
SAVED BY A WEATHER SATELLITE

1
00:00:04,140 --> 00:00:08,200
When weather struck…

2
00:00:08,220 --> 00:00:12,240
The Gloria A Dios was violently

3
00:00:12,260 --> 00:00:16,410
rolled over. I was caught by my right

4
00:00:16,430 --> 00:00:20,540
knee and dragged under the surface of the Atlantic.

5
00:00:20,560 --> 00:00:24,630
saw her sail away and leave me there

6
00:00:24,650 --> 00:00:28,660
and I was alone in the dark in the storm.

7
00:00:28,680 --> 00:00:32,800
Two hundred and fifty miles off shore

8
00:00:32,820 --> 00:00:36,860
I could feel the heat just draining out of me.

9
00:00:36,880 --> 00:00:40,910
His only chance for survival, was a signal sent to space just before

10
00:00:40,930 --> 00:00:44,970
he was dragged under water. Denniss'

11
00:00:44,990 --> 00:00:49,140
emergency beacon activated and transmitted a distress signal

12
00:00:49,160 --> 00:00:53,200
riggering a chain reaction into an intricate Search And Rescue

13
00:00:53,220 --> 00:00:57,250

Satellite-Aided Tracking System that has been saving lives since

14
00:00:57,270 --> 00:01:01,310
1982. NASA, NOAA, the U.S.

15
00:01:01,330 --> 00:01:05,350
Air Force, and the U.S. Coast Guard are working together to eliminate

16
00:01:05,370 --> 00:01:09,510
this search, out of search and rescue to reduce the amount of time

17
00:01:09,530 --> 00:01:13,590
to reach victims in distress.

18
00:01:13,610 --> 00:01:17,660
The reality is, is that there've been over twenty seven thousand people saved

19
00:01:17,680 --> 00:01:21,690
by this system, many of which were been done by the GOES satellites.

20
00:01:21,710 --> 00:01:25,820
The GOES weather satellites have the ability to constantly

21
00:01:25,840 --> 00:01:29,890
oversee a large area of the Earth, and send real time

22
00:01:29,910 --> 00:01:34,030
data to users. Every country that can see the GOES satellite is able to pick

23
00:01:34,050 --> 00:01:38,090
up the distress down link. The beacon goes of and sends a

24
00:01:38,110 --> 00:01:42,110
message out to whoever can hear it. A GOES satellite

25
00:01:42,130 --> 00:01:46,180
if it's in view of the beacon will see it and then it'll take

26
00:01:46,200 --> 00:01:50,250
that message and just relay it, repeat it back down to the ground.

27
00:01:50,270 --> 00:01:54,290
The EPIRB I had was an older model, and so it did not

28
00:01:54,310 --> 00:01:58,380
encrypt a GPS location into the signal. If the distress

29
00:01:58,400 --> 00:02:02,420
is from an old beacon, which does not transmit its

30
00:02:02,440 --> 00:02:06,570
own location, then the GOES satellites provide an immediate

31
00:02:06,590 --> 00:02:10,740
alert. Then you wait until the POES satellite

32
00:02:10,760 --> 00:02:14,850
flies over and gives you the location. These beacons

33
00:02:14,870 --> 00:02:18,890
can be encoded with GPS location and that’s

34
00:02:18,910 --> 00:02:23,050
been an advancement over the last fifteen years. This allows us to not

35
00:02:23,070 --> 00:02:27,170
only speed up the rescue coordination effort but

36
00:02:27,190 --> 00:02:32,100
the chances of survival for someone in a distressed environment is pretty significant.

37
00:02:32,120 --> 00:02:36,250
Purchasing and registering a beacon was critical in

38
00:02:36,270 --> 00:02:40,370

saving Deniss' life. That information that's coming from,

39
00:02:40,390 --> 00:02:44,400
directly from the distress beacon to the satellites is the one key link that we have

40
00:02:44,420 --> 00:02:48,540
to actually find out where something is happening and hopefully

41
00:02:48,560 --> 00:02:52,660
again if the beacon is registered, tell us who

42
00:02:52,680 --> 00:02:56,700
that beacon belongs to. Technology developed by NASA

43
00:02:56,720 --> 00:03:00,740
and operated by NOAA led to a quick coast guard response

44
00:03:00,760 --> 00:03:04,880
and a challenging navy rescue. That diver came

45
00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:09,000
down in there navy, U.S. Navy. He came down into that storm

46
00:03:09,020 --> 00:03:13,090
for me, that is the bravest thing I've ever seen

47
00:03:13,110 --> 00:03:17,100
anybody do in my life. The helicopter took me to the deck of the Eisenhower;

48
00:03:17,120 --> 00:03:21,250
I'd been cold and wet for four days, didn't have any

49
00:03:21,270 --> 00:03:25,350
shoes but I was sure glad to be there. People

50
00:03:25,370 --> 00:03:29,400
take for granted the risks the rescue personnel,

51
00:03:29,420 --> 00:03:33,560
so anything we can do to minimize the area that they have to cover,

52
00:03:33,580 --> 00:03:37,680
the amount of hours they have to fly, is better for them.

53
00:03:37,700 --> 00:03:41,710
A new system called the Distress Alerting Satellite

54
00:03:41,730 --> 00:03:45,750
System or DASS is currently being tested successfully

55
00:03:45,770 --> 00:03:49,880
at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland. The

56
00:03:49,900 --> 00:03:53,960
Distress Alerting System will carry a search and rescue

57
00:03:53,980 --> 00:03:58,020
repeater on a complete constellation of satellites.

58
00:03:58,040 --> 00:04:02,180
In the case that the GPS system that means twenty-four satellites

59
00:04:02,200 --> 00:04:06,290
will be lessening for victims all over the surface of

60
00:04:06,310 --> 00:04:10,360
the Earth. With the new system the information that we get will be quicker,

61
00:04:10,380 --> 00:04:14,470
it will be more accurate from the instant that there is a distress