McMURDO

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Fire at Sea

How the right equipment can help to keep crew and vessels safe

Recent research has shown that 570 fires have occurred on large vessels in Europe between 2000 and 2015, with 359 of these occurring at sea. The *report*[1], produced by the Finnish Border Guard and Finnish Transport Safety Agency, shows that ship fires pose the greatest risk to maritime safety compared to other types of maritime incidents, and focuses in particular on the importance of external help when fighting fires on ships.

In slightly over a third of fires and explosions on cargo ships, external help was used to extinguish the fire. Perhaps not surprisingly, the report shows that external help was used more frequently at port than at sea, even though more incidents occurred at sea. Interestingly, it was communications connections that posed a challenge in several of the analysed cases within the report, with the greatest challenge being insufficient radio coverage within the ship interiors.

Of course the most important part of safety at sea is training for crew, preparation and prevention. But in the event of a fire, first responders and emergency personnel need to know that they have the best, and safest, equipment to help them deal with the situation.

In November 2012, the International Maritime Organisation's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) set out a number of measures designed to improve fire safety at sea. Improvements include the mandatory provision of specific types of handheld two-way radios for firefighting operations: SOLAS (Safety of Lives at Sea) Chapter II-2, Regulation 10.10.4.

This means ships must carry firefighting radios that are explosion-proof or are intrinsically safe. Vessels constructed on or after 1 July 2014 must already carry these radios, but for ships constructed before 2014, compliance becomes mandatory on 1 July 2018.

As the 2018 deadline looms for the mandated SOLAS regulations, owners and operators are looking for a reliable and hardwearing radio that will support firefighters at sea. During a potentially life-threatening situation it is imperative that emergency teams can rely on the very best equipment. The new *SmartFind R8F from McMurdo*[2], for example, provides the right solution.

The rugged McMurdo SmartFind R8F UHF Fire Fighter Radio is an intrinsically safe two-way radio that meets new SOLAS II-2 mandated regulations for improved fire safety at sea. It has everything an emergency team needs in a radio, from enhanced grip and large tactile buttons for easy and fast operation in an emergency situation, to a powerful in-built loud speaker and Ultra High Frequency (UHF) for optimised indoor use. Bright red and for emergency use only, SmartFind R8F is a reliable and hardwearing radio that will support firefighters at sea during potentially life-threatening situations (full list of features below). It is imperative that emergency teams can rely on the very best equipment and this is exactly what they'll get with the McMurdo SmartFind R8F. A fire won't wait, and you shouldn't either.

More info - *7 Reasons why Commercial Shipping Choose McMurdo*[3]

The SmartFind R8F features

- IEC 60945 approved maritime radio
- Heavy duty rugged IP67 portable radio
- Large display for radio and channel identification
- UHF frequency for optimal indoor coverage
- CTCSS for use with repeater system
- Large tactile buttons for easy and fast operation
- ATEX Class II 2 G Ex ib IIC T4
- Complete package solution for SOLAS Chapter II-2

- Red colour for easy identification
- Compatible with all SAVOX and Peltor fire fighter radio equipment (headsets, helmets etc.)
- Audio feedback of channel selection
- New powerful built-in loud speaker
- Enhanced grip, wheel knob, keypad wear resistance
- Enhanced hardware:
  - Battery connector
  - Belt clip land
  - Push-to-Talk side key

1   http://imrfmirg.org/component/phocadownload/file/14-baltic-sea-mirg-project-2014-2016-ship-fire-incident-analysis (http://bit.ly/MIRG_Project)

2   http://www.mcmurdogroup.com/mcmurdo-products/smartfind-r8f-uhf-fire-fighter-radio (http://bit.ly/SmartFind_R8F)

3   http://info.mcmurdogroup.com/rs/633-HPE-712/images/3360 why mcmurdo in GMDSS knowledge WEB alt v.pdf (http://bit.ly/McMurdo_GMDSS)

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