

Headlines:

Pacific – car carrier afire and abandoned;
Singapore – prohibited anchoring;
Helicopter in a life-saving role – 3 January 1944; and
MREN – French Frigate Shoals.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Pacific – car carrier afire and abandoned



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that the car carrier Sincerity Ace is experiencing a significant fire in the Pacific Ocean about 1,800 nm northwest of Oahu. Rescue and response efforts are underway. (12/31/18) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/2259414>]. A **second news release** states that the crew has abandoned the vessel, which is adrift and afire. Of the 21 crew, 16 have been rescued, three have been located but remain in the water as they are unresponsive and unable to grab onto lifesaving equipment. Search efforts for the remaining two continue. Commercial tugs have been dispatched and a salvage plan is being formalized. (1/1/19) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/225c1b6>]. A **third news release** states that the search for the remaining crew member has been suspended. Four others have been located but remain in the water as they are unresponsive and unable to react to life-saving equipment. The abandoned vessel is listing to starboard and still on fire. Commercial tugs are enroute. (1/2/19) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/225f708>].

Singapore – prohibited anchoring



The Singapore Maritime and Port Authority (MPA) issued a circular advising that anchoring in all areas outside designated anchorages is strictly prohibited. Offenders may, upon conviction, be liable for fines up to \$20,000 and \$2,000 for every day or part of a day that the offense continues after conviction. **Port Marine Circular 11-2018** (12/27/18)
[<https://www.mpa.gov.sg/web/portal/home/port-of-singapore/circulars-and-notices/detail/d10ad24b-fe26-4f67-9f94-0a9a869b90e1>].

Helicopter in a life-saving role – 3 January 1944



On 3 January 1944, LCDR Frank A. Erickson, USCG, piloted a USCG Sikorsky HNS-1 in the first use of a helicopter in a life-saving role when he flew two cases of blood plasma, lashed to the helicopter's floats, from New York to Sandy Hook to save the lives of some of the badly –injured survivors of the explosion and sinking of the destroyer **USS Turner** (DD-648) off Ambrose Light.

MREN – French Frigate Shoals



In the December 2018 edition of Maritime Reporter and Engineering News, you can find my article entitled "**French Frigate Shoals**". The article discusses the October 2018 loss of East Island, one of the largest in the French Frigate Shoals atoll, to the wind and waves of Hurricane Walaka. The island is not the first to be washed away by rising sea levels and more intense storms, but its loss was one of the most abrupt. The island had housed a US Coast Guard LORAN station for many years and was then replaced by a Fish and Wildlife Service field station. Personnel at the station were evacuated as a precaution just days before the hurricane reeked its havoc. Consider this a canary in the coal mine, warning of future similar losses.

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