

Bristow Trinidad answers urgent call with precision rescue

CASE STUDY



CHALLENGE: Rescuing an injured crewman from a ship that is more than 100 miles from shore.

SOLUTION: Bristow is called since it is the only company in the region with winching capabilities that can be used for a rescue mission.

BENEFIT: A well-coordinated team effort resulted in a successful mission and a victim on his way to a full recovery.

An injured crewman on a freighter nearly 140 miles from Trinidad prompted state agency National Helicopters to call in Bristow, the only company in the region with winching capabilities, for a rescue mission.

The Saturday afternoon rescue presented several challenges, including evading thunderstorm activity in the rescue area, getting the ship close enough for Bristow to pick up the injured person and having enough fuel for the return flight. As the ship moved into range, Bristow got busy obtaining permission from BP to use one of their Bell 412s.

SUCCESS AT SEA

With all clearances secured and a doctor on board, the aircraft departed Piarco International Airport for the ship, which at this point was about 100 miles offshore in calm seas and variable winds. The seaman, who had suffered a fall and had internal injuries, was quickly and safely winched into the helicopter.

“It was a well-coordinated team effort maximizing our acquired skills and ensuring safety was never compromised at any time,” Welsh says. Flight Safety Officer Scott Sheppard met the aircraft at the heliport near the local hospital, where the injured man is now expected to make a full recovery.