

SEGMAR: a data collection system to follow as example of good practice

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The collection and processing of statistical data is an essential tool for safety management, to assess the services' quality standards and performance, making a consistent evaluation throughout time.

In this sense and to ensure the on-going suitability of the Information Systems' operational needs, the Maritime Technique Safety Division (DTSM) created, in 2010, the SEGMAR platform. This platform compiles reports of accidents on the waterfront.

The conception of SEGMAR platform, aimed to simplify the procedures for collection and processing of data, making them available in real time, covering a larger number of rescue-related agencies, providing a centralized instrument for data recording and processing.

Operational Methodology

The reports of all accidents and incidents are delivered on paper, to the port authorities, by the agents of the sea and water rescue, which are then dispatched to the DTSM. Before sending the records, the port authorities feed the data into the platform. The processed information is made available to bodies and services of the Maritime Authority's General Management, Maritime Police's General, Regional and Local Command, which in turn disclose it to the press or to entities that request it.

Results

The data are presented in tables and graphs. These can be considered, among other ways, by geographic area, time period, type of accident.

From 2011 to 2014 the following occurrences in the public water area were registered: 511 deaths by drowning; 394 deaths from other causes; 78 people missing; 1434 injured; 2783 rescued uninjured; 87 dead swimmers; 15 missing swimmers; 33 dead swimmers in supervised beaches; 84 dead swimmers at unpatrolled beaches and 67 deaths by falling from bridges.

For the same period, and detailing the events recorded with vessels there were: 23 collisions; 8 vessel's listings; 42 sinks; 1 catastrophic flooding; 7 progressive flooding; 110 malfunctions; 10 collisions with objects; 2 disappearances; 10 groundings with propulsion; 14 groundings without propulsion; 1 explosion; 1 steering gear failure; 23 failures of the propulsion system; 27 fires; 26 other accidents. As a result of such accidents there were: 379 uninjured victims; 28 deaths; 23 people missing and 87 injured. The types of vessels involved were: 172 fishing boats; 1 tugboat; 310 recreational; 8 sports; 29 auxiliaries; 2 local traffic and 19 trade.

Conclusion

The SEGMAR platform is a valuable tool because:

- It allows access to updated data, treated every 24 hours;
- The recording of data is easy to fill, automatically generating a report with all the uploaded information;
- The data is available in general but also detailed;
- It's possible and easy to introduce new fields of registration.

As system weaknesses it should be noted that some of the information may be lost from the time of occurrence until the registration on the platform and that access to data and its dissemination is still restricted to many agencies.

We expect to improve the data collection system, making it more effective and extend it to as many entities as possible, hoping that hospitals and health centres will soon access the platform and, through a code assigned to the victim, be able to report what happened to the victim, after checking in at the health centres and/or hospitals.