

For Immediate Release

New Marine Fire Fighting Videotape Focuses on Critical First Response

John Sabella & Associates, Inc. has released *Marine Fire First Response*, the eighth instructional videotape in the Marine Survival Equipment Training Program. *Marine Fire First Response* is designed to provide vessel operators with an effective training tool for instructing personnel in how to respond to the discovery of an onboard fire.

“The program is designed to provide the entire crew, beginning with the green hand, with a set of procedures to follow if fire is detected,” says John Sabella, writer and producer of the video. “A fire at sea is terrifying. There is nowhere to run and no fire department to call. At at least initially, the crew of a burning vessel has only itself to depend on.

“In coping with fire, time can be your principal ally or your worst enemy. Fire has the ability to increase in intensity up to 5 times in the first minute, up to 25 times in the second minute and up to 125 times in the 3rd minute. Because the speed of response is so crucial, every member of the crew must be armed with a few essential concepts .”

Marine Fire First Response stresses the importance of early detection, an effective alarm and an appropriate initial action following fire discovery.

“Early detection depends on the eyes, ears and noses of the crew as well as on installed fire detection devices,” Sabella says. “If you discover a fire, your first job is to sound the alarm, both to alert others who may be in danger and to convey critical information to the bridge. Once the alarm has been issued, the circumstances of the emergency may dictate initial actions you can take to help control the damage.

“Where lives are at risk, the best initial action is helping others escape. In a small fire, the proper initial action may be mounting a fast attack with a portable extinguisher. If the fire is large, an effective initial action is sealing the space to reduce the oxygen supply and minimize the spread of smoke.

“Good initial action means exerting a quick, positive effect on the emergency while minimizing the risk to yourself.”

JOHN SABELLA & ASSOCIATES

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Filmed on location at sea and at Seattle's Coast Guard-approved India Tango Fire Training Center, *Marine Fire First Response* features live fire fighting scenarios aboard a vessel prop. Operated in conjunction with Seattle Central Community College's Maritime Training Center, India Tango focuses on fire preparedness at sea, which differs in important respects from shore-based fire preparation.

John Kjaerulff, technical consultant to the video project and operator of India Tango, says *Marine Fire First Response* presents vital marine fire fighting information in a format easily incorporated into vessel training programs.

"It's a very simple, very direct message," he says. "And, while the consciousness level has risen about the importance of fire preparation, there are lots of new people entering the industry all the time. That makes continuous training essential."

The eight programs in the *Marine Survival Equipment Training Program* range from 12 to 17 minutes in length and are utilized by commercial vessel operators and blue water recreational boaters, marine safety agencies and technical schools around the world. The additional titles are *Inflatable Life Rafts*, *Immersion Suits*, *Personal Flotation Devices*, *Visual Distress Signals*, *EPIRBS, Revised 2nd Edition*, *Emergency Radio Procedures* and *Conducting Onboard Drills*. The program also includes the 98-page *Cold Water Survival Handbook*.

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