

## MSC DRIVES SAFETY HOME WITH DRAMATIC VIDEOS

“A picture is worth a thousand words” is the old adage the Military Sealift Command (MSC) interpreted as, “a thousand pictures are worth a million words,” as the most effective method of impressing crew members with the importance of knowing and following safety procedures. To put across their training mission of “Readiness Through Safety,” the Command relies on the medium of audio-visual communication, producing dramatic, realistic videos to deliver required onboard safety training.



The MSC safety team began their efforts after a 1986 pilot program funded by MSC and carried out by the Naval Sea Systems Command resulted in a library of training

videos for various systems on T-AO-187 Class fleet oilers. In addition to traditional “word of mouth” training sessions, the videos insured that operation, maintenance, and repair information would be provided to the crews of each new ship and to subsequent crews for the life of the ship. Incorporating computer graphics and animation into the training videos helped demonstrate complex processes in easy-to-understand lessons.



**T-AO-187 Class, USNS HENRY J. KAISER**

The first two MSC safety videos produced in 1987 described the Naval Occupational Safety and Health (NAVOSH) Program to crewmembers and supervisors. Subsequent safety and occupational health videos included, “Back Injury Prevention,” which demonstrates proper lifting techniques, “Slips, Trips, Falls & Working Aloft,” which deals with the causes of many shipboard accidents, and “Gas Free Engineering.” The latter tape highlights the dangers of working in spaces with unknown, and potentially dangerous atmospheres.



**Hoisting load aboard MSC vessel, USNS SIRIUS (T-AFS-8)**

Some of the safety videos feature a cartoon character called “Half-Bit,” who demonstrates improper safety practices, which could result in injury. The character portrays dangerous stunt “accidents” that would be prohibitive for a live performer. In one such scene, “Half Bit” falls from the stack because he fails to wear his safety harness.

In 1989, MSC's "Hazardous Material/Hazardous Waste," (HM/HW) video was viewed by the NAVOSH Training Steering Committee and the Navy's HM/HW Working Group. The MSC HM/HW video and accompanying handbook were modified for Navy personnel and added to their NAVOSH Safety Series collection of videos, which are distributed to all afloat commands, the submarine community, and shore commands as appropriate.

During Operation Desert Storm in 1990, MSC saw a need for and subsequently produced and distributed an 18-minute video on proper donning of chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) defense protective suits, and procedures for administering antidotes for chemical or biological weapons.



**Wearing CBR clothing during mass casualty exercise on USNS COMFORT (T-AH-20) one of two MSC hospital ships**

An article about MSC's safety training videos appeared in the March-April 1993 issue of "Coast Guard Proceedings of the Marine Safety Council" magazine. In response to the article, MSC received requests for copies of the tapes from 43 shipping companies and marine organizations located in the U.S., Canada, and Brazil.

MSC is currently producing two more videos, "Line Handling Safety," which will outline safety procedures for using many types of lines aboard ship, and "Afloat Safety Program 2000," which will provide an updated overview of all MSC Safety Programs.



**Mariner in line locker aboard MSC ship**

MSC Safety Training videotapes:

*Slips/Trips/Falls & Working Aloft*

*Back Injury Prevention*

*Hazardous Material/Hazardous Waste*

*Shipboard Asbestos Control*

*Shipboard Heat Stress*

*Hazardous Material Control & Management*

*Gas Free Engineering*

*Lockout/Tagout Procedures*

*Afloat Safety Program 2000 (Oct. 2000)*

*NAVOSH Inspections*

*Sight & Hearing Conservation*

*Respiratory Protection*

*Mishap Investigation & Reporting*

*Personal Protective Equipment*

*Lockout Devices*

*Line Handling Safety (Oct. 2000)*

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