



THE SAFEST WAY TO TRAVEL: **PASSENGER SAFETY ON CRUISE SHIPS**

The cruise industry's highest priority is to ensure the safety and security of its passengers and crew. During the past two decades, North American cruise lines have maintained the best safety record in the travel industry while transporting more than 60 million people throughout the world. How do we do this?

A cruise ship is comparable to a secure building with a 24-hour security guard. Since vessels operate in a controlled environment, access can be strictly enforced. Every person onboard, from passengers to crewmembers, is placed on an official manifest and may embark or disembark only after passing through strict security. Operating within a strict legal framework, both federal and state authorities have the right to investigate onboard crimes.

ICCL cruise line members are committed to the safe operation of all cruise vessels in their fleets. The

*U.S. COAST GUARD AND
A SHIP'S OFFICER OVER-
SEEING CREWMEMBERS
PARTICIPATING IN A FIRE
SAFETY DRILL.*

cruise ships and their operating companies comply with International Maritime Organization (IMO) standards governing the operation of cruise vessels worldwide. These internationally mandated standards — treaties adopted by the United States government — govern the design, construction and operation of ocean-going vessels and are codified in the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention. In addition, the ICCL continues to work closely in formal partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to an agreement that was signed in 1997 supporting the common goal of promoting passenger safety. Some of the topics addressed include passenger vessel emergency response, crew training, joint training opportunities, as well as regulatory development, interpretation and implementation.

To ensure compliance with SOLAS, the Coast Guard examines cruise ship construction plans, oversees important aspects of construction and then inspects each new cruise vessel when it first enters service at a U.S. port with follow-up quarterly inspections thereafter. The inspections emphasize fire-fighting systems and equipment, structural fire safety, and proper life-saving equipment. Additionally, Coast Guard personnel monitor fire and abandon ship drills on all ships.





CREWMEMBERS
PARTICIPATING IN
FIREFIGHTING DRILL
MONITORED BY THE
U.S. COAST GUARD

All ICCL member cruise lines make fire prevention and firefighting capability a high priority. All persons employed or engaged on a seagoing ship receive training in basic firefighting procedures such as the use of portable fire extin-

All ICCL cruise lines adhere to a unified industry standard - zero tolerance for crime onboard cruise ships.

U.S. laws protect American passengers onboard non-U.S. flagged cruise ships. The FBI and local authorities have authority to investigate and prosecute alleged crimes in international waters involving Americans.

According to FBI statistics, cruise ships are safer than any town in the United States in terms of crimes of any type.

**THE AVERAGE ICCL CRUISE SHIP
(APPROXIMATELY 86,000 GROSS
REGISTERED TONS) HAS THE FOLLOWING:**

- Five firefighting teams on board
- Over 170 trained personnel to support the fire fighting teams
- Approximately twenty crewmembers with advanced firefighting training (The average town's fire department usually has an average of six firefighters per station.)
- Over 6 miles of firefighting hose
- Over 16 miles of sprinkler piping
- Over 5,000 sprinkler heads onboard in every cabin and room
- Over 500 fire extinguishers
- Over 4,000 smoke detectors
- Local sounding alarms in all cabins
- Over 400 fire stations or hydrants
- Sufficient lifeboats and life rafts for everyone onboard

guishers. Crewmembers specifically assigned to the ship's firefighting teams receive additional specialized training. The average response time in an emergency is a matter of minutes, as members of the trained fire teams and emergency crews and fire equipment lockers are located throughout the ship.

The cruise industry is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for its passengers and crew. We will continue to work with all appropriate federal and state agencies to ensure the safety and well being of all passengers and crew onboard our vessels.



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
OF CRUISE LINES