

# Marine Firefighting Program

## PORT OF CHARLESTON

Shipboard and waterfront fires encompass unique characteristics requiring special training and equipment. Currently, limited training and equipment adversely impacts the ability to handle shipboard and waterfront fires.



### The major impacts of Shipboard and Waterfront Fires

- Human Impacts: evacuations, hazardous materials releases
- Environmental Impacts: pollution, explosion, flame, smoke, hazardous materials releases
- Economic Impacts: shipping disruption, channel closure, terminal infrastructure loss, multi-day firefighting effort, property loss, tourism impact

### Port of Charleston characteristics

- Fourth largest container port in the United States; second largest container port along the East Coast, currently serving 2,500 commercial ships annually
- Poses a major state presence with the S.C. State Ports Authority and Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority
- Features numerous marinas, tour boats, fuel terminals and other private industry vessels

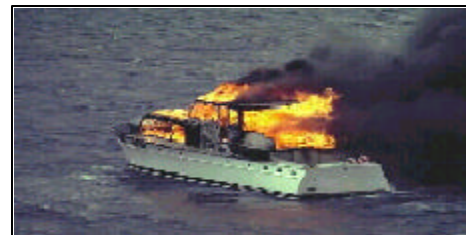
### Port of Charleston Marine Firefighting Committee

- Efforts began in 1997 to address local marine firefighting concerns
- Involves private industry and federal, state and local governments
- Prepared a hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis in 1999 report
- Identified existing industry assets which possess potential resources for use in marine firefighting efforts
- Established the Maritime Assistance Pact (MAP) - developed and signed by members of the Charleston County Fire Chiefs Association
  - Extends the benefits of this program to all South Carolina coastal communities under the Fire Service Mutual Aid Agreement



### Prior Funding/Request for Funding

- This program received state funding of \$100,000 for FY 2001, enabling the purchase of a portion of the necessary equipment and training. For continuity of the program, additional equipment and training is necessary. (See attached)



For more information:  
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### Program Funding

To assure residents of South Carolina do not suffer the consequences from being unprepared, it is essential that we continue the Port of Charleston Marine Firefighting Program supported by the FY 2001 General Assembly.

FY 2001 state appropriations of \$100,000 provided for ...

#### Equipment

- Trailer for storage and transportation of equipment
- Portable pumps
- Eductors for de-watering
- Personal flotation devices
- Communication equipment
- Special adapters and nozzles for shipboard firefighting
- Special high expansion foam generators and foam concentrate

*\*\* Note: some items are in the process of being acquired*

#### Training

- Approximately 30 firefighters will receive training at the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration -

Great Lakes Region Fire Training Center in Toledo, Ohio

- Additional firefighter/instructors will receive advanced training at Texas A&M University



Members of the Port of Charleston Marine Firefighting Program are trained to use specialized equipment to battle waterfront and shipboard fires. The continuation of the current program relies on proper funding.



#### BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2002

Requirements needed for FY 2002 total \$288,000

- 24 one-hour Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
- 24 spare one-hour air cylinders
- Metal cutting equipment (oxy-acetylene torches)
- Additional communications equipment
- Additional training for all members and additional instructor training
- Funds for maintenance and rotation of equipment
- Administrative funding

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