



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

**Issue 185 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2009**

Email [info@spillcontrol.org](mailto:info@spillcontrol.org) Web <http://www.spillcontrol.org>

## **IOPC FUNDS: NEW RATIFICATIONS**

The Syrian Arab Republic will join the 1992 Fund with effect from 24 April 2010 and the Islamic Republic of Iran will join the 1992 Fund with effect from 5 November 2009.

## **EMSA RELEASES MARITIME ACCIDENT REVIEW 2008**

16 JUNE 2009 - Today, coinciding with the official opening of its headquarters in Lisbon, the Lisbon-based European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) releases its second annual Maritime Accident Review. This year's issue of the review, which covers the year 2008, show that 754 vessels were involved in 670 accidents (sinkings, collisions, groundings, fires/explosions and other significant accidents) in and around EU waters during 2008. This compares with 762 vessels involved in 715 accidents in 2007, and 535 vessels involved in 505 accidents during 2006. In 2008, 82 seafarers are reported to have lost their lives on ships operating in and around EU waters, the same figure as in 2007, yet up from 76 in 2006.

Other key findings in the review are that, although accidental pollution has substantially decreased in recent years, loss of life, and the number and cost of accidents remain significantly higher than 3-5 years ago. Deliberate pollution also remains at high levels. In addition, while an overall decrease in accidents was reported in comparison to 2007, monthly patterns reveal that the lower 2008 toll is explained by a slump in maritime traffic in December, attributable to the economic downturn.

You can read the complete text of the EMSA press release at -  
[https://extranet.emsa.europa.eu/index.php?option=com\\_docman&task=cat\\_view&qid=143&Itemid=193](https://extranet.emsa.europa.eu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&qid=143&Itemid=193)

## **UK: BRIAN WEBB - FORMER DIRECTOR AND SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH OIL SPILL CONTROL ASSOCIATION (BOSCA)**

We are saddened to have recently heard of the death of Brian Webb, who served for many years as a director and the secretary of BOSCA. Brian died on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

He will be sadly missed by his family and many friends and colleagues. Brian was a true gentleman who was well liked and greatly respected by all who knew him over his many years with BOSCA.

## **VIETNAM, VUNG TAU, JUNE 18 2009. OIL TANKER EXPLOSION LEAVES THREE MISSING IN VIETNAM**

An oil tanker exploded and sank early Wednesday at a port in southern Vietnam, leaving three crew members missing, state media reported. Vietnam News Agency said that just after 2 am (1900 GMT), a series of explosions occurred on board the 1,800-ton tanker *Nhat Thuan* while it anchored some 6 kilometers off the harbour of Vung Tau. The ship had been scheduled to dock at 10 am.



Crew members said the tanker sank 30 minutes after it was hit by three large explosions.

The ship's captain told the website VnExpress.com that the tanker, with a crew of 15, was carrying 1.8 million liters of crude oil and 10,000 liters of diesel. The captain said the three missing crew members were caught by an explosion as they attempted to hoist the ship's anchors and were thrown into the water. The other 12 crew members had already put on life jackets and abandoned ship. Provincial authorities have reportedly sent forces to prevent the oil slick from spreading. [http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=16757](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=16757) [Thanks to Don Johnston of DG & Hazmat Group for forwarding this report and link]

## **USA: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: FINDINGS FROM CSB ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has released a [new safety video](#) showing the need for emergency response agencies, companies, and communities to work closely together to prepare for the kinds of tragic chemical accidents the CSB has investigated over the past decade.

The new video, entitled "Emergency Preparedness: Findings from CSB Accident Investigations," uses computer animations, interviews, and news footage to depict a series of chemical accidents that illustrate the need for effective training, communications, and community planning. In some incidents, firefighters and police were overcome by toxic chemicals and forced to retreat from neighborhoods; in others, firefighters and workers were tragically killed and others injured. The video is available online at [www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov), [www.safetyvideos.gov](http://www.safetyvideos.gov), and YouTube. It can be ordered on a new two-DVD set of all CSB safety videos by filling out the request form at [www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov). [Thanks to Don Johnston of DG & Hazmat Group for passing on this information].

## **COURT ORDERS EXXON TO PAY \$507.5 MLN FOR 1989 SPILL**

A US federal appeals court ordered Exxon Mobil Corp. to pay 507.5 million dollars in punitive damages plus interest for the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill off Alaska.

The ruling by the ninth US Court of Appeals in Pasadena, California was consistent with the figure suggested by the Supreme Court last year. It also awarded plaintiffs 5.9 percent interest starting from the date of the original trial judgment in September 1996.

The cumulative amount of the interest payments could nearly double the 507.5-million-dollar fine.

But the figure is still a small fraction of the five billion dollars in damages Alaska natives, fishermen, business owners and others had originally been awarded by a jury in 1996. That amount was later reduced following appeals by Exxon, which is based in Irving, Texas.

"In this case, neither side is a clear winner," the court said in its ruling. Read more at - <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jCq5wlvBxb1O7N-2dTha9PKLVvcw>

## **USA: SENATE ENERGY BILL UPDATE**

Leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee are looking to wrap up work on energy legislation this week, trying to keep intact a compromise that will be tested when the bill reaches the Senate floor.

Two amendments that Senator Maria Cantwell, (D-Washington), might offer to curtail oil and gas production in Senator Lisa Murkowski's (R-Alaska) home state of Alaska could be very problematic. Senator Murkowski is the ranking Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. One Cantwell amendment would require determination that the United States has the capability of cleaning up a major oil spill in Arctic and icy waters before drilling could occur there. Murkowski said it is an "effort to stop most certainly offshore drilling ... and quite possibly onshore." A second Cantwell amendment would require the Interior Department to minimize the amount of pollutants discharged from oil and gas drilling offshore. Read more <http://www.rotor.com/Default.aspx?tabid=510&newsid905=61628>

## **USA: SPCC COMPLIANCE DATE AMENDMENT**

On June 19, 2009, EPA published in the *Federal Register* a SPCC compliance date extension for all facilities until **November 10, 2010**. Facilities must amend or prepare, and implement SPCC Plans by the compliance date in accordance with revisions to the SPCC rule promulgated since 2002. Farms must also amend or prepare their SPCC Plans, and implement those Plans by the same date. <http://www.epa.gov:80/emergencies/content/spcc/index.htm> [Thanks to Hazmat 101 Group for passing on this advice]

## **UK: SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH FOR INNOVATIVE NEW ULTRACOMPACT OCEANSENSE PIPELINE LEAK DETECTION SYSTEM**

Aberdeen based OceanTools recently launched an advanced and innovative subsea leak detection system, the OceanSENSE, based on high intensity LEDs and photo-multipliers packaged into a very compact ROV-mounted or diver-held unit.

A major oil company had a small leak of hydraulic fluid in an offshore wellhead control system. OceanTools were asked to mobilise the OceanSENSE detection system and an offshore engineer to try to find the leak. The system was offshore and on the job within 24 hours and was deployed via a small ROV. The OceanSENSE performed flawlessly and the source of the leak was detected within just a few minutes. The oil company was particularly impressed with the system and have provisionally awarded OceanTools further leak detection work.

For additional information please contact Kevin Parker [kevin@oceantools.eu](mailto:kevin@oceantools.eu) or visit the OceanTools website [www.oceantools.eu](http://www.oceantools.eu) [Thanks to Versha Carter of Intelligent Exhibitions for sending this item]

## **INDIA: OTBL AND OIL INDIA LIMITED COLLABORATE TO USE TERI DEVELOPED "OILZAPPER TECHNOLOGY" IN ASSAM TO TREAT HAZARDOUS OIL SPILL AND SLUDGE**

The environment impacts of crude oil are well known and with the increasing awareness as well as stringent statutory regulations, it is imperative to look in to safe and economic solutions in managing, treatment and disposal of these hazardous wastes. TERI with the support from Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, has developed a bacterial product known as 'Oilzapper' to clean up oil spills and treats hazardous oily sludge generated unavoidably by Oil Industry. Oil India has taken a lead to clean up the oil spills in Assam and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ONGC TERI Biotech Limited (OTBL), a joint venture company between ONGC and TERI. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. R.K. Pachauri, Director- General TERI, Mr. N.M. Borah, CMD, Oil India Limited along with board members of OTBL, TERI, Oil India Ltd and ONGC.

While signing the MoU, Dr. R.K. Pachauri, said, "TERI as a research organisation emphasises on practical solutions for the serious problems of energy, environment and sustainable development that the country and world at large are facing. It is therefore, of considerable satisfaction and significance that TERI has joined hands with ONGC in forming OTBL joint venture and is signing a MoU with Oil India for tackling problems of oil spills and oil sludge in an environment friendly way" Read more at: <http://www.businesswireindia.com/PressRelease.asp?b2mid=19234>

## **NIGERIA: ACL ACQUIRES FOUR NEW VESSELS TO TACKLE MARINE POLLUTION**

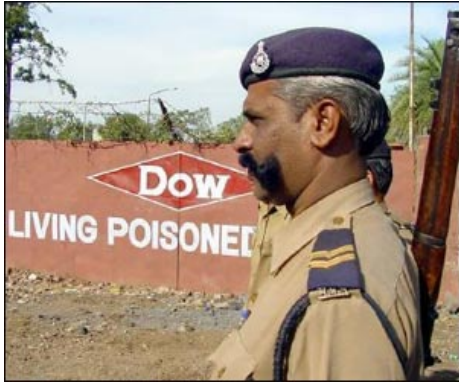
African Circle Limited, a marine waste management firm has acquired four new vessels to tackle pollution and other marine waste in the nation's coastal waters in line with the International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) objectives of safer and cleaner water for shipping activities.

The vessels which arrived Nigeria last week from Istanbul Turkey and sighted by Vanguard are christened (Marpol Reception Vessel) MRV ETYPOU, MRV BICS, and MRV MAIZUBE are also to be deployed to the Lagos ports area.

Speaking to Vanguard on the forthcoming technical commissioning of the vessels, the consultant to the Nigerian pollution control project Captain Suleiman Bayee told Vanguard that the vessels are multi-functional pollution control vessels as they not only mop up oil spills, but also pick up waste from the water surface and have fire fighting facilities built into them.

Two of the 120 tonnes vessels, according to Bayee have capacity to take 480,000 litres of oily waste, while the two smaller ones can take 240,000 litre of waste. Read more: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2009/06/17/acl-acquires-four-new-vessels-to-tackle-marine-pollution/>

## INDIA: US LAWMAKERS ASK DOW TO CLEAN UP BHOPAL



*A policeman on guard outside the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal*

As many as 27 US lawmakers have asked Dow Chemical Company, which now owns Union Carbide, to immediately take steps towards providing medical and economic rehabilitation to victims of Bhopal gas tragedy.

"We request that Dow ensures that a representative appear in the ongoing legal cases in India regarding Bhopal, that Dow meets the demands of the survivors for medical and economic rehabilitation, and cleans up the soil and groundwater contamination in and

around the factory site," the lawmakers said in a letter to Andrew Liveris, the Dow Chairman and CEO.

The letter endorsed the survivors' demands for remediation, as put forth by the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal (ICJB), chiefly that Dow provide medical and economic rehabilitation and clean up the factory and groundwater contamination. <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/us-lawmakers-ask-dow-to-clean-up-bhopal/478293/0>

## CANADA AMENDS 'DANGEROUS GOODS' ACT TO PREVENT HAZ-MAT ACCIDENTS

On Tuesday (last week), Canada enacted an amendment to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act of 1992 that requires railroads and other modes to develop and maintain pre-approved Emergency Response Assistance Plans to prevent accidents involving hazardous materials.

The amendment also mandates security plans and training, and requires that "dangerous goods" be tracked during transport and reported if stolen or lost.

"Raising standards for the secure transport of dangerous goods is yet another great success in this government's commitment to making our communities safer," said Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan in a prepared statement. "We are ... building a dangerous goods response program that improves our capacity to prevent accidents that can threaten the safety of the public."

Transport Canada will consult with the transportation industry, first responders, public, and provincial and territorial governments while the agency develops regulations to support its new authorities under the amendment. [Thanks to Tim Butters of DG & Hazmat Group] Read more at - <http://www.progressiverailroading.com:80/news/article.asp?id=20671>

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate, unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter.