

Emergency Training for Tug Escorting

A set of recommendations for conducting Escort Training on San Francisco Bay is included in the Harbor Safety Plan (Appendix J). The guidelines anticipated live escort training exercises; however, few opportunities arise for on-water exercises involving tankers and tugs, with few individuals trained for emergency events. With maritime simulators becoming more sophisticated in their ability to replicate a variety of situations and with a California Maritime Academy simulator soon operational, the HSC found simulating local conditions to be a cost-effective alternative to on-water exercises.

The Work Group concluded that in addition to promoting simulator training for tugs escorting tankers, simulator training is applicable to tugs assisting and docking container ships, bulk carriers and chemical ships – thus providing industry-wide benefits for safe navigation.

The HSC recommends the use of simulators to improve communication between pilots and tug masters, offer in-house training to tug industry personnel, and provide valuable “lessons learned” for emergency situations in a controlled environment.

Adopted November 2008. See Harbor Safety Plan Chapter XIV: Tug Escort/Assist for Tank Vessels for discussion.