

## **Best Practice: Fireboat Doubles As A Security Platform**



*Internet Photo, not taken at facility*

**Category:** Perimeter Control

**Location:** Port of Sendai and Nagoya, Japan

**Date Observed:** December, 2004

**WWW:**

[http://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/e/index\\_e.htm](http://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/e/index_e.htm)

**Description:** The Japanese Coast Guard requires a 24 hour fire boat / response vessel presence during loading and unloading operations of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) ships. Some facility operators choose to augment the fireboat with a facility security guard capable of communicating directly with the facility and the Japanese Coast Guard in the event of a security zone violation.

**Discussion:** Deploying a security guard on the fireboat leverages existing resources already required to be on scene for safety purposes and effectively provides an additional waterside security presence. This integration of resources is an effective way to meet a security challenge faced by facilities worldwide to provide effective waterside security. Additionally, the personnel interaction may raise the security awareness of the fireboat crew even when the guard is not aboard the vessel. A facility security exercise could be designed to involve a waterside security threat that evolves into an emergency response operation. This would test the effectiveness of the security presence and ensure good command and control practices are in place.

**Potential Down-side:** Without well defined operating procedures and a clear understanding of responsibility and authority by all parties involved, there could be a delay in responding to an actual safety or security incident.

**Conclusion:** This practice has strong potential to increase communication and enhance safety and security efforts and capabilities. Voluntary implementation should be considered by all applicable facilities.

**Cost:** There may be a need to increase security personnel in some cases, however, equipment expense is nil as the vessel is already required to be underway. There may be a need to make an investment in leadership planning and development of proper procedures.