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M/V HORIZON RELIANCE

ON FEBRUARY 8, 2012 THE M/V HORIZON RELIANCE WAS CONTACTED BY THE COAST GUARD RESCUE COORDINATION CENTER HONOLULU AND REQUESTED TO DIVERT TO ASSIST THE CREW OF THE LIAHONA, WHICH WAS 289 MILES NORTHEAST OF HILO, HI AND 149 MILES DISTANT FROM THE RELIANCE HORIZON. THE RELIANCE HORIZON IMMEDIATELY DIVERTED AND AT APPROXIMATELY 2:00 AM THE NEXT MORNING, CAPTAIN JAMES KELLEHER AND THE CREW OF THE UNITED STATES FLAGGED SHIP REACHED THE SAILBOAT. AS THE HORIZON RELIANCE APPROACHED THE STRICKEN VESSEL, A SWELL CAUSED THE SAILBOAT TO CAPSIZE AND SINK, LEAVING ALL THREE PASSENGERS IN THE SEA. WEATHER CONDITIONS WERE CHALLENGING, WITH SOUTHWESTERLY WINDS GUSTING TO 40 KNOTS AND 20 FOOT SEAS. AFTER CREATING A LEE, THE HORIZON RELIANCE CREW LOWERED A LADDER TO INITIATE THE RESCUE. A 29 YEAR-OLD-MAN WAS RESCUED FIRST, BUT THE OTHERS, A 32-YEAR-OLD MAN AND 9-YEAR-OLD BOY DRIFTED AWAY. HOWEVER, BOTH WERE RESCUED SHORTLY THEREAFTER AS THEY WERE WEARING LIFEJACKETS WITH STROBE LIGHTS ATTACHED, ENABLING RESCUERS TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT. ALL THREE CANADIANS WERE REPORTED IN GOOD HEALTH AND REMAINED ABOARD THE HORIZON RELIANCE UNTIL IT ARRIVED IN HILO, HAWAII. AS IF THIS WAS NOT ENOUGH, THE M/V RELIANCE HORIZON CONDUCTED A SECOND AMVER RESCUE LATER IN 2012, WHILE UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN CONSTANZI. IN JUNE 2012 THE HORIZON RELIANCE WAS REQUESTED TO RESPOND TO A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE FROM AN ILL 81 YEAR OLD MAN ABOARD A SAILBOAT LOCATED 1,100 MILES NORTHEAST OF OAHU. AGAIN, THE HORIZON RELIANCE RESPONDED AND SUCCESSFULLY RESCUED THE MAN FROM HIS SAILBOAT. THE MAN WAS TREATED IN THE SHIP'S DISPENSARY AND REMAINED ONBOARD UNTIL THE SHIP DOCKED IN HILO, HI. THE AWARD OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR RESCUE AT SEA AMVER AWARD IS AUTHORIZED.

AFRAS is a 501(c)3 charity and is registered in the State of New York