

Mobilize Helps Captain and Crew Control Severe Bleeding



Alfredo Cortes is a seasoned seaman with advanced medical training and years of experience captaining private motor yachts. His safety record is outstanding. At the 2022 Miami Boat Show he was introduced to the Mobilize™ Rescue app and trauma kits. At the time, he had no idea how important they would turn out to be to him and his crew.

Responsive and prepared

Captain Cortes believes it's important to support his crew's career goals, ensure their overall preparedness, and maintain a customer-oriented attitude. He empowers his crew with tools that bridge gaps in training and calm nerves during stressful events.

Although not in the market for a first aid kit, Captain Cortes saw the Mobilize Rescue app and kits at the boat show and realized they could provide his crew with needed medical guidance during an emergency.

"One of the challenges I was looking to solve was that while I have medical training and a large kit on board, I am the only one who knows how to use the equipment. However, with full responsibility for

flybridge activities and leadership of the crew, navigational duties typically preclude the ship's captain from administering medical care," Cortes says.

Cortes was impressed with how the Mobilize app paired just-in-time (JiT) medical instructions with clearly labeled medical supplies available in emergency trauma kits of varying sizes. "Mobilize [offers] a cool app with step-by-step instructions that pretty much anybody can follow," Cortes explains. He chose Mobilize to help his crew respond to:



Hypothermia



Injuries from impaled objects



Major bleeding



Choking



Allergic reactions

Unexpected turn of events

During a charter in Biscayne Bay, Captain Cortes was readying his vessel to return to its berth near Rivo Alto Island, near Miami Beach, Florida.

"It was our first trip after COVID and we had a new first mate on board with no prior familiarity with this ship," Cortes recalls. "As we prepared the boat to return after a fun day at sea, I faced away from the swivel gate securing the platform, while putting up fenders. Turning around, I expected the metal bridge to be closed, when in fact it was open. As I moved forward, my foot fell into the resulting gap. My body moved forward but my leg did not."

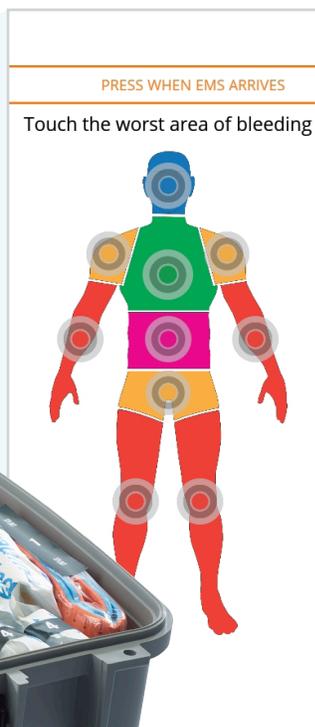
Captain Cortes suffered a serious injury to his leg that began bleeding profusely and was so painful that he wondered if he'd hit an artery.

Just-in-time response

First and foremost, a captain's responsibility is to his passengers and the vessel. So, despite massive bleeding, Captain Cortes decided to continue on his course, navigating back to the berth.

He instructed his crew to retrieve the Mobilize Comprehensive medical trauma kit to try to quickly control the bleeding.

First mate Tarryn went to retrieve the Mobilize Comprehensive kit, while the rest of the crew moved Cortes to the platform to flush his wound with saltwater. The wound continued to bleed profusely, and the pain intensified. When Tarryn returned with the kit in hand, the crew had no trouble following the JiT instructions in the Mobilize Rescue app on the tablet in the lid of the trauma kit. Guided by their answers to the app's



Captain Cortes' serious leg injury

prompts, they applied a tourniquet and properly dressed the wound, controlling the bleeding and allowing Cortes to continue to fulfill his responsibilities.

The crew's success supports findings in the *Academic Emergency Medicine* journal that indicate lay responders with JiT instructions are twice as effective in applying tourniquets as those without instruction.¹ According to the report, participants with JiT instructions successfully placed a tourniquet 44.14% of the time, while a control group without JiT instructions was successful only 20.41% of the time.

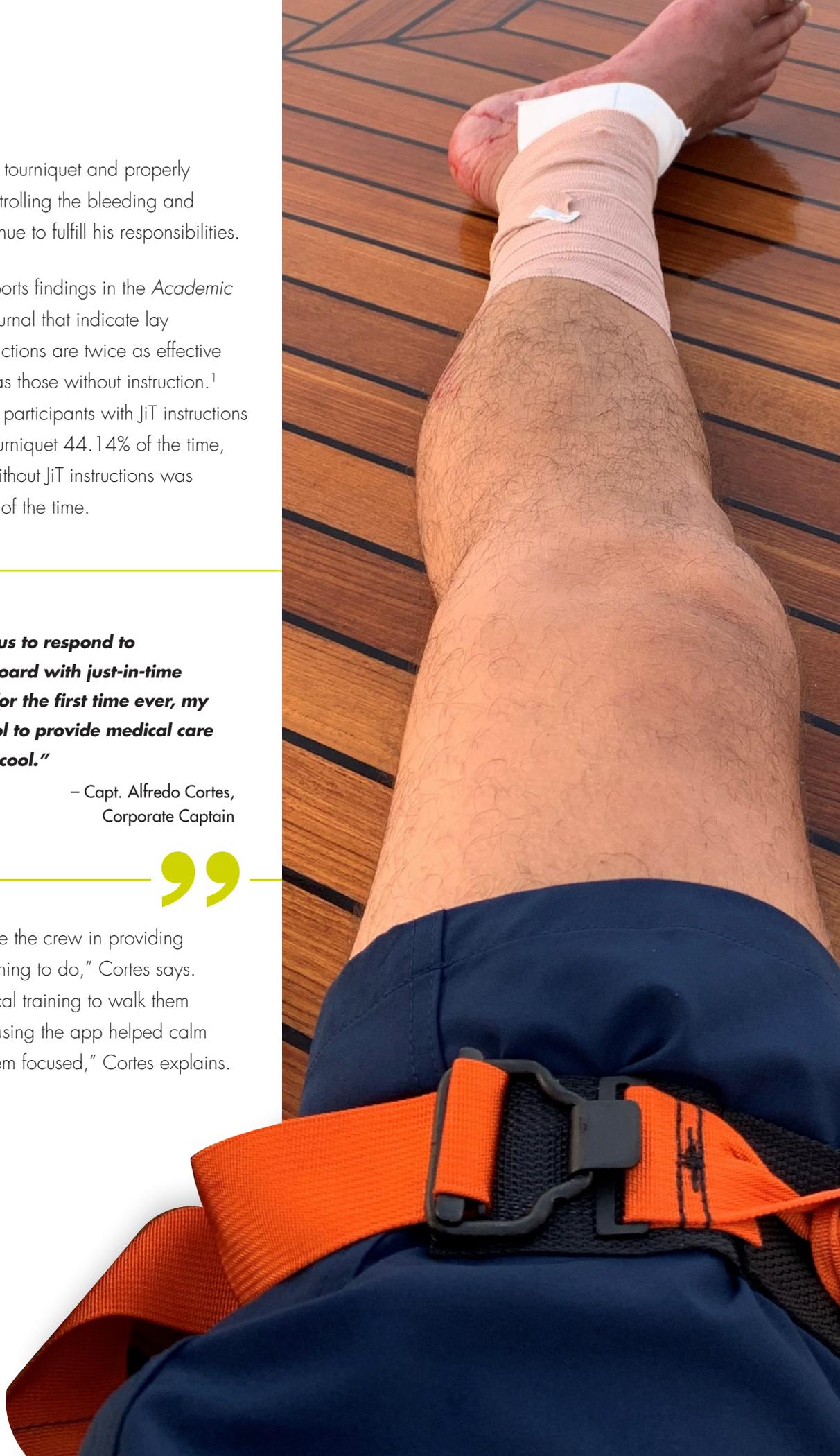
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“Mobilize allows us to respond to emergencies on board with just-in-time instruction. And, for the first time ever, my crew used this tool to provide medical care for me. It's pretty cool.”

– Capt. Alfredo Cortes,
Corporate Captain

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“Using Mobilize to guide the crew in providing treatment was the right thing to do,” Cortes says. “While I have the medical training to walk them through their response, using the app helped calm their nerves and kept them focused,” Cortes explains.





Desired outcome

With the Mobilize app onboard, the crew had the instructions necessary to provide urgent care. Captain Cortes navigated back to berth and returned his passengers safely to their destination before seeking medical attention.

“The accident happened around 6:45 p.m., as we were stowing toys from a fun day on the water,” says Cortes. “It took almost three hours to reach the emergency room, where I was treated with ablation and mended with stitches. In the ER they asked why it took so long for me to go in, but my full responsibility was to the ship, the passengers, and the crew. While it would have been best to get quicker medical care, it’s not always possible at sea. I believe that the Mobilize kit — and especially the instructional app — is what made the difference.”

Captain Cortes’s emphasis on training and safety proved pivotal to his crew’s success treating his wound. “There was a lot of blood. A lot of blood.

There was a lot of screaming and shouting aboard. It wasn’t a pretty sight. But my crew did great. Mobilize allows us to respond to emergencies onboard with JiT instruction. And, for the first time ever, my crew used this tool to provide medical care for me. It’s pretty cool.”

Captain Cortes believes the Mobilize app and trauma kit are vital pieces of safety equipment on any ship. He wasted no time replenishing the kit’s supplies so it’s ready for any future emergencies onboard.

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¹ Goolsby C, et al. *Acad Emerg Med*. 2015 Sep;22(9):1113–7. doi: 10.1111/acem.12742. Epub 2015 Aug 20. PMID: 26302453.

