



AMERICAN SALVAGE ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE
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AMERICAN SALVAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBER RESPONDS TO
BOW MARINER EXPLOSION AND SINKING
OFF VIRGINIA COAST

Washington, DC - A member of the American Salvage Association (ASA) has been contracted to assist in the case of sunken tanker *Bow Mariner*, which sank 50 nautical miles off the coast of Virginia on February 28 after experiencing several explosions and fire. In turn, a second ASA member company has been subcontracted to provide services. Six crewmen survived, three bodies have been recovered and 18 are still missing.

The ASA member will deploy a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and specialized divers to locate the missing crewmembers of this tragic accident. The salvor's second task will be to remove bunker oil from the tanker that lies in the Atlantic Ocean at a depth of approximately 80 meters (264 feet). Heavy weather has hampered ROV operations to locate the missing seamen survey operations to determine whether recoverable quantities of ethanol and fuel oil remain in the vessel. The salvor will also deploy its unique pollution recovery system (ROLS) to remove the vessel's bunker oil and cargo as possible. The ROLS system has been designed to remove oil and chemicals from vessels lying on the seabed in very deep water without the assistance of divers.

"Marine emergencies require a professional salvage response to quickly protect against further human injury and/or loss of life, as well as to protect the marine environment, and mitigate damage to the ship, her cargo and other property. Again, it is imperative that the U.S. Coast Guard promulgate its new and long awaited (more than 13 years) salvage and firefighting regulations to assure that responses to all casualties in American waters are as quick and successful and this one," said ASA President Dick Fairbanks.

The American Salvage Association is a trade association promoting professionalism and improving marine casualty response in American coastal and inland waters.