



# SAFETY SCUTTLEBUTT

JUNE 2024



**USMMI is pleased to announce that all Safety Scuttlebutt Newsletters will be e-mailed to the fleet as well as posted on our new USMMI website!**

**If you have specific topics or media you would like to see incorporated into the newsletter, please send all correspondence to Jordan D'Hereaux at [jdhereaux@usmmi.com](mailto:jdhereaux@usmmi.com)**

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First of all, thanks to everyone out at sea for keeping our ships operating safely and making each ship a safe and secure workspace for you and all your shipmates. It is our goal that our ships are a safe and secure place for each of you to earn a living as a U.S. Mariner and we also strive to make it feel a bit like a home away from home. For those of you who participated in our May crew satisfaction survey, we appreciate that you took time to give us feedback to help us see what works well and where we might improve. We are assembling the results of that survey and will share those as soon as possible.

In May we also had a safety leadership conference, our first one held in our new Norfolk office. It was great to see so many people who sail on USMMI ships and have some time for direct and honest discussion. We are tentatively targeting having another conference in August.

In the office, we are working hard to create opportunities for growth in our U.S. Flag fleet and hopefully we will be sharing exciting news in the next few months about successes in that regard. Our Business Development team and IT department have worked hard to create the new USMMI web site. Be sure to check that out online. Our web site is also a place where you will be able to see recent issues of this newsletter.

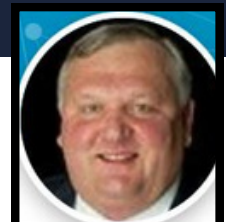
Success in growing USMMI means opportunities for Mariners seeking more responsibility through promotion so make sure your documents and endorsements are kept up to date. It is also a good time to finish (or sign up for) any class that may be needed to round out your ability to sail at an elevated level.

Summer is a favorite time of year for many, but summer brings unique hazards both at sea and at home. This newsletter addresses some of these issues, but I'd like to point out two.

-Summer often means an increase to tropical cyclone storm activity. This is a clear hazard when sailing on a ship in the vicinity of a storm. It can also be a problem for storms that make landfall in the vicinity of our homes. Please maintain a heightened awareness of this risk both at sea and at home.

-Working in summer heat can create challenges staying well hydrated. Heat exhaustion and heat stress (can be fatal) could sneak up on any of you unless you are in the habit of staying well hydrated. We have experienced heat related injuries in our fleet and we can attest to the fact that it is "no joke". Please watch out for this and be aware of this risk occurring in your shipmates as well. Ensure that water breaks are included when needed to perform hard work in hot conditions.

BY BOB BOWERS








BY STEVE CASE

The past year has seen lots of enhancements coming online in the fleet management software, Nautical Systems. The biggest enhancement is the migration from onboard server-based shared hosting of the fleet software to cloud-based hosting. Using Starlink as the high-speed satellite communication enabler, we have been able to have everyone work in the same central environment. This cloud-based hosting allows us all to “dance from the same sheet of music”, minimizing response time waiting for replication, improve data integrity across all sites and reduced maintenance costs of ship-based servers.

This integration continues with some challenges. ABS Wavesight hosts our cloud-based system and is in the process of upgrading the server technology to meet updated security requirements, improve performance and segmenting the database from the application in the cloud. This requires us to move from the old remote desktop protocol (RDP) of signing in with a phone call for multifactor authentication to using Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) and Yubikeys. This implementation is continuing and expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Remoting into the central environment is a great way to have all users looking at the same database, but sometimes satellite service isn't available due to local regulations or failed components. In that case, we have issued iPads and iPhones to each ship to use the NS Vessel app to take delivery of parts, generate work orders, submit JSAs for approval or log drills/meetings. You can also access the NS Vessel app functionality by going to [<https://maerskmobile.absns.cloud/NSMobile/#/login>]. As a final backup, we are installing site images for each ship on one laptop so that critical payroll functions can still be completed when satellite communications are preventing access to the central environment. These site installations will be completed by the end of July.

Future NS enhancements are in various stages of testing including dispatch emails, requisitions to onboard delivery reporting, USCG-approved eLogs, equipment hierarchy improvements, web-based applications and freight forwarder shipment tracking. We hope to implement them in the coming months and if you have ideas for enhancements or questions, please reach out to myself ([scase@usmmi.com](mailto:scase@usmmi.com)) or Douglas Lee ([dlee@usmmi.com](mailto:dlee@usmmi.com)).



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Did you know that mariners are required to bring a six-month supply of their prescription medications when joining a USMMI ship?



Prescription medications can be an important factor in enabling mariners to continue to work at sea. Some medications have side effects that can affect the safe and effective performance of routine and emergency duties, and some have other complications that will increase the likelihood of illness at sea. In addition, it can be difficult to refill medications overseas and some countries don't prescribe the same medications as the United States.

If you have difficulty obtaining a six-month supply of medications prior to joining your next ship, here's what you need to do:

- **AMO Members:** AMO has the provision set up with PBM (SmithRx) for their members to obtain a 6-month supply of medications; however, if you have an issue with filling the additional months then please contact the AMO Benefits Office at 1-800-348-6515 ext. 12 and they will assist with the necessary override.
- **SIU Members:** Call the SHBP Claims Department at (800) 252-4674 (Option 3) and request an Optum override to obtain a 6-month supply of prescription medication. Note you will be required to provide the date you expect to report to the ship, the names of your prescriptions and the required dosages, so make sure to have that date on hand when calling. If you reach out SHBP Claims Department and find that their offices are closed, you can contact Optum directly for the override.



# SAFETY REFRESHER: LADDER SAFETY

Marine ladders are essential tools that ensure the safety of maritime workers. They offer a dependable way to move between different ship levels, especially crucial in challenging weather or rough waters. Routine maintenance, including cleaning and checking for damages, is necessary to keep these ladders safe and functional. By following safety protocols and regular inspections, ladder-related risks are considerably minimized.



## LADDER RULES

- Always face ladder when ascending or descending
- Use at least one hand to grasp ladder
- Top of ladder should never be used as a step
- Ladder should never be moved, shifted, or extended while occupied
- Never carry an object or load that could cause you to lose your balance

## USE THESE TIPS WHEN INSPECTING LADDERS:

- Inspect the ladder for damage
- Clean and lubricate the hardware
- Ensure decals and labels are legible
- Verify the rungs are not warping or bent

## MARINERS MUST:

- Never use a damaged ladder
- Follow the manufacturers load rating
- Choose the right type of ladder for the job
- Set up or support/hold the ladder properly



10FT AND  
UNDER



HEIGHT AT WHICH MOST  
LADDER DEATHS OCCUR

**REMEMBER TO ALWAYS HAVE 3 POINTS OF CONTACT**



# Your Safety at Work: WORKING IN HEAT

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HEAT STRESS

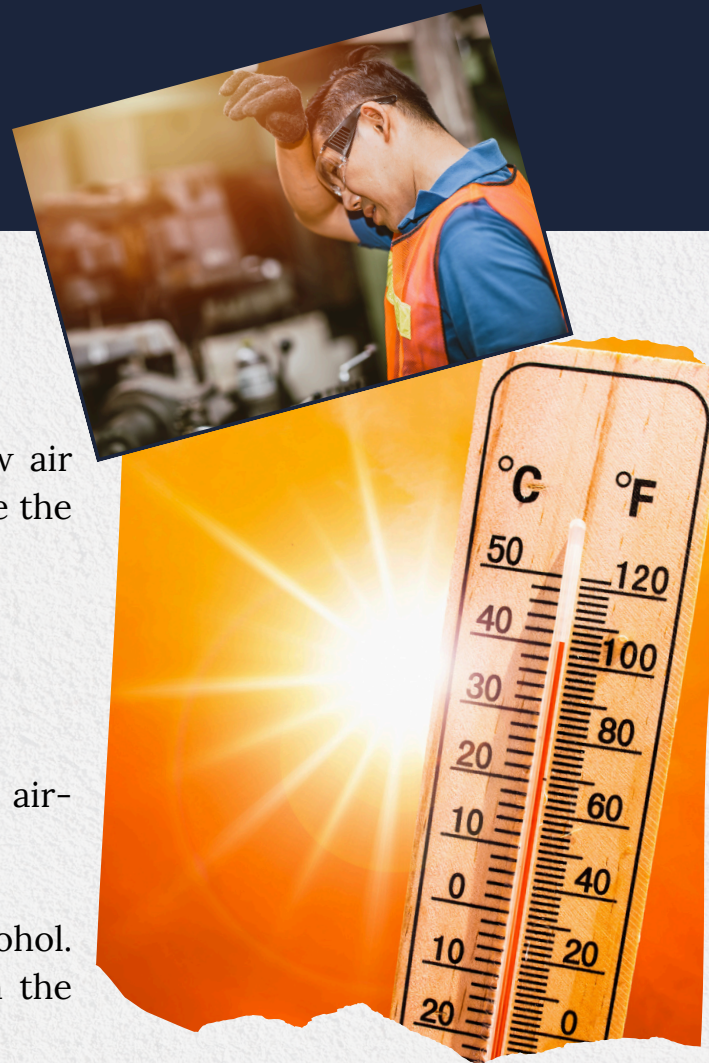
- Wear appropriate clothing
  - Light-colored materials that breathe and allow air movement. Long sleeves and long pants provide the best protection
- Use Sunscreen
  - Re-apply frequently during the day
- Wear a hat with a wide brim
- Wear sunglasses
- Take breaks in shaded, cool places: buildings or air-conditioned vehicle
- Drink plenty of cool water throughout the day
  - Avoid sugary drinks, caffeinated drinks, or alcohol. These can lead to dehydration faster while in the heat.
- Set up barriers or reflective screens between you and nearby heat sources.
- Use natural ventilation, fans, and blowers.
- If possible, schedule work indoors when the sun is at its highest: 10am-2pm



### STAY HYDRATED

Drink water every 15 minutes when working in hot conditions

**DO NOT** wait until you are thirsty to drink water



## What to look for...

### Signs of **HEAT EXHAUSTION:**

- Weakness and wet skin
- Headache, dizziness or fainting
- Nausea or vomiting

### Signs of **HEAT STROKE:**

- Confusion or fainting
- May stop sweating- dry, hot skin
- Convulsions or seizures

**Get help if you or your co-worker have these signs. HEAT STROKE IS A MEDICAL EMERGENCY & CAN BE DEADLY**





# Summer Barbecue Safety



U.S. Fire Departments respond to about **8,900** home grilling fires per year!

It's that time of the year of fun in the sun and GRILLING! There's nothing like the smell of food grilling in the warm summer air, however, it's important to brush up on barbecue safety! Consider the following grilling safety tips:

- Never leave your grill unattended. Fires can double in size every minute
- Grill **OUTSIDE** only! Don't grill in a garage, porch or other enclosed space, even if it's ventilated
- Keep children and pets at least 3ft away from where food is being prepared or carried
- Clean the grill regularly. Keep it clean by removing grease or fat buildup
- Choose a safe location. Keep your grill on a flat surface at least 10ft away from your house, garage, or other structures.



## Grilling Safety Tips

### Charcoal Grills

- If using starter fluid, use charcoal starter fluid, **NOT** any other flammable liquids
- Keep charcoal fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources
- When using electric starters, be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

### Propane Grills

- Check gas tank hose for leaks before using it for the first time each year.
- Apply a light soap and water solution to the hose. A propane leak will release bubbles.
- If your grill has a gas leak, and no flame, turn off the gas tank and grill
- If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again
- If the leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

**\*\*\*JULY IS THE PEAK MONTH FOR GRILL FIRES\*\*\***



# Is Your Car Summer Ready?



Summer has arrived, which means beach trips, air conditioning, and hot, hot engines! The last thing you want is to have a breakdown and end up stuck on the side of the road in the heat. That is why you must act immediately to avoid expensive breakdowns by identifying problems before they escalate into vacation-ending disasters.



## Air Conditioning

Get your A/C checked before the hottest temperatures hit. Your system is more likely to fail when it gets hot if it has preexisting issues



## Cooling

Flush and refill your cooling system every 24 months or as recommended. If you avoid this task, it could lead to overheating and roadside breakdowns.



## Oil

Get your oil changed every 3,000 miles or as specified in your owner's manual. Stop-and-go driving, towing, and carrying extra weight can necessitate more frequent changes



## Tires

Get your tires rotated every 5,000 miles or as recommended in your owner's manual. Check tire pressure every month and add more air as needed.



## Brakes

Check your owner's manual to see how often your brakes should be serviced. Address any noises or performance issues immediately for safety's sake.



# NEVER LEAVE KIDS OR PETS IN A HOT CAR



Reduce the number of deaths from heatstroke by remembering ACT:

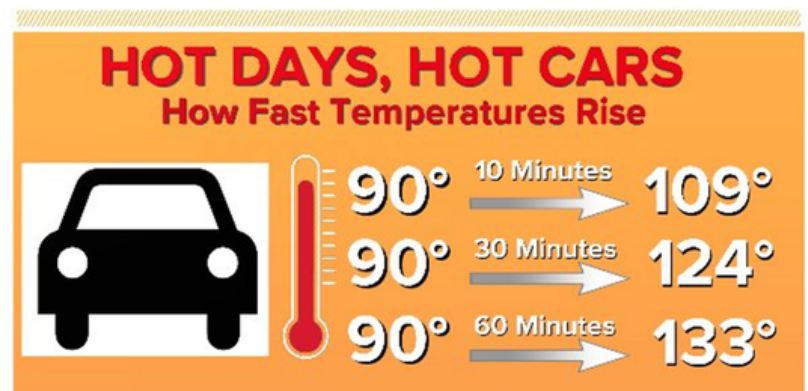
**AVOID** heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child or pet alone, not even for a minute.

**CREATE** reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as an alarm, your purse, or your cell phone that is needed at your final destination.

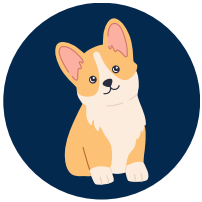
**TAKE ACTION** if you see a child or pet alone in a car, call 911.



Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal or child unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.



A car overheats even when the window has been left cracked an inch or 2.



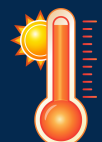
Young, overweight or elderly animals or those w/ short muzzles or thick dark colored coats are more at risk for overheating



Shady spots offer little protection on hot days and move with the sun



It only takes 10 minutes for the inside of your car to reach a temp that can cause heatstroke.



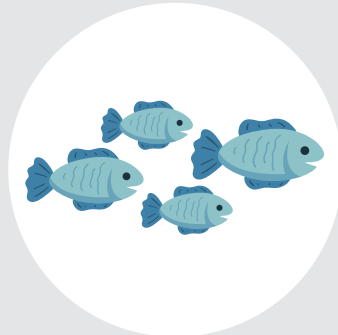
Swim Safely this Summer



# Water Safety Tips



**Always supervise children around water. Protect children from drowning.**



**Teach children to swim with a buddy or an adult who knows how to swim.**



**Have children wear life jackets around open bodies of water (ocean, rivers)**



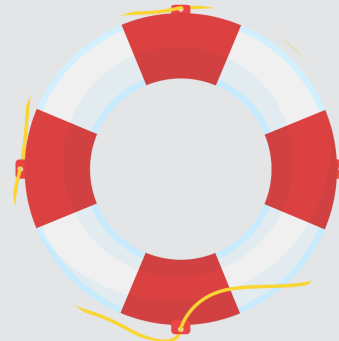
**Drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration**



**Protect yourself from the sun. Wear sunglasses & apply sunscreen every 2hrs.**



**Enroll children in swimming lessons to help reduce their risk for drowning.**

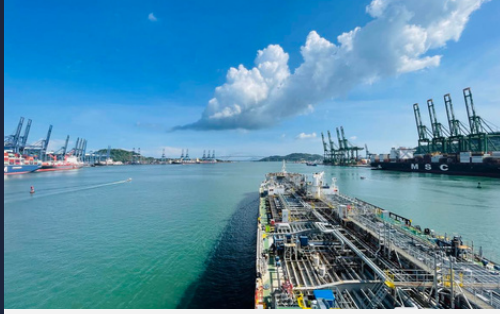


**Always swim where a lifeguard can see you and don't swim out too far.**





USMMI Spring 2024  
Photo Contest  
Winners



**Best Ship Photo goes to Cadet  
Andrew Donahue of Badlands  
Trader (\$500)**

**Best Ship Photo Runner Up goes  
to 1AE Benjamin White of Acadia  
Trader (\$100)**



**Best Crew Photo goes to Capt.  
Thua Pham of Badlands Trader  
(\$500)**

**Best Crew Photo Runner Up  
goes to Ocean Trader's Deck  
Dept. (\$100)**



**Best Drone Photo goes to Capt.  
Everett Hatton of Acadia Trader  
(\$500)**

**Best Time Lapse Video goes to  
2AE Richard Leach of Acadia  
Trader (\$500)**



# Who is Who at USMMI?

## Purchasing Department



**Steve Lakata**  
General Manager, Contracts



**Emmy Gamboa**  
Property Admin, Port Steward



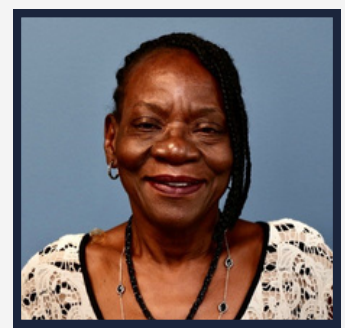
**Tracy Fleming**  
Purchasing Agent  
MSV



**Susan Jackson**  
Purchasing Agent  
Pohang Pioneer



**Bill Nguyen**  
Purchasing Agent  
Yosemite Trader



**Gloria Singleton**  
Purchasing Agent  
Badlands Trader



**Lizzie Womack**  
Purchasing Agent  
Shenandoah Trader

We are firm believers that there is no such thing as too much communication. The more details we are provided about the exact equipment/service needed, the better. Having detailed information entered into NS helps us build a robust purchase history, helps you keep an accurate inventory, and ensures we get the right equipment the first time, without unnecessary wasted time or funds.

We are here to support the needs of our ships, so please reach out to us with your concerns, clarifications, questions, or comments. We are never more than one email away.

Long time Purchasing Agent Gloria Singleton has announced her plan to retire in October 2024. She emphasized that it has been “a beautiful experience” working with those onshore and onboard. Our team will cherish the next few months together and wish her all the best in her retirement.





## WELCOME ABOARD!

USMMI is delighted to introduce Linda Lavender as the new Marine Crewing, General Manager! Linda has many years of direct maritime crewing industry experience, and we couldn't be more thrilled to have her onboard.

## FLEET UPDATES

The Shenandoah Trader is in England going through her qualifications for CONSOL Certification and upon completion will be the first, and only, TSP tanker qualified.



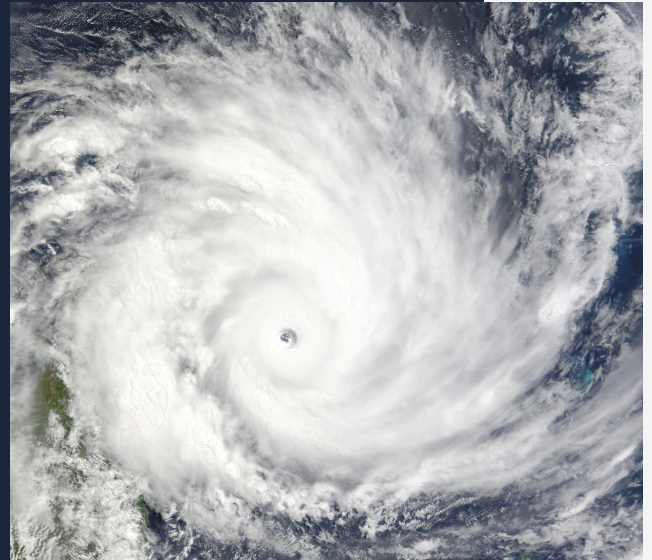
## FLEET UPDATES

The Yosemite Trader successfully completed her CONSOL SQTs Certification on their 2 CONSOL stations in Okinawa in April 2024

## Hurricane Season

The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1st- November 30th each year. However, it is essential to note that tropical cyclone activity can sometimes occur before or after these dates. The peak of the Atlantic hurricane season falls around September 30th with most activity occurring between mid-August and mid-October.

If you're in an area prone to hurricanes, staying informed and prepared during this period is crucial!



# USMMI Safety Statistics as of 31 May 2024

## Summary:

	MAY 2024			YTD 2024		
	ASI LTI	LTIF	AVG NM/VSL	ASI LTIF	LTIF	AVG NM/VSL
Ocean Trader	0	0	5	1.3	8.9	19
Tanker Group	0	0	5	2.6	6	24
<b>USMMI FLEET</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21.5</b>

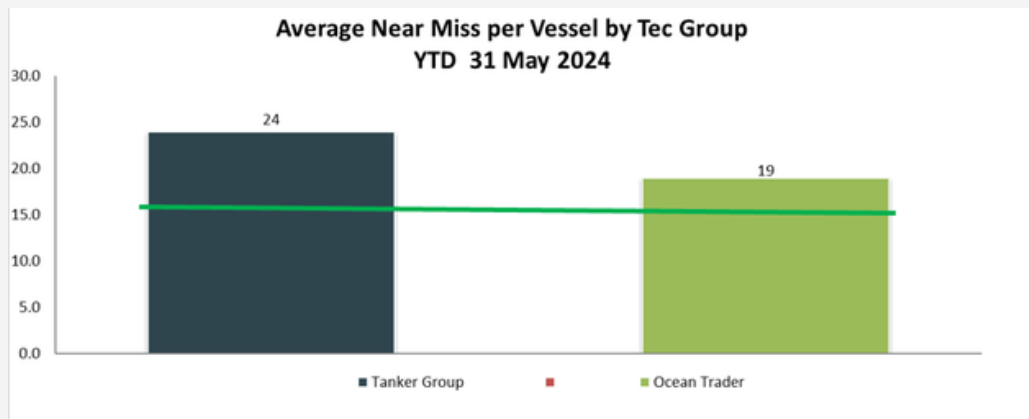
Note 1: Abbreviations are Lost Time Incident (LTI), Lost Time Incident Frequency (LTIF), Total Recordable Cases (TRC), Total Recordable Case Frequency (TRCF), million exposure hours (meh), and Accident Severity Index (ASI).

Note 2: Adjusted LTI upper threshold goal is 0.60 per million hours for 2024

YTD 2024 ASI ADJUSTED LTI FREQ = 1.43

YTD PAST 12-MONTH ASI ADJUSTED LTI FREQ 1 June 23 – 31 May 24 = 1.48

## Near Miss/Safety Observations:



## Vessel Comparison:

		May-24				YTD 2024			
		Manhours	LTI	TRC	NM	Manhours	LTI	TRC	NM
MSV	Ocean Trader	27,360	0	0	4	112,176	1	0	14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>27360</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>112,176</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>
Tanker Group	Badlands Trader	14,400	0	0	4	63,504	0	0	18
	Acadia Trader					37,296			
	Yosemite Trader	14,400	0	0	0	61,272	1	1	10
	Shenandoah Trader	14,400	0	0	4	61,272	1	0	14
	Pohang Pioneer	12,960	0	1	9	53,136	0	1	37
	<b>Total</b>	<b>57,288</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>276,480</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>MLL FLEET</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>84,648</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>388,656</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>95</b>

ASI Adjusted LTI Freq YTD = **1.43**

ASI Adjusted LTI Freq 12-month Running = **1.48**