For new builds there is value in considering having one zone of toilets on an uninterrupted power supply. (already a requirement under safe return to port regulation)
3. For new vessels, uninterruptable power supply should be considered for hydraulic cranes to facilitate the launch of small boats, such as zodiacs, during an emergency.
4. Seasick medication should be offered to all personnel immediately on gathering at the Musters Station.
5. Lifeboats and life rafts should be guided / towed to sheltered waters as soon as possible.
6. Additional crew/expedition staff in lifeboats can greatly assist in effective crowd management.
7. Use of technologies, such as live cameras, or incident management systems can facilitate smoother communications and minimise the likelihood of poor, slow or misunderstood situations.
8. Mobile independently powered pumps with flexible pipes, separate from the ship's system, can assist in managing volumes of water as a result of fire fighting.

Additional actions for IAATO:

1. During liaisons with Search and Rescue authorities IAATO representatives should emphasise the importance of including the casualty vessel personnel in decision making between the on scene commander and the Rescue Coordination Centre.
2. During an emergency, IAATO vessel tracking scheme should automatically be increased to 15minute intervals.