



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 189 20th July, 2009

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ISCO: NEW MATERIAL ON SUB-SEA OIL RECOVERY UPLOADED ON WEBSITE

ISCO Members who have registered at <http://www.spillcontrol.org> and had their access to the Members' Area enabled (usually done within 48 hours of registration) can access new information on subsea oil recovery. Simply log in and go to IMO>Work Groups>Subsea Oil

UK: DEPT. FOR TRANSPORT LAUNCHES DANGEROUS GOODS DATABASE

If you transport dangerous goods by road, you need to comply with the relevant requirements laid down in the European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous goods by Road (known as ADR) for the specific substance you want to transport. In order to quickly find where in the legislation you need to look for these requirements, you can use the dangerous goods database.

The database (which will be further developed over the coming months to provide greater functionality) is aimed at making it easier for people who transport dangerous goods to find out what they need to do to ensure they move their goods safely, securely and in compliance with the legislation. <http://www.dft.gov.uk:80/dangerous-goods-database/>

RUSSIAN SCIENTIST HELPS ELIMINATE TOXIC LEGACY IN FORMER SOVIET UNION

When the Soviet Union broke up two decades ago, many former Soviet countries lacked an environmental movement. Russian scientist Olga Speranskaya started researching the harmful effects that huge stockpiles of abandoned industrial chemicals were having in her own country. Her push to inform the public about the dangers of toxic chemicals led to the creation of a powerful environmental advocacy network in 11 former Soviet states.



Searching for an answer, Speranskaya began gathering scientific data on toxic wastes in agricultural and industrialized cities in Russia, Kazakhstan, Georgia and Azerbaijan. "We found out that we really do have severe problems associated with obsolete pesticide stockpiles and other wastes, chemical waste, toxic waste in the country," Speranskaya said.

Throughout Eastern Europe and Central Asia there are poor agricultural communities, where dilapidated and abandoned warehouses sit with stockpiles of pesticides and chemicals exposed. Read more at: <http://www.voanews.com/english/2009-07-01-voa55.cfm>

UK: IVORY COAST POISON CLAIMANTS WIN FIRST SKIRMISH IN TRAFIGURA LAWSUIT

July 12, 2009 - An unprecedented battle began in a British court today seeking damages for 30,000 French-speaking Africans, in one of the world's biggest cases of alleged mass-poisoning through environmental pollution. Lawyers for the international oil trader Trafigura failed in its initial attempts to exclude many witnesses from the trial over alleged toxic-waste dumping by the company. The witnesses include doctors and emergency staff present when thousands of inhabitants of the Ivory Coast flooded local hospitals in 2006 saying they were being poisoned by fumes from 400 tonnes of chemical waste that had allegedly been tipped on to local dumps. Mr Justice Macduff ruled that witnesses could testify from Amsterdam, where Trafigura faces prosecution over earlier attempts to dump

the same waste, and from Tunisia and Norway, where efforts to treat Trafigura's foul-smelling waste led to other accidents and protests.

Trafigura's counsel, Edwin Glasgow QC, used today's public hearing in Manchester to attack some of the 30,000 claimants' motives. He said legal agents in Abidjan, capital of the Ivory Coast, stood to gain 3% of the damages for rounding up allegedly injured people. He said some of their symptoms had been exaggerated and local medical records were unreliable. The approach to the case had been, he suggested, one of "never mind the quality, feel the width". Denying that Trafigura had been unfairly trying to exclude witnesses or to use its 1,000 pages of scientific evidence to "blind with science", he said: "There has been a huge amount of orchestrated publicity and huge criticism of my clients." He told the court: "This is the largest and most difficult case of its kind." The Africans are able to bring the lawsuit in Britain as a group action, with 22 sample "lead claimants" flying over from west Africa, because Trafigura, the world's third-biggest independent oil trader has its operations base in London.

The judge said the case would be a battle of scientific experts about the cause of the alleged poisoning. Both sides have assembled rival teams of toxicologists, chemists, tropical medicine experts and even psychiatrists, while teams of lawyers and barristers have shuttled back and forth to the Ivory Coast. The trial is due to last at least three months from the start of the full trial in London in October.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/jul/10/ivory-coast-trafigura-oil-lawsuit> [Thanks to Don Johnson of DG & Hazmat Group]

HIGH-LEVEL FORUM STRESSES NEED TO TACKLE RADIOACTIVE WASTE IN CENTRAL ASIA

A high-level forum organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) wrapped up in Geneva this week with the adoption of a joint declaration stressing the need to tackle the challenge of radioactive waste in Central Asia. The meeting brought together over 100 representatives from the region, international organizations, donors and others to discuss the problems associated with the uranium tailing deposits – left over from mining during the Cold War in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan – which contain more than 800 million tons of radioactive and toxic waste.

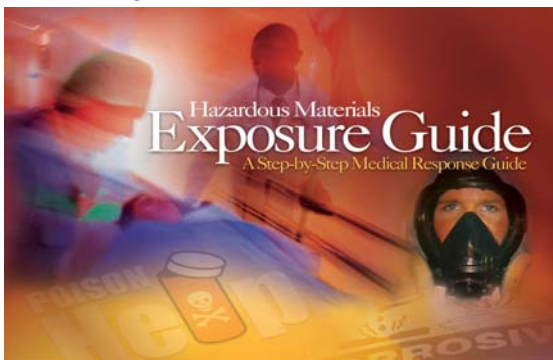
These countries have not been able to deal with the problem adequately due to lack of resources and capacity.

UNDP Administrator Helen Clark said the legacy of nuclear waste and related environmental management issues has a direct impact on human development in the region.

"As most of the uranium tailing sites are located in densely populated and natural-disaster prone areas of Central Asia's largest river basins, they represent a major potential risk to the region's water supply and the health of millions of people," she said in a statement to the forum. <http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultteachpressrelease.aspx?cid=21694&codi=53961>

USA: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS EXPOSURE GUIDE

This is a step-by-step medical response guide produced by the Minnesota Department of Health. Agents covered include chemical asphyxiants, simple asphyxiants, cholinergics, corrosives, hydrocarbons and halogenated hydrocarbons, and irritant gases.



The Hazardous Materials Exposure Guide can be downloaded at -

<http://156.98.150.11/divs/phl/labep/hazmat/hazmatguide.PDF>

[Thanks to - Gregory T Banner, MS, CEM Regional Emergency Coordinator, Region I (New England) US Department of Health and Human Services Boston, Massachusetts – for passing on this information

NAMIBIA: ENDANGERED AFRICAN PENGUINS STRUGGLE DUE TO OIL SPILLS

Oil spills around the world lead to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of marine animals and birds each year. But a recent emergency intervention by two neighbouring countries led to the rescue of more than a hundred of one of the world's most vulnerable species - the African Penguin.

The internationally recognised seabird rehabilitator, SANCCOB (South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds) mobilised its team of experts and volunteers following a plea for help from the Namibian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. Neatly queuing like school children in the assembly line these charismatic animals are waiting to receive life saving medicines and nutrition. They owe their lives to SANCCOB who responded to a call for help from the Namibian government when it found 129 African penguins that had hit an oil slick off the coast of Luderitz. The source of the slick is unknown. Read more: <http://www.3news.co.nz/News/InternationalNews/Endangered-African-Penguins-struggle-due-to-oil-spills/tabid/417/articleID/112030/cat/61/Default.aspx> [Thanks to Don Johnson of DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: ETHANOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition has released the latest version of its Complete Training Guide for Ethanol Emergency Response. The guide includes videos, an instructor's guide and interactive workshops focusing on specific areas of ethanol emergency response.

"We are proud of the collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders in the EERC to make this resource available," Renewable Fuels Association Technical Director Kristy Moore said. "Preventing just one injury makes all the resources invested in this effort worthwhile." Members of the coalition include the RFA, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Liquid Terminals Association, Ansul Fire Protection, Industrial Fire World and Williams Fire Hazard Control.

The EERC has been distributing ethanol emergency response training guides annually since 2007 and adds new items of information each year. Moore said future plans for the emergency response tool kit include information on spill clean-up and specific considerations for communities that have an ethanol facility located within their response territory. "Ethanol has become an integral component of America's fuel supply," she said. "As such, transportation of this renewable fuel has become more frequent throughout the United States. Despite all efforts to prevent accidents, there is the possibility of one happening, and it is essential that the first responders act immediately to the ethanol emergency incident as fully prepared as possible to deal with the situation."

The recent Canadian National train derailment near Rockford, Ill., that involved 14 ethanol-filled rail cars was a tragic example of how dangerous an ethanol incident can be. However, Moore said extensive ethanol-specific training helped the coordinated firefighting efforts of emergency responders. "Illinois has had prolific ethanol blending for more than 20 years. The resources that were available for the Rockford incident can be attributed to the fact that Illinois emergency responders have been preparing for ethanol incidents for years."

Copies of the EERC's latest training package will be distributed to FRA members and the emergency response community free of charge, according to Moore. The package is also available at no charge at www.ethanolresponse.com. [Thanks to Don Johnson of DG & Hazmat Group] Source: http://ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=5839

USA: O'BRIEN'S RESPONSE MANAGEMENT DESIGNS AND CONDUCTS SECURITY EXERCISE FOR CUMBERLAND COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

O'Brien's Response Management Inc.(O'Brien'sRM), a global provider of environmental compliance, emergency preparedness, response management, disaster services and crisis management for numerous industry sectors and government agencies, recently concluded a Homeland Security exercise for Cumberland County, New Jersey.

The June 25, 2009 exercise was a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) field exercise designed and facilitated by O'Brien'sRM on behalf of New Jersey's Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management. Held in Millville, NJ, this exercise focused primarily on preparing emergency responders to effectively respond to terrorist incidents.

For more information, contact Tim O'Leary at mediarelations@obriensrm.com

TECHNOLOGY: OIL-IN-WATER MONITOR

The HydroSense 3410 offers a high accuracy approach to monitoring low concentrations of free and soluble oils in water.

- Fluorescence technology is selective to ppm levels of petroleum hydrocarbons by targeting their aromatic fraction
- Continuous on-line monitoring without chemicals or lag time
- Internal ultrasonic pad helps keep the flow-through sample cell clean to reduce contamination error



More info: http://www.arjayeng.com/pdf_brochures/HydroSense_3410_ss06.pdf

TECHNOLOGY: NEW PORTABLE MEDICAL WASTE INCINERATOR



Here is some information that may be of interest to HNS handlers who have to deal with the disposal of certain types of specialized wastes.

Elastec / American Marine manufactures portable incinerators. The MediBurn has been supplied to clinics, hospitals and the military in over 40 countries around the world. The new MediBurn30 has been in development for nearly 3 years. We took the basic design of the original MediBurn and made the chambers larger to give the unit more capacity per burn cycle. Next, we added under-air technology and modulating burners which make the unit burn more efficiently, reducing the amount of fuel needed per cycle. We also added safety features such as a door lock and door sensor to prevent accidents during operation of the unit. Finally, we redesigned the electronics suite (the "brains" of the unit) that controls everything. We made them much more complicated behind the scenes so that they will control all the new systems on the unit but were very careful to retain the "simple-to-operate and maintain" features that have made the original MediBurn popular with militaries, NGOs and governments around the world. We also threw in a multi-lingual user interface to keep up with our customer's requests and feel we have made the MediBurn30 the unit to have in small batch medical waste incinerators. Weighing in at 2,440lbs (2,900lbs packaged), the unit is still very mobile and still able to be shipped via ocean or air freight to locations around the world. As with the original, the MediBurn30 is ready for use upon delivery.

More info – Contact Sharon Price at sprice@elastec.com or click on <http://www.elastec.com:80/incineraA.html>

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.