



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2018-11 (13 November 2018)

Emergency Response Services



While emergency response services and their comparative quality of care, response times, costs, etc. vary from port to port, we can all agree that whenever emergency medical care is required we all want the delivery of those services to take place as soon as humanly possible.

At some ports, those services are based nearby and are in locations that experience few, if any, complications (i.e., traffic, competing emergencies). Consequently, response times will average 15 minutes or less. At other ports, the complications are seemingly endless (i.e., distance, traffic, a large number of competing emergencies). There, the response times can average 30 minutes or more. In an emergency, that's too long.

Facing challenges that directly impacted these very important concerns, the Port of Los Angeles, The Los Angeles Fire Department, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, the Los Angeles Port Police and several marine terminal operators tackled the problem together and devised a “**Waterside Emergency Action Plan.**” The plan finds ways to facilitate a quicker, water-based route for emergency response personnel to access port facilities in a more direct way.

Here's a link to a relevant press release: [Right Click Here](#)

Now, while the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee is not suggesting that a one-size-fits-all approach will effectively serve each East and Gulf Coast port, we are asking all stake holders at those ports to soberly assess their emergency response circumstance and to take whatever actions that are appropriate to ensure that these life-saving services can be efficiently and effectively delivered to all members of their respective port communities.

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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