Disasters and Crisis Management in Merchant Fleet

Maged Mostafa ElZorkany

College of Maritime and Transport and Technology

Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport

Abstract

A maritime disaster results when a hazard occurs and impacts on a community, overwhelming its capacity to cope. The human error plays a big role upon crisis in ships as a whole and especially in Merchant fleet ships. The analysis of crisis and disasters are mainly due to human error, which plays a big role by onboard personnel and also by latent conditions in the organizational system. The recent accident studies, suggest that onboard violations and lake of preparedness and situational awareness are the predominant sources of operator error.

 There are an increase in the maritime crisis and disasters, although the training applied by the IMO in SOLAS , STCW and the ISM code, helps in minimizing crisis and disasters in emergency situations. There are a need for specific training specially in simulator for improving the nontechnical skills, the preparedness and situational awareness, making decision under stress and the behavioral markers, to cope with the actual life that the crew encounters..

Key Words: Preparedness and situational awareness; behavioral markers; technical and nontechnical skills; the DRR