

# HOW DO DISASTERS DRIVE MARITIME LAW?

## THE TITANIC AND SOLAS





**OVER**

**1,500**

**PEOPLE DIED WHEN THE TITANIC SANK  
AFTER STRIKING AN ICEBERG**

**LARGELY BECAUSE THE SHIP CARRIED  
INSUFFICIENT LIFEBOATS AND NEARBY  
VESSELS FAILED TO RESPOND  
TO DISTRESS SIGNALS.**

**THE DISASTER PROMPTED THE FIRST  
SOLAS CONVENTION**

**IN 1914**



**ESTABLISHING:**

- **MANDATORY LIFEBOAT REQUIREMENTS FOR PASSENGER SHIPS**
- **CONTINUOUS 24-HOUR RADIO WATCH OBLIGATIONS**
- **CREATION OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ICE PATROL TO MONITOR ICEBERG RISK**

**THE CURRENT VERSION WAS SIGNED**

**IN 1974**

**AND IS REGULARLY AMENDED TO KEEP  
PACE WITH DEVELOPMENTS IN MARITIME  
PRACTICE AND TECHNOLOGY**

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