



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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FORTHCOMING IMO MEETINGS

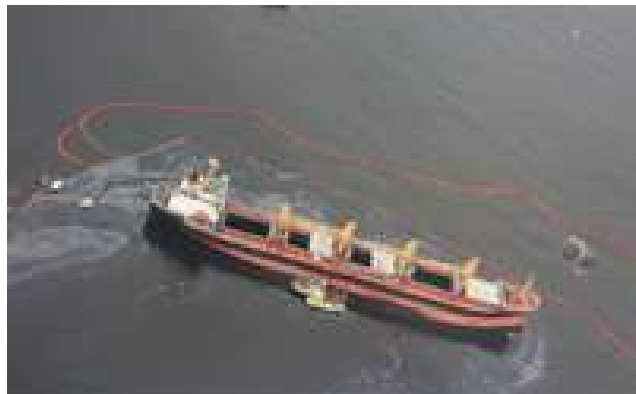
Council, 25th Extraordinary Meeting: 19-20 November, 2009

Assembly 26: 23 November – 4 December, 2009

Council 103: 4 December, 2009

NORWAY: OIL SPILL RECOVERY - MV "FULL CITY"

The bulk cargo carrier "Full City" grounded July 31st at 00:23 local time close to the town of Langesund in Telemark, Norway. MV "Full City" had an estimated 1000 tons of heavy bunker oil (IF 180) and approximately 120 tons of marine diesel oil on board and was in ballast condition when grounding.



As of Wednesday Aug 5 a total of 212 tons of oil emulsions had been recovered.

Aerial observation indicates that little oil now remains on the sea outside the shoreline. Occurrence of floating oil is now mainly found in the area Risør to Kragerø, but volumes are small.



Approximately 30 vessels and 500 personnel are participating in the oil spill recovery. The Norwegian Coastal Authority has allocated a total of 10.2 km of oil containment boom. The IUA is also participating with collection equipment.

Oil pollution of the shoreline is observed from Grimstad to west of Larvikfjorden in the east.

A beach cleanup team has been tasked with mapping oil pollution on the shoreline and compiling plans for the cleaning effort. This indicates a transition from an acute phase into a cleaning up phase. Up to now between 60 and 70 instances of shoreline pollution have been reported, but this is expected to increase as the mapping progresses.

USA, TEXAS: BRYAN CHEMICAL FIRE: 72,000 EVACUATED



A fire at the El Dorado Chemical Company has forced at least 72,000 residents of a town near it to be evacuated. The town (Bryan) is 160 km from Houston, towards the northwest of it. The authorities had to take the decision of evacuating as a thick mass of toxic smoke had formed over the town. It has been reported though, that no 'serious injuries' have occurred due to the fire in the chemical factory; but the authorities did not want to take any chances. In fact the officials pointed out that the ammonium nitrate which was inside the factory was evolving as source of concern as people had started feeling burning sensations in their eyes and ears. Around ten people had to be hospitalized as they had complained about "respiratory problems". Evacuations of this scale are always tough to handle but to the credit of the city authorities they have been able to do it in seamless manner.

[Thanks to Don Johnston of DG & Hazmat Group for passing on this news item.] Read the full report at: http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/world/bryan-chemical-fire-72000-evacuated_100225712.html

MALTA: PORTS DIRECTORATE RESTRUCTURING AND APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF POLLUTION AND INCIDENT RESPONSE

In the picture: Captain Richard Gabriele, Head of Pollution and Incident Response

The Malta Maritime Authority (MMA), which was recently confirmed as the National Competent Authority for marine pollution matters in Malta, has announced a restructuring of the Ports Directorate.

Former MMA Harbour Master, Captain Richard Gabriele, CMILT, FNI, has been appointed to a newly created position – Head of Pollution and Incident Response.

As such, he is now responsible for Malta's marine pollution response preparedness and will head up a new National Response Unit. The new appointment reflects the importance being attached by the government to ensuring the highest level of response preparedness. Malta is close to the main shipping lanes through the Mediterranean used by an increasing density of traffic carrying oil and HNS cargo.

The Response Unit, led by the MMA, also includes the Civil Protection Department (CPD), the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) and the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA).

Assistant Harbour Master, Capt. David Bugeja has been appointed as the new Harbour Master and Charles Abela has new responsibilities as Head of Port Operations and Facilities.



EUROPE: FIRST JOINT WORKSHOP OF EMSA AND DG ENVIRONMENT



In the picture: Participants at the joint EMSA/DG Environment workshop

On 30 June EMSA hosted a joint workshop with DG Environment “Co-ordinated sea/shoreline response”. The aim of this workshop, which originated from the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response, was to bring together civil protection and marine pollution experts, to share experience on national response

arrangements, areas of best practice and practical co-ordination mechanisms. Being the first joint event of its kind, the workshop marks the ongoing co-operation between EMSA and DG Environment in pollution preparedness and response. <http://www.emsa.europa.eu>

FRANCE: ALMOST 100 PLACES IN BRITTANY HAVE TOXIC SEAWEED

More beaches could be shut in northwestern France due to health fears over toxic seaweed, conservationists warned on Monday, after it emerged that algae have spread to almost 100 sites in Brittany.

The places under threat include some of the area's most popular resorts. Bays popular with Britons from Mont-Saint-Michel along the Atlantic coast all the way to La Baule, a top summer beach destination, are now struggling to dispose of thousands of tons of *Ulva lactuca* – more commonly known as sea lettuce.



Doctors have warned that the algae pose a health risk as they produce hydrogen sulphide when they rot. That can become trapped under a seaweed crust and be as deadly as cyanide if released suddenly.

Two weeks ago, a horse rider lost consciousness after breathing in the toxic fumes on the beach in Saint-Michel-en-Grève, where 16,000 tonnes of the algae have already been collected this year. His horse was killed. Read the complete report at - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/travelnews/6005673/Almost-100-places-in-Brittany-have-toxic-seaweed.html>

TECHNOLOGY: AHURA SCIENTIFIC INCREASES RESPONSE CAPABILITIES OF TRUDEFENDER FT AND FIRSTDEFENDER WITH NEW SOFTWARE AND LIBRARY UPDATES

Ahura Scientific, Inc., a leader in handheld systems for chemical identification, has announced the latest software and library updates for TruDefender™ FT and FirstDefender®, its award-winning instruments for identification of solid and liquid chemicals. Rapid ongoing library expansion is part of Ahura Scientific's commitment to ensure its customers are equipped to handle new and emerging threats. Certified to military standards for ruggedness, TruDefender FT and FirstDefender offer the superior performance, portability, accuracy and durability required by today's military and civilian first responders. Weighing just 2.9 pounds (1.3 kg), TruDefender FT brings the proven power of FTIR analysis directly to the sample, speeding response time and increasing responder and community safety. With the new TruDefender FT release, Ahura Scientific has more than doubled the number of compounds in its on-board chemical library and made software improvements for even faster analysis. TruDefender FT now identifies more

than 4,600 pure chemical substances, including industrial chemicals, explosives, chemical intermediates and narcotics.

Ahura Scientific's flagship FirstDefender is a lightweight, rugged Raman instrument for rapid identification of unknown solids and liquids, including narcotics, toxic industrial materials (TIMs), explosives, white powders and more, even through sealed containers. With this latest release of FirstDefender, the product's chemical library now includes more than 8,500 substances. The update includes additional explosives, pesticides, industrial chemicals, laboratory reagents, pharmaceuticals and narcotics.

For more information about the TruDefender FT 1.1.2 and FirstDefender 2.6.5 software updates, within the UK, Ireland and Benelux contact HazmatLINK Ltd Customer Support: sales@hazmatlink.com; 0870 446 1 446; or visit www.hazmatlink.com.

FRANCE: PRÉFECTURES MARITIMES: NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED



The Chief Commissioner of the French Navy Jean-Loup Velut, who was in charge of the French navy commission school, has recently been appointed General Commissioner of the Navy and posted at the Préfecture Maritime for the Méditerranée where he will be deputy to the Maritime Prefect, in charge of the Action of the State at Sea. The First Class Chief Commissioner François Martineau will take on the position of head of the "Action of the State at Sea" division of the Préfecture for the Atlantic, replacing the Chief Commissioner of the First Class Cyriaque Garapin. From Cedre Newsletter, August 2009 <http://www.le-cedre.fr>

OIL SIMULATION FOR MARINE SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISES

One of our readers has written in to ask if anyone can has come across some kind of environmentally friendly oil that could be used to add realism to oil spill exercises. The fall-back options are things like fi-fi foam, oranges or popcorn, but the ideal would be something that would allow both booms and skimmers to be exercised in a realistic way. Your editor will pass on any suggestions you can provide.

ANSWERING CRITICISM OF EDITORIAL POLICY

Some readers have written to say that the ISCO Newsletter is not giving sufficient attention to reporting on oil and chemical pollution incidents. Editorial policy is to try to strike a balance by only reporting on incidents that, because they are very large, unusual or of special environmental or political significance, are likely to be of interest to an international audience. It is also considered that there is little merit in duplicating incident reporting that is already being very adequately provided by others.

ISCO associate member, DG and Hazmat Group, produces an excellent 15-20 page free newsletter every few days covering worldwide incidents, with dramatic colour pictures and video clips. You can subscribe by sending an email with your contact details to DangerousGoods-subscribe@yahoogroups.com ISCO member, Kevin Miller of HazmatLink is publishing a free newsletter "Hazmat News" with a round-up of hazardous material and CBRN incident reports - www.hazmatlink.com. Organisations like Google will provide you with a free service of daily alerts on different kinds of pollution events - <http://www.google.com/alerts>

The ISCO Newsletter tries to do something rather different by pulling together a synopsis of news and reports intended to help ISCO members and others in the worldwide spill response community up to speed with what is going on within their sphere of professional interest. We don't pretend to always get the balance right and, of course, constructive criticism is always welcome.

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.