

# Southern Towing Company

Newsletter

December 2010

## New Towing Vessel License

The Coast Guard has recognized that some applicants for a Mate (Pilot) or Master of Towing Vessel License of Western Rivers may never transit a lock. Therefore they are making a license available that will be endorsed for "Western Rivers – Restricted from Transiting Locks". The applicant would complete all portions of a TOAR except D.16 through D.19. If you have questions contact the National Maritime Center at 1-888-427-5662 or email your questions to [IASKNMC@USCG.MIL](mailto:IASKNMC@USCG.MIL).

## Document Continuity

According to [46 CFR 10.227\(e\)](#) mariners who are otherwise unable or unwilling to meet the complete requirements for renewal may have their credential(s) placed into a continuity status. A Document of Continuity does not expire and allows the holder to obtain an active credential by completing the renewal requirements outlined in the CFR. A Document of Continuity does not entitle the holder to serve as a Merchant Mariner and must be applied for prior to the expiration of the 1 year administrative grace period defined in the CFR. For more information on this topic go to: <http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/continuity.asp>.

## Tow Boat Inspections

The USCG Authorization Act of 2010 requires that the proposed rules for towing vessel inspections be published no later than 1/15/11. It also requires the final rule to be published no later than 10/15/11.

## Alcohol Test Kits

New Alcohol Test Kits have been distributed to all boats. Be sure to destroy the outdated test kits upon

receipt of the new ones. Alcohol testing is required within two hours following a "serious marine incident." Included in this definition is an injury to a crewmember which requires professional medical treatment beyond first aid. We carry alcohol test kits on board. We are required to conduct these tests. Before sending the crewmember ashore for medical treatment, conduct an alcohol test.

## TWIC Card

TWIC cards are required of all crewmembers. If you are headed to a boat for a crew change be sure to verify that you have a TWIC card with you. If you lose your card you MUST notify the office and TSA as soon as you discover the loss. You are not allowed on a boat without a TWIC card.

## Southern Towing Company Wishes You a Safe Holiday



## Crossing the Bar

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Thomas D. Robinson who passed away November 1, 2010. He was a Relief Captain on the M/V Laura Elizabeth.

## Navigation Publications

In a recent policy letter, the Coast Guard reminds us that the following up-to-date publications are required to be maintained on board: U.S. Coast Guard Light List, Local Notice to Mariners, Tide and Current Tables, U.S. Coast Pilot, VTS Rules and Navigation Rules International-Inland. If you are missing any of these or need current editions contact Mike Slack.

## Diet and Hypertension

The American Heart Association estimates that one-third of adults have high blood pressure, and the problem isn't going away on its own. The rate of death due to hypertension has risen by 25 percent since 1995. But this could be avoided. Blood pressure, by some estimates, is the most modifiable risk factor out there for death by heart disease. Diet plays a major role in lowering blood pressure. Sodium reduction, weight loss and regulation of alcohol intake all will help to lower blood pressure. The following web site has more information: <http://www.everydayhealth.com/diet-nutrition/101/benefits-of-healthy-eating/halting-hypertension.aspx>.

## Paychecks

For those employees that pick their payroll checks up in the office, the checks will be ready by 2:00 PM. Please do not come before that time. Please call the day before payroll if you plan to have someone else pick up your check. If you

have any questions call Paula. Thank you.

### **Ammonia Tankerman Class**

Congratulations to Christopher Baker, Harry Conrey, Jr., Jason Eubank, Matthew Haley, Michael Hart, Stephen McIntire, Jeremiah Shultz, and Joshua Shaffer for recently completing tankerman school and firefighting school.

### **HAZWOPER 8HR Refresher**

The annual 8hr HAZWOPER Refresher class has been scheduled for January 14, 2011 at the Southern Towing Company office. If you have any questions contact Mike Slack.

### **Pollution Prevention**

One of the most important considerations when preparing for a transfer (whether fueling the boat or transferring UAN or ammonia) is to be absolutely certain that all valves in the system are lined up properly. That means those that should be open are

open and those that should be closed are closed. Check and recheck to be sure. If you are using a crossover hose make sure you are not loading a barge instead of sending the product to the terminal. A good number of pollution incidents are caused by improper alignment of valves. Read and follow the transfer procedures; don't make a stupid mistake. Remember to take your time to do it right, pay attention all the time and get help if you need it. Pollution prevention is always a priority.

### **Good Housekeeping & Safety**

Good housekeeping is an important safety issue and it is everyone's responsibility. Considering the type of work done on a tow, changing weather conditions, the dangers of working with wires, lines and ratchets, and the hazards of falling overboard, it should be obvious that good housekeeping is a safety issue. Even items that aren't normally considered dangerous, like toothpicks and chain links can easily become tripping hazards. Good housekeeping has other virtues. When

your work area is clean and neat, it's a lot easier to find what you need to do your job. Also it makes the tow look good to our customers and to anyone boarding the tow, like the Coast Guard. Look for and eliminate hazards. Don't expect someone else to pick up after you.

### **Walking on Ice & Snow**

Ice and snow is common this time of year. The effort made to work and walk safely during these conditions is important. Stay alert. Have a firm footing. Keep a good grip on handrails. Remove snow and ice from decks when possible.

### **Licenses, TWIC Cards and MMD's**

Don't forget to bring your tools to work with you. Your tools include your USCG issued license, Radar Certificate and FCC License if you work in the wheelhouse. If you are a bargeman you have to have your tankerman MMD with you. Everyone must have their TWIC card. You cannot get on the boat without these tools.