

ICAO/IMO JWG



Search and Rescue

Case Histories - Lessons to be Learnt

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

September 2010







Who responds to this incident?





TWA Flight 800 17 July 1999 about 10 miles off of US coast



2030 local time, 747 with 230 people on board

- 1. Large, prolong response involved over 50 vessels and 20 aircraft, 1400 Coast Guard people
- 2. Lessons learned included:
 - 1. Close to shore created many 'jurisdiction' issues
 - 2. Need for efficient overall management structure to coordinate response of multiple agencies (federal, state and local), volunteers, companies
 - 3. Search phase lasted 4 days, recovery phase lasted 3 months (need a plan to ensure SAR response is sustained)



0200 local time, 217 people on board

- 1. Massive search involving 9 ships and 6 aircraft covering 10,000 square nautical miles.
- 2. Lessons included:
 - 1. Transportable communications to remote site
 - 2. Senior official to handle media, family
 - 3. Need for a clear point at which time the incident shifts from SAR to recovery
 - 4. Many volunteer helpers not always helpful
 - 5. Public has expectation of rapid response

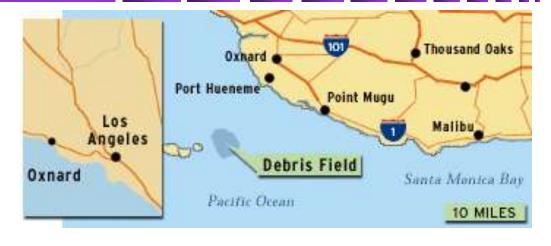


ALASKA AIR Flight 261

















Some Observations



- 1. USCG expects rapid alert notification by ATCC to USCG Joint RCCs (aeronautical and maritime)
- 2. USCG makes use of all available resources
- 3. Many lessons are relearned or refined (comms, integrate response of multiple agencies,)
- 4. Plan for shifting from the "search and rescue" to the "search and recovery" phase
- 5. Multiple agencies involved need understandings in place and a management structure
- 6. Intense media, family, and international attention
- 7. [Night time response not all facilities have this capability]



Aircraft Ditching - General Aviation



- ATCC notified JRCC Honolulu that an aircraft flying to Hawaii was low on fuel and going to ditch
- 1100NM northeast of Hawaii
- Twin-engine general aviation aircraft with 2 pilots



Aircraft Ditching - Coordination





Aircraft Ditching - Response Efforts



- - Near merchant vessel location
- Diverted Navy aircraft to escort distressed aircraft



Aircraft Ditching - Rescue Operations



- ☆ Aircraft ditched about 535NM from Hawaii
- ↑ Merchant vessel's lifeboat picked up both pilots