This activity concerns different aspects of operational safety in ports and coastal waters. It’s about developing improved risk assessment tools, defining specific and dedicated training exercises and information systems to support SAR, evacuation, first aid and ship recovery.

“Our goal is to minimize the number of marine accidents and to optimize our response to incidents if they do occur”.

/José Manuel Díaz Péres at the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency, SASEMAR
Safer, Cleaner and More Efficient

A number of new technological gadgets, equipment and training actions are under development to contribute to a safer, more efficient and cleaner shipping industry.

“One of the gadgets we are working on is called the dynamic predictor. It’s a piece of software that anticipates what will happen around you as a result of your actions, such as altering the course or slowing down. It improves your decision making process. We also plan a software tool to coordinate, and speed up SAR operations. Twenty minutes can be the difference between life and death”, says Eugenia Sillero Maté, Technical Secretary, SASEMAR.

SAR Exercise Preparations – a Unique Parallel Approach

The final SAR exercise, where all the results of the activity will be put to the test, is taking place in Valencia next year. A tabletop SAR run through of the exercise has been performed with 35 top officers from all involved authorities and organisations at the Maritime Training Centre Jovellanos in Spain. The SAR operations were conducted in parallel in the simulators, securing the timelines of the exercise.

“We wanted to compare the results of the tabletop exercise with the results from the simulators in order to evaluate its efficiency. We were fortunate to find that the results were very similar. Accurate simulations will improve the cost efficiency of our training exercises, and it will also contribute to increased safety as it will provide accurate decision support to properly prepare and train for emergencies”, says José.

Other Safety Enhancements On the Way

- A gamified evacuation instruction that allows cruise ship passengers to train emergency evacuation in advance is under development.
- The first prototype of a system to recover life rafts is built and will soon be tested.
- Data gathering and analysis for the risk assessment and risk management procedures and tools are finished. The recommendations will help mariners avoid accidents and will provide them with improved checklists for emergency situations.

“After 22 years in this service, the challenges that I face within this project are among the most exciting and rewarding so far. For me personally it’s with a great sense of pride that I am a part of this world-changing activity”, says José Manuel Díaz Pérez, training and certification programs manager at the Maritime Training Centre Jovellanos, located in Gijón, Asturias, Spain.

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