

Abstract

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THE IMPACT OF LOW EFFICIENT EVACUATION PLAN DURING COSTA CONCORDIA ACCIDENT

The tragic accident of the Costa Concordia in January 2012 was one of the most fatal large passenger ship accidents in Europe recently followed by a great public interest. The Italian cruise ship sank on the evening of Friday 13th off the Tuscan West Coast of Italy near the island of Giglio. The ship's sinking was a tragedy in lost lives as well as the huge financial losses. The accident also raised a major cruise ship safety issue. As witnesses reported, it all started with a loud bang. The huge ship suddenly stopped, then plunged into darkness experiencing a total power loss. This was the beginning of the 2 long hours of a Titanic-like experience affecting all the 3206 passengers and 1023 crew on the unfortunate ship. News teams reported from the scene many of the passengers jumped overboard and swam to shore as the vessel took on a 20-30 degree list to starboard presenting a real danger of sinking. When the panic subsided and all passengers and crew left the vessel, it remained capsized, resting against a small breakwater. In this paper, the circumstances of the accident, problems encountered during evacuation, maritime search and rescue, similarities between the Titanic and the Costa Concordia accidents, the aftermath and salvage operations are discussed in detail.