



San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Training & Education Division **TRAINING DRILL**

Training and Education Division

Date: January 2022

Subject/Incident: Maritime Training “MAIN DECK”

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Background:

Over the years San Diego Fire-Rescue Department has responded to a number of vessel fire incidents. These fires range from the small pleasure crafts in mission bay, to the larger commercial vessels located in San Diego Harbor. These incidents pose extreme challenges for firefighters. They are low frequency and high hazard responses.

Following the Norton Sound Incident in 2017, a need was identified for increased training of land based fire operations for vessels in the water. A review and development of operational guidelines was performed, a section was developed and entered into the SDFD Drill manual, a zone wide training was initiated, and data was collected for continued development.

Discussion Points:

One item that came about was a commonly asked questions. Through that data a simple, and relatable acronym was developed. The acronym “MAIN DECK” captures quick information for the first arriving company or officer to help in the operational plan development.

- M- Make contact with vessel representative, Ship’s Captain obtain Fire Control Plan
- A- Accountability of vessel personnel, ships crew, passengers
- I- Identify what is burning/ area of fire
- N- Notify or request additional resources
(ie. Additional alarms, Harbor PD, SD Lifeguards, US Coast Guard)
- D- Determine access/ ingress/ egress points
- E- Establish points of entry/ entry team leader/ Accountability officer
- C- Compartmentalize / isolate/ extinguish the fire
- K- Know communications plan/ alternative radio channels (ie. Direct Channel)

There are certainly a great number of action items that will need to be addressed through out the incident. This acronym was developed to get the information flowing and capture some of the high priority items. In addition to plan development, MAIN DECK can be utilized by other Units/ Divisions/ Groups to ensure operational situational awareness.



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Action Items/Drills:

1. Identify and discuss the local water ways and access locations
2. Review common terminology related to vessel emergencies
3. Identify the various vessel types and sizes that are in our local waters
4. Discuss the challenges of firefighting operations related to vessel fires
5. Review the SDFD Operations Manual Standard Instruction 02, Sections 32 and 33

For additional information, follow the links below:

Norton Sound Vessel Fire

<https://youtu.be/ZI8udBnf2so>

Royal Caribbean Cruise Ship Fire

<https://youtu.be/l9SfDv9CwE>

USS Bonhomme Richard Fire

<https://youtu.be/ZiVDlOsQRCg>

References:

SDFD Drill Manual Chapter 35

SDFD Operations Manual SI02, Section 32

SDFD Operations Manual SI02, Section 33
