



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DMR Marine Patrol Officers Respond to Mayday on Tuesday, Nov. 3, from Shrimp Boat with Injured, Unconscious Crew Member

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) Marine Patrol answered a mayday call Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009, from a shrimp boat with an injured passenger found south of Horn Island.

DMR Marine Patrol Officer Rocky Southern copied a mayday call heard over a VHF radio at 9:49 a.m. Tuesday and requested Officers Kyle Wilkerson and Mario Sapet respond to the call and contact the U.S. Coast Guard Station Pascagoula. The Coast Guard informed Marine Patrol that the only information available was that the vessel was purple and that a man had broken his leg and was unconscious.

Sapet and Wilkerson headed out, and the Coast Guard was again contacted when they had reached the Dog Keys Pass at 10:08 a.m. At this time, the Coast Guard was able to provide the exact location of the boat, which was 2.7 miles south of the west tip of Horn Island. The Coast Guard advised Marine Patrol that a Coast Guard vessel had not yet been launched.

Sapet and Wilkerson found and boarded the Capt. Dennis at 10:18 a.m. Sapet examined the victim and determined that he had a compound fracture and that the man's leg was partially severed from just above the ankle on his right leg. Sapet also noted that the victim, later identified as Binh Nguyen of Biloxi, had suffered minimal blood loss but appeared to be in shock.

A medical helicopter was requested from the Coast Guard at 10:20 a.m. The Marine Patrol officers were advised that a 25-foot Coast Guard vessel had been launched and arrangements were being made for the helicopter.

At 10:30 a.m., the Coast Guard contacted Marine Patrol to inform them that the helicopter was 25 to 30 minutes away. At 10:44 a.m., the Coast Guard again contacted Marine Patrol to inquire if their vessel was capable of carrying the victim and if the victim could withstand a two-hour boat ride to medical attention. Officer Sapet informed the Coast Guard that Nguyen's condition was too severe and that he would need to be transported by helicopter.

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At 10:53 a.m., the Coast Guard followed up with Marine Patrol, asking them to escort the Capt. Dennis in through the Biloxi Channel where the Coast Guard would meet up with the vessels. At 11:16 a.m., the Coast Guard vessel was on the scene, and a Coast Guard paramedic boarded the Capt. Dennis at 12:10 p.m.

At 12:38 p.m., Nguyen was placed in a basket for transfer to a Coast Guard vessel where he was then put onto a helicopter and transferred to a Mobile hospital.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the state by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.ms.gov.

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