



Lindsey Frasier, a civilian vessel inspector for the U.S. Coast Guard, jumps into the East End Mooring Basin Wednesday as part of her training to become a certified drill instructor.

COME HOME SAFE

Training aims to bring mariners back alive

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Between 2000 and 2010, 545 commercial fisherman died on the job in the U.S., according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Commercial fishing averaged 124 deaths per 100,000 workers over that time, compared with four deaths per 100,000 for all U.S. workers.

As part of a continuing effort to instill a culture of safety and reduce fatalities, the U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Marine Safety Education Association, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission and Englund Marine & Industrial Supply sponsor free drill conductor training to prepare fishermen, biologists and others for dangerous, real-life situations at sea.

The two-day training Tuesday and Wednesday brought together five commercial fishers, three Coast Guard vessel inspectors and one marine biologist, all trying to become certified drill conductors before going out to sea.

Commercial fishing vessel inspectors took them through the full spectrum of how to respond to and survive maritime emergencies. The class covered Coast Guard regulations, survival equipment, cold-water immersion, flotation, buoyancy, dewatering, signaling and injury prevention on the job.

At the end, all nine participants passed and became certified drill conductors, able to train other crew on whichever vessels they work.

Stop that leak
More than half of all commercial fishing deaths in the 2000s occurred after a vessel disaster. Of disasters with known causes, nearly a third involved vessels flooding.



Bill Hill, a commercial fishing vessel inspector for the U.S. Coast Guard in Seattle, shows how to operate a parachute flare, which sputters out and falls into the Columbia River behind him.

The Coast Guard estimates that just a 1-inch-diameter hole a foot below the water line will let in 20 gallons of water per minute. The flood rate can grow exponentially the larger the hole and the farther below the water line.

"The idea is if you have a leak in your boat, you want to slow it down," Mike Rudolph, a civilian vessel inspector for the Coast Guard, said Wednesday, standing atop a flood-control simulator at the East End Mooring Basin rife with various holes.



Brandi Sable, with the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Safety Unit in Portland, practices extinguishing a shipboard fire Tuesday near the Hammond Marina.

When at sea, he said, boaters have to be creative in finding anything around them to slow down flooding, be it a tarp, pieces of wood, neoprene scraps from old immersion suits — even the SpongeBob SquarePants Nerf ball the crew of the fishing vessel Clam Juice from Gloucester, Massachusetts, stuck in an exhaust-pipe hole to keep their vessel from sinking as they were towed home.

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Balensifer clarifies LNG role

Constituents should send comments to planning staff

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — City Commissioner Henry Balensifer wants his constituents to know that the commission can, in fact, listen to the public's opinions on Oregon LNG's permit applications to build a liquefied natural gas terminal and pipeline on the Skipanon Peninsula.

But because of the LNG applications' sensitive nature — the complexity and the heartfelt convictions of supporters and opponents — attorneys have advised commissioners to limit private conversations about the project, not open LNG-related emails and, if opened, to forward them to City Manager Kurt Fritsch.



Henry Balensifer

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Hold on to hope

Six years later, missing girl's mom won't give up search

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

McCLEARY, Wash. — On June 26, 2009, 10-year-old Lindsey Baum went for a short walk near her family's home in the tiny Grays Harbor County town of McCleary and vanished.

More than six years later, the unsolved disappearance has exacted a terrible toll on Lindsey's loved ones, and the truth has proven so elusive that police investigators can't even say whether Lindsey is alive or dead. But her mother, Melissa Baum, and Keith Peterson, the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office detective who now leads the investigation, are nowhere near giving up on the search.

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Pope Francis urges lawmakers to embrace migrants

First pontiff to address Congress

By ERICA WERNER
and NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

Standing before a rapt Congress, Pope Francis issued a ringing call to action on behalf of immigrants Thursday, urging lawmakers to embrace "the stranger in our midst" as he became the first pontiff in history to address a joint meeting at the U.S. Capitol.

Referencing the migration crisis in Europe as well as the United States' own struggle with immigration from Latin America, Francis summoned

lawmakers "to respond in a way which is always humane, just and fraternal."

"We must not be taken aback by their numbers, but rather view them as persons, seeing their faces and listening to their stories, trying to respond as best as we can to their situation," Francis urged.

He was welcomed enthusiastically to a House chamber packed with Supreme Court justices, Cabinet officials, and lawmakers of both parties, uniting the bickering factions before he even opened his mouth as all stood to cheer his arrival. The sergeant at arms intoned "Mr. Speaker, the pope of the Holy See," and Francis made his way up the center aisle in his white robes, moving slowly as lawmakers



Carolyn Kaster/AP Photo
Pope Francis addresses a joint meeting of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington today, making history as the first pontiff to do so. Listening behind the pope are Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio.

applauded, some inclining their heads in bows. After the speech, he appeared on a Capitol balcony and briefly addressed a cheering crowd of thousands

below on the lawn and the Mall beyond. "Buenos dias," he called out, and the crowd thundered its response.

Francis asked the crowd to pray for him, as he always does. But speaking in Spanish, he added a line to acknowledge that not everyone there was a believer. "If among you there are some who don't believe or who cannot pray, I ask that you send good wishes my way," he said, to tumultuous applause.

"God bless America!" he concluded, as he had in the House chamber.

Leaving the Capitol, he went to a local church where he gave a short speech on helping the poor and then was

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