



ALASKA FACE Facts

Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health-Section of CHEMS
Occupational Injury Prevention Program

Commercial Fisherman Presumed Drowned After Fishing Vessel Capsized

A commercial fisherman (the victim) was missing and presumed drowned after the fishing vessel he was aboard capsized. The master/owner and two crewmen (one being the victim) were aboard the vessel on its way back to port after crabbing for a period of 9 days. In an effort to correct a 5-degree starboard (right) list, the victim pivoted the boom of the deck crane to port (left), resulting in a 20-degree port list. The initial list may have been attributed to a combination of stability, environmental/weather, and gear stowage conditions. Within 30 seconds the vessel was on its side, and later completely capsized. The victim was last seen when he told the skipper that he had his immersion suit in hand. His immersion suit was found on shore, out of the bag, a few days later. NIOSH investigators determined that, in order to prevent future similar occurrences, masters or individuals in charge of commercial fishing vessels should:



- ensure that their vessels comply with applicable U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) stability requirements and 2) be aware of the factors that can lead to the deterioration of inherent stability and the measures that can be employed to maintain or restore stability
 - ensure that persons on board are properly trained in the donning of immersion suits
 - ensure that on-board emergency instruction drills and safety orientation are conducted as required
- ensure that their vessels have appropriate lifesaving equipment, that each item is properly maintained and stowed, and that each item is readily accessible at all times
 - ensure that immersion suits have an appropriate personal flotation device (PFD) light properly attached.

To view previous FACE reports please visit the Occupational Injury Prevention Program website:
http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/chems/occupation_injury

or

Call or fax your request to:
907-269-5221 (phone) 907-269-5236 (fax)

To receive the latest FACE updates via the Internet please send an email to djilly@health.state.ak.us