



FOUR FISHERMEN RESCUED IN THE AZORES FOLLOWING ALERT FROM OCEAN SIGNAL EPIRB

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Ocean Signal : Four Fishermen Rescued In The Azores Following Alert From Ocean Signal Epirb

Four crew members of a fishing boat which hit rocks off the coast of São Miguel Island in the Azores were successfully rescued after their Ocean Signal EPIRB was activated.

After receiving the distress signal from the Ocean Signal SafeSea E100G device, the Coordination Centre for Maritime Search and Rescue of Ponta Delgada (MRCC Delgada) organised the search and rescue operation

overnight on January 31.

Emergency services, which included the Portuguese Navy and Air Force, located fishing vessel 'Rainha Iemanjá' on rocks in an area inaccessible by land near the village of Ginetes. The four fishermen were also subsequently discovered on the rocks and they were all airlifted by helicopter to hospital in Ponta Delgada suffering from hypothermia.

According to the Portuguese Navy website, the EPIRB transmission from the vessel was received at MRCC Delgada by 2.05am local time. Immediately afterwards, a rescue boat of the Coast Guard was sent to the area as well as Patrol Vessel 'Antonio Enes' of the Portuguese Navy. The Portuguese Air Force deployed a C-295M surveillance aircraft and a Merlin SAR helicopter EH-101. As access to the site was not possible by land or sea, the helicopter waited for enough visibility to carry out the rescue at 7.00am and landed at Ponta Delgada Airport with the survivors at about 8.00am.

An official from the MRCC Delgada told 'Açoriano Oriental' newspaper that the EPIRB alert received from the boat included a distress signal, the name of the vessel and its position. The official also confirmed that the crew members were suffering from hyperthermia but were recovering well thanks to the actions of rescue services.

James Hewitt, Sales and Marketing Manager, Ocean Signal, said: "It is never good to hear that a beacon has had to be activated, however it is great to hear that the crew are all safe as a result of having an Ocean Signal EPIRB on board. It is really important that all vessels are equipped with an EPIRB device with GPS, such as the Ocean Signal E100G involved in this rescue, as it transmits an accurate location to the rescue authorities very quickly."

Used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency at sea, the SafeSea E100G EPIRB has exceptional operational battery life with enough capacity to operate the EPIRB continuously, typically for four whole days, even using the E100G with GPS fix. It features intuitive operating controls and is very easy to use, even in a stressful environment. The E100G is fitted with a 50-channel, integral GPS which improves location accuracy and significantly reduces the time taken for the position to be transmitted to the rescue authorities. Certified for use on vessels registered in many countries across the world, the SafeSea E100G is a Cospas-Sarsat EPIRB operating in the 406MHz satellite band.

A Portuguese Air Force video of the rescue can be viewed here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBxBZsVcuJQ&feature=youtu.be>

For further information on the Ocean Signal SafeSea E100G EPIRB and the full range of products available from Ocean Signal, please go to www.oceansignal.com.

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About Ocean Signal

Communication and safety at sea specialist Ocean Signal™ is dedicated to providing the technology and quality of product that will set industry standards.

Ocean Signal's rescueME range of products, which includes the rescueME PLB1, the rescueME MOB1, the rescueME EPIRB1, the rescueME EDF1 electronic distress flare and AIS Alarm Box, and SafeSea range of GMDSS products, including the E100 and E100G EPIRB, S100 SART and V100 handheld VHF radio, as well as the M100 and M100X professional MSLD, provide both recreational and commercial mariners with simple to use, compact and affordable life-saving solutions. All products are engineered by a highly experienced team of marine electronics professionals.

Ocean Signal products are trusted by high-profile sailors, rowers and powerboat racing teams. By providing vital safety and communication devices, the company has sponsored the 16-man crew of Triton with rescueME MOB1s in the 2015 Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race, record-breaking sailor Andrea Mura in the single-handed OSTAR race, Mini Transat 2015 solo sailor Lizzy Foreman, Atlantic rowing duo Ocean Valour and Venture Cup offshore powerboat race team Cinzano.

Safety and communication products from Ocean Signal offer exceptional value, meeting or exceeding international technical and safety standards. Careful design and innovation provides commercial shipping, fishing and recreational users the confidence that their Ocean Signal equipment will work to, and beyond, their expectations when it is needed most.

For further information on the full range of products available from Ocean Signal, please go to www.oceansignal.com.