



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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ISCO CELEBRATES ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

It's a long time since representatives of the American, British, French and Swedish spill control associations (SCAA, BOSCA, SYCOPOL and SWEMARPOL) first met in 1983 at San Antonio to discuss the formation of ISCO. The organisation was incorporated in London the following year as a not-for-profit international organisation with clearly defined objectives which included promotion of international co-operation and practical support for OPRC and other relevant IMO conventions. Further meetings took place over the following years at various locations including Aberdeen, London, Tampa, Valetta, and Long Beach. Practical outcomes included positive contributions to international co-operation during the Exxon Valdez spill (1989) and Gulf War pollution (1991).

In those days, ISCO membership was restricted to Trade Associations representing private sector companies. This was later seen as incompatible with the recognition that the fulfilment of ISCO's objectives depended on involvement of both public and private sectors working together in a co-operative way. These considerations led in 2005 to the re-launch of ISCO with an amended constitution. Membership of ISCO was opened up to all entities, public and private, with a legitimate interest in furthering the objectives of the organisation. Another positive impact was that the cost of joining ISCO became more affordable, with especially low fees for smaller companies, government and academic organisations, individuals and students.

Today, ISCO is recognised as the only global organisation that is dedicated to members of the broader international spill response community. Currently, ISCO has members in thirty-three countries and is continuing to grow. Through its meetings, website, and newsletter the organisation provides significant benefits to its members. In addition to being part of a worldwide community of professionals that share a common interest, members are kept up to date on events, developing technologies, legislation, new trends and directions, and other items of mutual interest. They are alerted to opportunities for providing new products and services necessary for implementing legislation and meeting new challenges. ISCO promotes international co-operation and, through its network of members, assists governments and others by providing a rapid route for accessing and mobilising international support in any major pollution event. Most importantly, ISCO is a source of practical help in building response capacity and enhancing professional competency.

IMO INFO GATHERING ON MARINE HNS RESPONSE AND SUBSEA OIL RECOVERY

Response contractors and others that can contribute information to assist the OPRC-HNS Working Group can now download the information gathering templates. Simply go to the ISCO website at <http://www.spillcontrol.org> and select DOWNLOADS from the menu on the left hand side of the page. Your contribution will be acknowledged and it's an opportunity for you to raise your profile. We need to know who out there has the know-how and experience. Don't hide your light under a bushel !

USA: RESEARCHERS TESTING NANOTECH FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUPS

Scientists and environmental regulators are hoping that some extremely tiny materials might make a huge difference in hazardous waste cleanups. Researchers are exploring whether nanoscale materials -- so named because they are as small as 1/100,000 the width of a human hair -- can be cleanup assets. They have two reasons for optimism: Nanomaterials' size lets them penetrate otherwise impossible-to-reach groundwater or soil, and their engineered coatings allow them to stay suspended in groundwater, a major asset in cleanups. If they work, nanomaterials could slash cleanup prices by avoiding the extraordinary costs and risks of hauling materials away for burning or burial.

"There is significant potential to target a number of very complicated sites that to date we have been unable to remediate adequately," said Denis O'Carroll, an assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of Western Ontario.

The Woodrow Wilson Center's Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies (PEN) has identified 45 sites in several countries that are currently using nanomaterials for waste cleanups. But there is little data on cost and performance of nano-remediation, since most projects are in their infancy. Moreover, companies involved in the work are tight-lipped, concerned about releasing cost and performance information they consider proprietary. Read the complete article: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/10/23/23greenwire-researchers-testing-nanotech-for-hazardous-was-23760.html>

USA: 2009 CONFINED SPACE UPDATE

The 2009 version of the ANSI/ASSE Z117 Standard on confined space becomes effective November 2, 2009. It provides minimum performance requirements to develop and implement a comprehensive confined space program to protect workers.

During meetings while revising the 2003 version of the Z117.1 Standard, the Z117 Accredited Standards Committee for Confined Spaces reviewed 200 fatal incidents from the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational and Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) database. A review of the incidents occurring between 1993 and 2004 suggests that the cause of death associated with confined space entry has not changed appreciably. The [distribution of causes](#) has also remained about the same.

The data indicates that about two-thirds of fatal incidents involved atmospheric contamination. Engulfment accounted for less than 10 percent of the identified causes. However, the sampling reviewed did not include all U.S. fatal confined space incidents.

For additional details about the Revised Z117 Standard and to purchase the Standard, please visit [ASSE](#).

[STI/SPFA](#) provides its position with the construction of storage tanks relative to confined space on its website. [With acknowledgement to STI Tank Talk]

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD – FALL 2009 ISSUE OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARINE SAFETY AND SECURITY COUNCIL

For readers interested in marine pollution control this is a "must read" publication. Too much to report on in a short article in this newsletter - Over 100 pages and lots of useful information, practical guidance, case histories, lessons learned, etc. from professionals in the USCG. To give you an idea, the contents include –

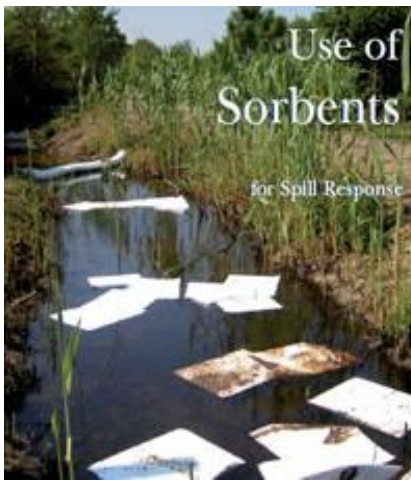
Preparedness: Preparing for the Unexpected - USCG's Preparedness Campaign by *LT Kristina Hynes and LT Kim Wheatley*; Joint International Planning by *LT Meridena Kauffman*; Underwater Oil and Hazardous Substance Response Operations by *CDR Jim Elliott*; USCG Environmental Response Capability by *Mr. Leonard Rich*; HazMat Response in Disasters by *CDR Eric Miller and LCDR Christopher Tantillo*; Converting to an E-Toolbox by *LCDR Richard Sundland and LCDR Andre Whidbee*; The Mobilization Readiness Tracking Tool by *Mr. Samuel J. Korson*.

Exercises: Testing the Preparedness - The National Response Framework by Mr. Richard Capparra; The National Exercise Program by CDR Michael Pierson; Exercises: What's All the Fuss About? by CDR Jane Wong; Exercise Program Management by Mr. Joseph Pancotti; Designing Operations-Based Exercises by Mr. Dennis Cashman; Train to Exercise by Mr. Douglas N. Eames; Joint Exercises, Half the Headache by CDR Heather Kostecki.

Preparedness: Preparing for the Unexpected - Testing the Preparedness, Always Prepared: USCG Response Preparedness Evolution - Better Response by CAPT Anthony Lloyd; Improving Preparedness by Enhancing its Toolbox by LCDR Karin Messenger; A Sticky Situation by LT Kelly Dietrich and LT Jason Marineau; Volunteers - Assets or Liabilities? by LT Latarsha McQueen; Shrinking Sea Ice by LCDR Lexia M. Littlejohn.

You can find the Proceedings at http://www.uscg.mil/proceedings/current_issue.pdf [Our thanks to JOSEPH J. LEONARD, JR. LCDR, USCG Chief, Planning & Readiness Sector, Houston-Galveston and Tim Butters of ISCO Associate Member, the DG & Hazmat Group]

CEDRE: OPERATIONAL GUIDE ON USE OF SORBENTS FOR SPILL RESPONSE



CEDRE has published a new Operational Guide on the use of sorbents in response to oil spills. The guide is aimed at operators liable to use sorbents as part of response operations to accidental oil or chemical pollution.

The contents of this guide remain very practical, providing information on sorbent types, specifications, particularities, regulations, deployment techniques, waste disposal and precautions of use.

The Guide includes feedback on the use of sorbents at the Erika, Prestige, Rokia Delmas and Ambès spills. An annex gives examples of regulations and standards in different countries.

More information: <http://www.cedre.fr/en/publication/sorbent/sorbent.php>

NUCOS: UNIT CONVERTER FOR SPILL RESPONDERS

The NOAA Unit Converter for Oil Spills (NUCOS) is a simple desktop tool that converts basic units of velocity, mass, length, etc., but more specifically, converts units that are unique to oil spill response. NUCOS includes some of the lesser known units used in managing oil and chemical spills. For example, it converts the units for oil volume, viscosity, and density from the conversion list of the [Dispersion Mission Planner 2](#), a tool that helps spill responders assess dispersant application system performance.

NUCOS is compatible with Windows XP and Vista, and Macintosh OS-X versions 10.4 and greater, Intel and PPC. Installation of NUCOS includes a short Help file.

NUCOS was developed by the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R), National Ocean Service, NOAA. The current version, NUCOS 1.3, was webposted on October 2, 2009. More info: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

FAROE ISLANDS: NEW PRODUCT FOR RECOVERY OF OIL FROM SHIPS' BILGES

ISCO Member of Council for the Faroe Islands, Pauli Einarsson, has sent in some news about a new product developed by a Faroese company, *Faroe Maritime Technic*. Designed for installation in ship bilges, the device is called *Oil Conveyor* and is a brand new pre-separator system, that has been developed to minimize oil releases from ships, and at the same time increase maritime safety and save money.

The Oil Conveyor works as a conveyor belt that moves oil from one place to another. Its primary task is to purify the bilge water in a ship's keel and lead the oil into the waste oil tank. The oil mop can collect from 4 up to 11 litres of oil per hour, while the water is rejected at the filter and returned to the keel. The system is made from stainless steel and polypropylene that can endure temperatures of up to 115 degrees Celsius. The conveyor belt itself can have a variable length of 1 to 3 meters depending on the size of the ship and the best suited location for the machine. The Oil Conveyor is designed to fit into almost every ship in the world. The thin design and adjustable angle-mechanism makes the Oil Conveyor ideal for use in bilge spaces.



Oil floating on the surface of bilge water represents a significant fire hazard in the engine room, and in case of fire can fill the engine room with smoke and flames in a matter of seconds. There is also severe risk of pollution if, in an emergency, bilges have to be pumped overboard at sea.

These and other problems were well known to chief engineer Kaj Joensen while he was sailing, and they form the basis of his great interest in solving the problem. Throughout the development, he has focused intensely on solving the problem where it occurs. The result is the Oil Conveyor.

Faroe Maritime Technic is looking for serious distributors all over the world. You can learn more about the product and the company at <http://www.fmt.fo/index.html>

TAIWAN, CHINA: NEW OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAILER HAS RADIO-CONTROLLED REMOTELY OPERATED HYDRAULIC CRANE



ISCO member, Eco Equipments Inc. in Taiwan, China has designed and built two fast response trailers for clients in Kuwait. Unusually, these trailers have, to meet client requirements, been fitted with radio remotely-controlled hydraulic self-load/unload cranes. These have an operating radius of 3.8m and a lifting capacity of 900kg, operated by a 25HP Lombardini air-cooled diesel power pack.

To demonstrate the new trailers, Eco Equipments and EPB Water Quality Protection Section arranged an exercise, attended by the clients from Kuwait, at Bali Harbour, Taipei County. EPB Technician, Mr Lee said "We need our partner communities to have the capability to respond in the event of an emergency. Failing to do so means longer, and ultimately more expensive clean-ups".

With its crane, multi-function skimmer, containment booms, accessories and power pack, the 5m long rapid response trailer is a complete package to deal with harbour oil spills. Everything is kept in one place ready to commence the clean-up immediately upon arrival. For more information, go to <http://www.ecoequipments.com> or Email sales@ecoequipments.com



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.