

MEMORANDUM

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Alaska Marine Highway System

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Subject: Marine Evacuation Drill & Deployments ~ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
✚ For Instructional Purposes Only

1) **Question: How often do I need to attend a Marine Evacuation Drill & Deployment?**

• **Answer: Every two to three years**

1. All crew members must attend a "Marine Evacuation System" drill that includes a full deployment of a slide or chute at intervals of not longer than two years, but in no case longer than three years. This meets SOLAS Familiarization Training Requirements, Chapter III, Part B, Section I, Regulation 19, Paragraph 3.3.8 of the SOLAS Consolidated Edition.

2) **Question: Are the slide and chute deployments separate qualifications?**

- **Answer: No, the systems are treated equally for certification purposes.** You can attend either a slide or a chute deployment to keep your certification current.

3) **Question: Is there an on-board AMHS Marine Evacuation Slide Training Program?**

- **Answer: Yes,** the ships that have the LSA Slides installed (Aurora, Chenega, Fairweather, Kennicott, LeConte, Matanuska, and Taku) now have an on-board AMHS Marine Evacuation Slide Training Program.

1. This Marine Evacuation System (MES) training program has been developed as an alternate means to achieve certification for the MES (bid) qualification. Previously, the only way to achieve this qualification was to attend an on-board MES Drill and Deployment that included the actual release of the system (slide or chute) into the water. Crewmembers who complete this new training program will receive a "Marine Evacuation System" (Slide) Certificate of Completion from the Ketchikan Central Office (KCO) Training Department. This certificate, like those issued for attending an actual deployment, is valid for three years.

4) **Question: How often are the Marine Evacuation System Drill & Deployments scheduled?**

- **Answer: The deployments typically correspond with a ship's overhaul schedule in the Fall/Winter/Spring months.** Ideally, three deployments are scheduled during the overhaul/layup period; one each in Ketchikan, Juneau, & Seward. Check the "go-to" Training website, "The AMHS Learning Portal" <http://amhslearningportal.alaska.gov/> frequently for up-to-date announcements. Many deployments may be scheduled only within two to three weeks of the event due a variety of factors.

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1. Typically, ships will have a deployment once every three years; per SOLAS regulation "...each marine evacuation system should be deployed from the ship on a rotational basis at intervals to be agreed by the Administration provided that each system is to be deployed at least once every six years."

5) **Question: How often can I attend a MES drill & deployment events?**

- **Answer: Crewmembers may attend any event scheduled in their immediate area as often as convenient to their (work) schedule.** This way their certification will not expire and it will eliminate time and costs associated with traveling to an event.

6) **Question: When do I need to contact the AMHS Training Coordinator to attend a Marine Evacuation System Drill & Deployment?**

- **Answer: If the event is in your area; i.e. you do not require travel authorization, then you are NOT required to preregister with the AMHS Training Coordinator.**

1. Crewmembers in the vicinity of the drill and deployment may attend without preregistering; this includes crewmembers working onboard the vessel the day of the drill & deployment. That said it is ok to preregister with the AMHS Training Coordinator so the ship will know how many additional crewmembers to expect.

- **Crewmembers may request authorization to travel to the event if their certification is close to expiring or has expired.** Contact the AMHS Training Coordinator preferably via e-mail and include your tentative itinerary.

1. Request travel authorization if you live a distance greater than 50 miles from the event (or in some cases within 50 miles but require air taxi or ferry passage to the event). See also the "Requests to Travel to Training Events FAQ's" posted on the Training website, The AMHS Learning Portal <http://amhslearningportal.alaska.gov/>.

7) **How do I receive credit for attending the event?**

- **Answer: Sign the "MES Sign In Sheet";** typically located at the Security Checkin station &/or at the Pursers' counter.

1. Certificates of Completion are issued only to crewmembers who signed the "MES Sign-In-Sheet". Certificates of Completion are issued out of the Ketchikan Central Office generally within two to three weeks after the event.

8) **How long is the event and do I receive wages for attending the event?**

- **Answer: You should allow four hours for the entire event; although the average duration is three hours. Attendees who are not working on the vessel(s) at the time receive four hours additional straight time wages for attending the drill and deployment**

1. If you are already on shift on the vessel or another vessel then the event is treated as any other shipboard drill; i.e. additional wages are not authorized for attending the event.

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9) **Question: Where do I find the announcements for upcoming MES events?**

- **Answer: The announcements are:** 1) sent to all shipboard Department Head e-mail addresses and should be posted on the vessel, 2) e-mailed to all Vessel Crewmembers' State of Alaska personal webmail addresses, and 3) posted on the Training website, The AMHS Learning Portal <http://amhslearningportal.alaska.gov/> .

10) **Question: How long is my "Marine Evacuation Certification" valid?**

- **Answer: Three years from the date issued on the certificate of completion.**

11) **Question: I'm unsure of the date that my certification expires. How do I locate information re: my certification?**

- **Answer: Lists are distributed to the vessels periodically with MES announcements. The lists are additionally posted on the Training website, The AMHS Learning Portal <http://amhslearningportal.alaska.gov/>**

12) **Question: I found my name on the list of crewmembers with expired or about to expire MES certification &/or I was sent a letter notifying me that my certification expired or was about to expire. Do I have to attend the next deployment?**

- **Answer: No. However, All Crewmembers are expected to obtain and keep their MES certification current.** Due to work schedules, vessel schedules, etc. it may not be practical/feasible to attend an event prior to your MES certification expires. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you attend deployments in your area on a regular basis so that your certification does not expire.

1. By regulation *"...every system party member shall, as far as practical, be further trained by participation in a full deployment of a (similar) system into water, either on board a ship..."* Regulation 19, Paragraph 3.3.8 of the SOLAS Consolidated Edition.

13) **Question: My certification is not current; will I still be eligible for dispatch?**

- **Answer: Yes, you are still eligible to be dispatched to a vessel.** The MES and its processes are included in shipboard drills. If you are unsure of your ship's system ask your shipboard supervisor for MES Training Material.

1. Note: Spring/Summer New Hires have not had an opportunity to attend a Marine Evacuation System Drill & Deployment. All New Hires are required to complete the "Vessel-Specific Safety Training" Module (it's the prerequisite course to the RORO Vessel Specific course) and the systems are covered in the "Marine Evacuation System" chapter.

2. Note: All bid applications require that your certification is current. However the certification is not only for bid purposes and again, it is the Crewmember's responsibility to ensure that their certification is current.

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- 14) **Question: How do I ensure that I'm not dispatched during a MES drill and Deployment?**
- **Answer: Submit a Vacation Request Form to you Dispatcher.**
 1. All requests are approved on a case-by-case basis.
- 15) **Question: I just attended the MES Drill & Deployment. I received prior authorization to attend. How do I get reimbursed for my expenses?**
- **Answer: Submit a TA form and attach the authorization memo that was sent to you to it.** TA forms are submitted to the Ketchikan Central Office (KCO). IBU Crew submits the TA form to the Dispatch Supervisor, and MEBA & MMP Crew submits the TA form to the Licensed Dispatcher. The TA's are then reviewed, approved, and forwarded to the Juneau Travel Desk. The Travel Desk conducts the final review and processing that includes issuing the final settlement.
 1. Example TA forms and information on traveling to training events are posted on the Training website, The AMHS Learning Portal <http://amhslearningportal.alaska.gov/> . Look under the title "AMHS ~ MQ's & Training ~ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)'s

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