



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

## Safety Recommendation

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**Date:** May 28, 2013

**In reply refer to:** M-13-5 and -6

Sarah Branch  
Director of Government Relations  
Offshore Marine Service Association  
935 Gravier Street, Suite 2040  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70112-1657

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The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. The NTSB determines the probable cause of the accidents and issues safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, the NTSB carries out special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinates the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members affected by major transportation disasters. We are providing the following information to urge the Offshore Marine Service Association to take action on the safety recommendations being issued in this letter.

On April 9, 2013, the NTSB adopted its report concerning the September 8, 2011, personnel abandonment of the weather-damaged US liftboat *Trinity II* in hurricane-force conditions in the Bay of Campeche, Mexico.<sup>1</sup> Additional information about this accident and the resulting recommendations may be found in the report of the investigation, which can be accessed at our website, <http://www.nts.gov>, under report number NTSB/MAR-13/01.

As a result of this investigation, the NTSB issued six new recommendations, including two to the US Coast Guard, one to Trinity Liftboat Services and Geokinetics, one to the US Department of State, and the following two recommendations to the Offshore Marine Service Association:

### M-13-5

Inform your members about the circumstances of this accident, and make clear that non-davit-launched liferafts should not be inflated out of the water, especially in high wind conditions, as this may lead to the loss of the liferaft.

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<sup>1</sup> *Personnel Abandonment of Weather-Damaged US Liftboat Trinity II, with Loss of Life, Bay of Campeche, Gulf of Mexico, September 8, 2011*, NTSB/MAR-13/01 (Washington, DC: National Transportation Safety Board, 2013).

M-13-6

Advise your members to ensure that their weather planning takes into account surface low pressure systems, nontropical storms, and vessel operational limitations.

These safety recommendations are derived from the NTSB's investigation and are consistent with the evidence we found and the analysis we performed. Chairman HERSMAN, Vice Chairman HART, and Members SUMWALT, ROSEKIND, and WEENER concurred in these recommendations.

The NTSB is vitally interested in these recommendations because they are designed to prevent accidents and save lives. We would appreciate receiving a response from you within 90 days detailing the actions you have taken or intend to take to implement them. When replying, please refer to the safety recommendations by number. We encourage you to submit your response electronically to [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If it exceeds 10 megabytes, including attachments, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. To avoid confusion, please do not submit both an electronic copy and a hard copy of the same response.

*[Original Signed]*

By: Deborah A.P. Hersman,  
Chairman