

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals

ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation and observer Status at International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS FEATURED



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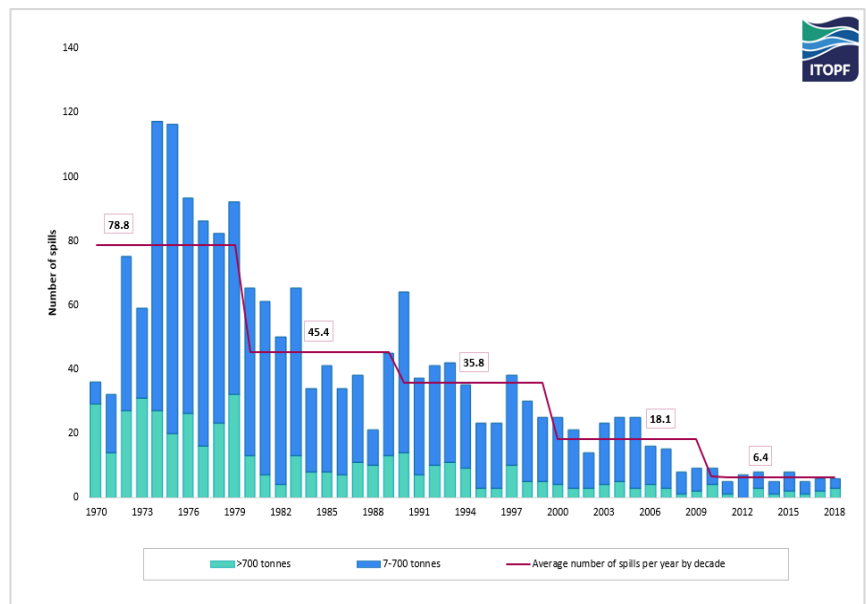


ADRIASPILLCON 2019
4th Adriatic Conference on spill prevention, preparedness and response
28 – 30 May 2019 Opatija, Croatia

A hyperlink to the ADRIASPILLCON 2019 Website will be inserted in the above banner in the near future

2018 OIL TANKER SPILL STATISTICS: NUMBER OF SPILLS REMAINS LOW

January 11 - For close to five decades, the frequency of oil spills from tankers has shown a progressive downward trend. The average number of spills of 7 tonnes or more is now about six per year, from a high of 79 in the 1970s. The yearly average for large spills, i.e. greater than 700 tonnes, has also reduced from around 25 in the 1970s to less than two since 2010.



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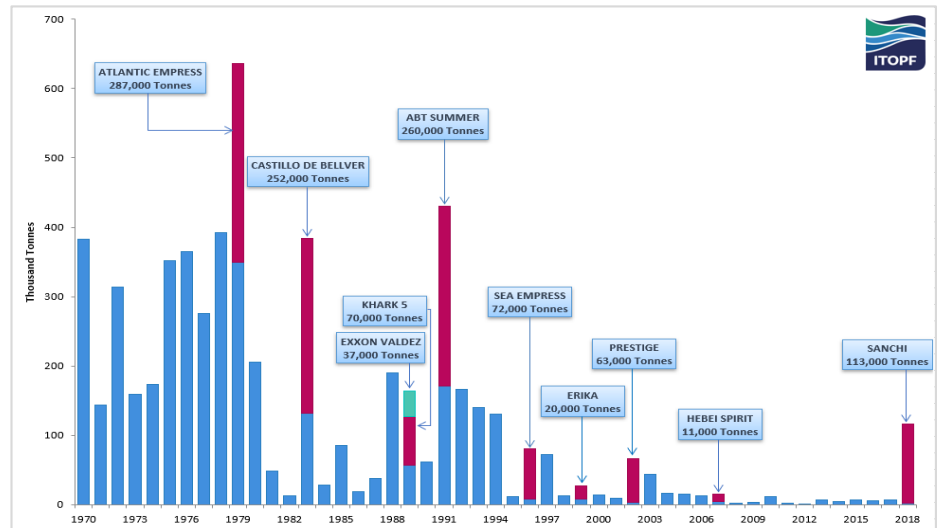
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Statistics for the quantity of oil spilled show a similar trend. However, this trend can be distorted by a single large spill as shown in the figure below.



In 2018, three spills of over 700 tonnes were reported. ITOPF attended two of these incidents to provide technical advice, both in East Asia. Three medium spills (7–700 tonnes) were also reported.

The estimated total amount of oil lost to the environment through tanker incidents in 2018 was approximately 116,000 tonnes, the majority of which can be attributed to the SANCHI incident, a spill of non-persistent oil with significantly lower environmental impacts compared to crude oil.

The number of oil spills involving tankers remains low despite a general increase in oil trading over the years and tanker owners and governments continue to work together to improve safety and standards of operations in seaborne oil transportation.

ITOPF maintains a database of oil spills from tank vessels, including combined carriers, FPSOs and barges. This contains information on accidental spillages of persistent and non-persistent oil since 1970, except those resulting from acts of war. The data held includes the location and cause of the incident, the vessel involved, the type of oil spilt and the spill amount. For historical reasons, spills are generally categorised by size, <7 tonnes, 7–700 tonnes and >700 tonnes (<50 bbls, 50–5,000 bbls, >5,000 bbls), although the actual amount spilt is also recorded. Information is now held on over 10,000 incidents, the vast majority of which fall into the smallest category i.e. <7 tonnes. Further details are available on the [statistics](#) page of ITOPF's website. [Thanks to ITOPF <http://www.itopf.org>]

MEDITERRANEAN SEA – REGIONAL WORKSHOP

January 11 - The MOIG Management Committee is very pleased to announce that the regional workshop on "Crisis Management and Making Decisions" will be held from 02 to 04 April 2019 in Iberostar Averroes hotel; in South Hammamet-Tunisia; in cooperation with the Center of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) and Eni Tunisia.

The event will open on Tuesday, 02 April 2019 at 08:00 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 04 April 2019 at 15:15 hours.

The main objectives of this workshop are to remind the reasoning method and useful information for decision making in case of accidental oil pollution, to present various response options and selection criterias, to describe the functioning of one command post and support tools to make decisions, and to raise awareness on the importance of oil spill contingency plans, training and desktops.

This three-day workshop is designed to enhance the basic principles of oil spill preparedness. The [Workshop Agenda](#) involves courses, discussions and desktop exercises. Participants will also be afforded the opportunity to visit Eni Tunisia contracted pollution response vessel berthed at Marina of Yasmine Hammamet. The working languages of the workshop will be French and English.

In order to enable MOIG to make all the necessary arrangements for the workshop on time, it would be appreciated if you could have the [Registration Form](#) completed and returned to MOIG secretariat by Mail at: houcine.mejri@moig.org.tn or by Fax at: +216 71 888 439 at your earliest convenience but not later than 08 March 2019. We would like to bring to your kind attention that participation in this event could not be guaranteed for nominations received after the abovementioned deadline.

With regard to participants who wish to stay in the same hotel, they are kindly requested to make their own reservation. They may contact Mr. Marwen Bousnina from Iberostar Averroes hotel by Mail at sales@iberostar.com.tn copying MOIG secretariat to benefit from the reduced rates.

RECENT OIL-SPILL RESPONSE AND MONITORING DEVELOPMENTS



Blue Impact tested its system on a naturally occurring oil leak offshore Santa Barbara, California (credit: Blue Impact)

January 11 - New technologies are driving gains in oil-spill response equipment, ensuring clean-ups are conducted quickly and monitoring is more effective

The past year has seen several noteworthy developments around oil-spill response technology, many of which originate from the Nordic countries.

In October 2018, Norwegian technology company Miros announced a contract to

supply Brazilian major Petrobras with eight Oil Spill Detection (OSD) systems.

The contract came about following the February 2018 agreement between Petrobras and Brazil's federal environmental agency Ibama, in which the oil major committed to new government standards for controlling oil discharge in water.

The Brazilian contract is demonstrative of a heightened global interest in oil spill detection and prevention equipment. Miros chief technology officer Gunnar Prytz* explained: "As a company in Norway our focus 10 years ago was the North Sea, whereas now we see a lot of interest globally for these products." He continued: "That's obviously good for all of us – the concern about oil spills and the need to know [how] to take action."

The company has also observed an increased interest in oil-spill detection technology outside of the oil and gas sector, notably with external parties such as government agencies. This technology is also being employed to detect substances other than oil on the surface of the ocean.

OSD is based around x-band radar and can operate in two modes, surveillance and response. Surveillance mode provides continuous monitoring for oil spills in high-risk areas and automatically detects oil spills and generates alerts. The system highlights targets to users via infrared and daylight cameras. When in response mode, OSD functions as an aid for navigating vessels toward an oil slick and positioning booms and skimmers. Infrared and visible-spectrum sensors identify the thickest parts of a spill, allowing for better positioning of booms and skimmers and more efficient dispersant application. The system can be installed on vessels, as well as on offshore installations or shore-based stations.

In May 2018, Miros announced a new version of OSD, offering a number of improvements around the algorithms and ability to detect oil, according to Dr Prytz.

He said: "It is now a multi-client application, allowing the same information in multiple locations and supporting collaboration." He noted that the new version makes it easier to switch between response and surveillance modes.

Looking to the future, Miros is examining ways of utilising technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) to make the OSD system even easier to use.

"It is not only about working on the algorithms and the radars and processing, but also making our products and systems easy to use," said Dr Prytz. "For example, the data can be made available on any platform, such as a mobile phone, making it easier to collaborate and access the information anywhere."

The OSD system allows the continuous monitoring of spills, even in darkness and when aerial data is unavailable.

Another Norwegian company, Blue Impact - a spinoff of Norwegian R&D organisation SINTEF - recently showcased an unmanned oil spill response vessel called Vorax, which takes an environmentally friendly approach to tackling oil spills.

The technology, which was developed by SINTEF and commercialised through Blue Impact, uses a 6 m-long unmanned catamaran to disperse oil spills using seawater, with no need for chemicals. It moves back and forth across oil spills, pulverising the oil with high-pressure water jets into small particles that naturally occurring ocean bacteria can break down and remove.

The unmanned surface vessel (USV) can either follow a pre-programmed pattern, using a conversion system from Maritime Robotics, or can be steered manually from a mothership via remote-control. Blue Impact hopes to integrate oil-spill tracking and real-time trajectory modelling to enable near-autonomous operations.

An unmanned system has obvious health and safety benefits, reducing the exposure of operators to spills, being able to operate in higher-risk areas, and being available for longer periods than manned vessels, according to Blue Impact.

In November 2018, Vorax was tested on a naturally occurring oil leak on the seabed offshore Santa Barbara, California, an area in which the use of chemicals to handle oil spills is forbidden.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Blue Impact plans to develop and produce the system in small, medium and large sizes, allowing customisation for applications in harbour and coastal conditions, offshore and in icy and arctic waters.

Elsewhere, in September 2018 state-owned Finnish polar services company Arctia tested the oil-recovery capabilities of its LNG-powered icebreaker Polaris at sea for the first time.

Integrated equipment tested in the exercise, which forms part of Arctia's autumn testing schedule for its icebreaker fleet, included Polaris' skimmer and collection booms.

Built at Arctech Helsinki shipyard in 2016, Polaris was the first LNG-powered icebreaker in the world when it entered service in 2017. It has an ice class of PC4.

The vessel measures 110 m in length by 24 m in breadth, with an operational draught of 8 m. It has a Wärtsilä package of two 6,000 kW, two 4,500 kW and one 1,280 kW dual-fuel engines and is fitted with three ABB Azipod propulsion units. The Lamor oil recovery system means Polaris can collect 1,015 m³ of oil at a rate of 200 m³ per hour in bad weather and ice conditions.

Polaris' LNG propulsion can support the slow speeds – usually close to 2 knots – required for successful oil recovery in open sea. The vessel's manoeuvrability also helps this process, as sideways operation enables the entire side of the vessel to be used to direct oil into the collection tank in rough water.

Arctia's communications manager Eero Hokkanen explained the logic behind equipping icebreakers to work as oil recovery vessels, noting that such preparation "would be sensible in order to safeguard a sufficient level of oil recovery preparedness in the Gulf of Finland and the entire northern Baltic Sea."

Arctia also operates Kontio, a specialised oil recovery icebreaker with an ice class of 1A Super. Launched in 1987, Kontio was outfitted with oil-recovery equipment in 2010, with funding from the European Maritime Safety Agency. It is fitted with rigid sweeping arms, which can have either suction pumps or brush skimmers attached, and which float alongside the vessel's hull and guide oil into its recovery system. It has a tank volume of more than 2,000 m³ for recovered oil. The vessel measures 99 m in length by 24.2 m in breadth and has a draft of 8 m. It is powered by 15 MW Wärtsilä 16V32 main engines, with a top speed of 18.6 knots and a bollard pull of 160 tonnes.

* Dr Prytz will be speaking on another area of Miros' activities, wave monitoring, at the Offshore Wind Journal Conference in London on 5 February 2019. <https://www.offshorewindjournalconference.com/index.htm>

AN UPDATE ON THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK OF OIL SPILL CONTRACTORS

Stewart Ellis writes "Contractor listings A to M have now been individually reviewed. What you see on the website is what will be printed. www.cleanupoil.com has been updated to include sponsor logos and links. Artwork for advertisements is now due by the end of February. I am looking for candidate photos for the cover page. The selected picture will receive credit in the book.

Thanks to SET, Tradebe, SWAT, Chemtex, ACME, Oceanpact, Elastec, Hanby Environmental, Lamor, Parker, Megator, Clean Harbors, CEP, Phoenix Pollution Control, Harbo, Moran, Power Plus, Northwest Hazmat, CanRoss, NPS Corp, Hepaco, Cooley, Desmi, AlBriggs, Ohmsett, Dasic International, NRC, T& T Salvage, MSRC and Heritage for making this possible.

Now is the time to send in your changes! Note: Updates to current listings are free, there are no hosting fees or subscriptions. Support this effort with an advert! – This is your last chance, this book is only published every 3 years".

INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

CANADA: DOWNTOWN GATINEAU OIL SPILL CONTAMINATES OTTAWA RIVER

January 2 - A large but undefined amount of heating oil has found its way into the Ottawa River following a spill in downtown Gatineau. The spill ironically occurred near the offices of the provincial environment ministry. Insurance Business Magazine / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

UK: OIL IN MILFORD HAVEN ESTUARY 'FROM PIPE LEAK' CONTAINED

January 3 -The source of a leak which led to an unknown amount of "thick, heavy oil" spilling into a Pembrokeshire estuary has been contained, officials said. It happened at a jetty on the Milford Haven waterway - by the Valero refinery - at about midnight on Wednesday. It is understood the leak came from pipework and booms have been placed in the water to stop the oil spreading. BBC News / [Read more](#) Related report in [Milford Mercury](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

PACIFIC OCEAN: BURNING CAR CARRIER 'SINCERITY ACE' ABANDONED

January 3 - The U.S. Coast Guard has suspended the active search for one remaining unaccounted for crewmember of the Sincerity Ace. Good Samaritans from four merchant vessels were able to rescue 16 of the 21 Sincerity Ace crew who abandoned the burning car carrier following a fire on New Year's Eve roughly 2,000 miles from northwest of Hawaii. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

USA: SOUTH CAROLINA - MAN ACCUSED OF DUMPING POISONOUS LIQUID WASTE INTO CREEK

January 4 - A tanker truck driver for a waste disposal company is accused of dumping thousands of gallons of poisonous liquid waste into a South Carolina creek. Citing a federal indictment issued this week, The State of Columbia reports Michael Greene was charged with "knowingly" and repeatedly dumping liquid waste into Leesburg Branch Creek near Eastover. The liquid waste contained toxic metals such as lead, mercury, selenium, cadmium and chromium. The State / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

COLOMBIA'S CANO LIMON PIPELINE HALTED BY FIRST BOMB ATTACK OF 2019

January 5 - Colombian state oil company Ecopetrol has halted the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline after it was damaged in a bomb attack, spilling crude into two streams in Norte de Santander province, the company said. The Friday explosion in the rural area of Campo Giles, in Tibu municipality, is the first bombing of Colombian oil infrastructure in 2019. Last year there were 89 attacks in just three provinces, many attributed to leftist rebels. Crude spilled into two neighboring creeks and on surrounding vegetation, Ecopetrol said in a statement, but the spill is now under control. Reuters / [Read more](#)

NORTH ATLANTIC: YANTIAN EXPRESS ABANDONED DUE TO ONGOING CONTAINER FIRE

January 6 - The crew of the containership Yantian Express has been evacuated as the container fire continues to burn on board the ship in the North Atlantic, Hapag-Lloyd said in an update on Sunday. The fire [started in one container on January 3rd](#) and has since spread to other containers. Due to bad weather conditions, the fire has not been successfully contained and has significantly increased in intensity at times, according to Hapag-Lloyd. The salvage tug Smit Nicobar is on scene fighting the fire but as of the latest update, the fire had not been extinguished. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

January 7 - Tug to Retrieve Burning Yantian Express in North Atlantic - The U.S. Coast Guard on Monday is continuing to coordinate the response to a container fire on board the now abandoned Yantian Express located approximately 1,015 miles northeast of Bermuda. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

January 10 - Fire on Yantian Express Under Control; Ship Now Under Tow to Halifax - The fire on the 7,510 TEU-capacity Yantian Express started in a single container on 3 January before spreading to additional containers on deck which forced the evacuation of the ship over the weekend. In an update Thursday, Hapag-Lloyd said efforts to extinguish the fire have been making continues progress under the direction of the salvage company Smit and in cooperation with the Hapag-Lloyd crew on the scene as well as Hapag-Lloyd's emergency-response team in Hamburg. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

CHINA: HONG KONG - FUEL SPILLS FROM MAERSK SHIP DURING BUNKERING

January 7 - An unknown quantity of bunker fuel has spilled from a container vessel owned by Danish shipping giant Maersk during bunkering operations in Hong Kong, a company spokesperson confirmed. The company said that bunkering operations were ceased instantly and the leakage was stopped. World Maritime News / [Read more](#) Related Report in [gCaptain](#)

TURKEY: TWO KILLED, FOUR MISSING AS CARGO SHIP SINKS IN BLACK SEA

January 7 - At least two people are dead and four others were missing after a Panamanian-flagged bulk carrier sank in the Black Sea off Turkey's coast on Monday. The Turkish Coast Guard received up a distress signal from the ship Volga-Balt 214 with 13 crew members on Monday morning as it was approximately 80 miles off the coast of Samsun in northern Turkey. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

USA: GEORGIA - TRAIN DERAILMENT CAUSES CHEMICAL SPILL OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID & HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

January 7 - A train carrying hazardous chemicals went off the tracks in Jefferson County, GA on Sunday night. Potentially threatening materials leaked from the train cars as a product of the accident. Jefferson County Emergency Management confirms hydrochloric acid and hydrogen peroxide were the chemicals that leaked from the train. WJBF News / [Read more and watch video](#)

NORWAY: PHOTOS: SALVORS REMOVE BUNKERS FROM HIGH ARCTIC WRECK

Salvors aboard the Norwegian Coast Guard vessel KV Svalbard are preparing to remove diesel fuel from the trawler Northguider, which is aground off Spitsbergen in Norway's high Arctic.

On December 28, the Northguider grounded in the Hinlopenstretet, the narrow strait between Spitsbergen and Nordauslandet. Her crew put out a distress call and reported that the vessel had taken on water in the engine room. The government of Svalbard dispatched its two helicopters to rescue them, and all crewmembers were safely evacuated by 1600 hours the same day.

With the crew safe, the response effort has turned to salvage. The Northguider has about 330 tonnes of diesel on board, and the site



of the grounding is in a sensitive protected area. Conditions on scene are challenging: the location is at about 80 degrees North latitude, well above the Arctic Circle, and the area is in the middle of its long polar night. In addition, the weather changes quickly and can make an otherwise safe operation dangerous in minutes, according to the Norwegian Coast Guard.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

NETHERLANDS: MSC CONFIRMS 21 CONTAINERS WASHED ASHORE SO FAR



Image courtesy of Rijkswaterstaat

January 9 - Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) has confirmed that more than 250 containers fell from the MSC Zoe during a night of heavy weather on January 2.

MSC has engaged Ardent Global to coordinate the search at sea. So far, a sonar-assisted search has helped locate hundreds of objects in the water, and so far 21 containers have washed ashore. Their contents have included electronics, car parts, furniture, clothing and toys. However, the

Dutch Coast Guard has issued a warning, noting that three of the containers lost overboard contain hazardous materials, believed to be potentially explosive organic peroxides. Two bags have already been found and safely removed.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

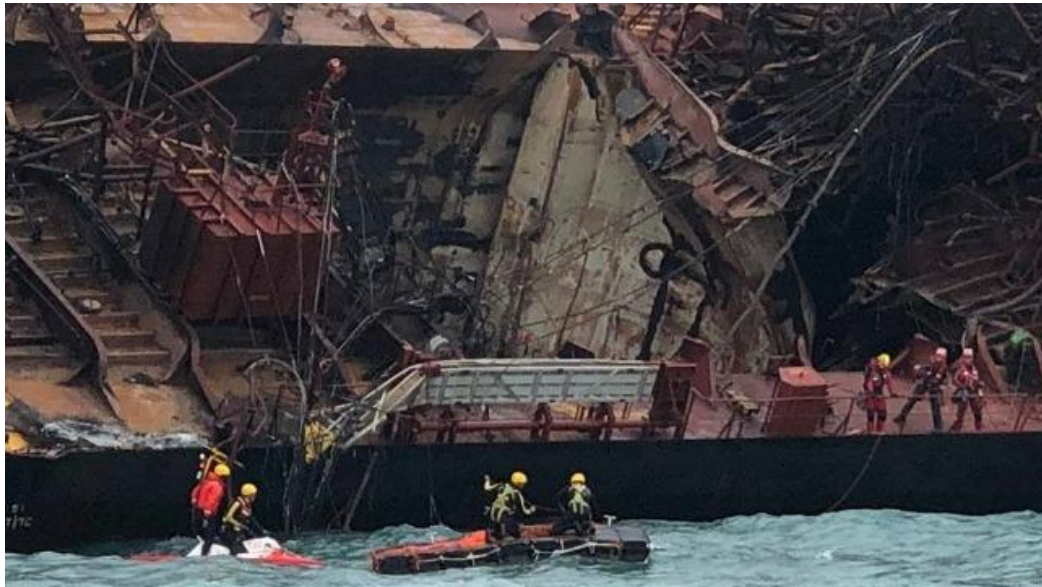
ISRAEL: HAIFA CHEMICAL SPILL INCIDENT REPORTED AT THE PORT

January 9 - The Ministry of Environmental Affairs on Wednesday reported of a small water contamination incident involving Haifa Chemicals at the port. The inspectors of the National Marine Environment Protection Unit at the Ministry of Environmental Protection found an infection at the chemical's pier in the Haifa Port. The material looks like oil but has different characteristics, and tests are being conducted on it. The Yeshiva World / [Read more](#)

CHINA: HONG KONG - DIVERS SEARCH DAMAGED TANKER FOR MISSING CREWMEMBERS

January 11 - Emergency response teams are still searching for two crewmembers from the product tanker Aulac Fortune, which caught fire and exploded off Hong Kong on January 8. Dive crews are searching the Fortune's number four cargo tank, which was one of three

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)



ripped open by the blast. The missing men are believed to have been working on the main deck above the tank at the time of the explosion.

The damaged tanks are filled with up to about 20 feet of water and petroleum, according to the department. "Due to the impact of oil pollution, there is zero visibility at the bottom of the holds," the agency said in a statement.

Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)
Image courtesy Hong Kong Fire Services Department. Related Report in [Ecowatch](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (COUNTRIES LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

AUSTRALIA: 'DISASTER IN WAITING' AS PROBE STARTS INTO TRANSPORT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

January 6 - Investigators are probing how millions of litres of toxic chemicals were able to be transported covertly to illicit dumps in the city's north and west amid concerns there are significant gaps in the system used to monitor the handling of hazardous wastes.

Sources say the uncontrolled movement of trucks carrying dangerous and highly flammable materials on Victoria's roads was a "disaster in waiting" in the event of a serious crash or leaks from substandard storage containers.

Last week, authorities discovered eight sites in Epping and Campbellfield "stacked to the rafters" with industrial-size bins and barrels in what is believed to be the largest illicit chemical waste dumping operation in recent history. [The Age](#) / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

AUSTRALIA: WORKSAFE SEIZES CONTROL OF TOXIC DUMP SITES, TAKES OVER CLEAN UP

January 8 - WorkSafe has seized control of eight toxic dump sites in the city's north and will now spearhead the clean-up operation amid fresh public safety concerns.

The move comes as [The Age](#) can reveal new test results conducted on some of the [hundreds of industrial-size bins and drums stockpiled in warehouses at Epping and Campbellfield](#) show the contents are highly flammable.

In an extraordinary intervention, WorkSafe is now assuming direct responsibility for the chemical stockpiles from the man allegedly behind what is believed to be the largest illicit dumping operation in Melbourne's recent history. [The Age](#) / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

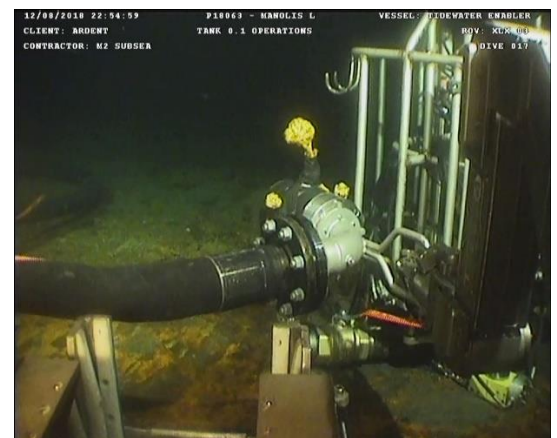
CANADA: COAST GUARD ANNOUNCES AMOUNT OF OIL RECOVERED DURING MANOLIS L OPERATION

ROV working to remove oil from the shipwreck.

January 10 - St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador - Making our oceans and coasts safer, cleaner and healthier for all Canadians and future generations is a top priority for the Government of Canada.

Today, Scott Simms, Member of Parliament for Coast of Bays—Central—Notre Dame, on behalf of, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, announced that 208.7 cubic metres (208,769 litres) of oil was removed from the Manolis L shipwreck. This is enough oil to fill 1313 oil barrels.

The operation to remove the bulk oil from the Manolis L was led by the Canadian Coast Guard and undertaken by Ardent Global Marine Services. It was successfully completed in September 2018. The operation was conducted using remotely



operated vehicles (ROV) in 70 meters of water depth, in cold water of approximately one Celsius. The heavy fuel oil was heated for removal using steam, recovered from the wreck, transported to shore and transferred to an environmental company for proper disposal.

During the bulk oil removal operation, 14 of the tanks onboard the Manolis L were pumped and flushed. The amount of oil recovered exceeded the estimate of 115-150 cubic metres (115,000 - 150,000 litres) that was expected to be in the vessel. Government of Canada / [Read more](#)

CHINA: KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT RESPONSE

January 7 – A Report from the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management.

The week before Christmas 2018 I joined a mission of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management to China with the aim to exchange knowledge about crisis preparedness and response in case of (large) environmental incidents.

After decades of industrial growth, the Chinese government is trying to curb the numbers of accidents in factories, mines and plants. Official statistics indicate that industrial accidents and deaths have diminished. However, industrial accidents continue to take place and China is working very hard on prevention, preparedness and response to chemical emergencies. The largest Chinese industrial accident of recent times was the incident in Tianjin in 2015. A series of explosions killed 173 people and injured hundreds of others at a container storage station at the Port of Tianjin. One of the explosions involved the detonation of about 800 tonnes of ammonium nitrate. Fires caused by the initial explosions continued to burn uncontrolled for days. KWR / [Continue reading this interesting article](#)

INDIA: WORKSHOP ON MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BEGINS IN MUMBAI

January 8 - Delegates from 10 countries Monday began deliberations on various aspects of marine environment protection at a workshop organised by the [Indian Coast Guard](#) (ICG) here.

The three-day workshop on marine environment protection is being attended by delegates from 10 countries, the [ICG](#) said in a release.

The workshop, which will go on till Wednesday, will also see some practical exercise in deep sea, it said.

The workshop is part of the National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-VII) which was inaugurated by [ICG Director General](#) Rajendra Singh, the release said. Business Standard / [Read more](#)

January 11 - Coast Guard shows how it will contain an oil spill off Mumbai



Oil dispersant being sprayed by a Chetak helicopter as part of the drill

In a display of dexterity on Wednesday morning, the Coast Guard exhibited its preparedness and swiftness in tackling an environmental disaster caused by marine oil spill off the city's harbour. The mock exercise was part of the seventh edition of the National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-VII).

"A real-time demonstration of a spill scenario was conducted on January 9. It was done on the premise that there was a major oil spill after a tanker collision, following which there was mobilisation of pollution response resources by various stakeholders to combat it," said Deputy Commandant Avinandan Mitra, public relations officer, Coast Guard. DNA India / [Read more](#)

MALTA: POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Boom deployment, response procedures and training.

January 9 - This article by Capt. Richard Gabriele FNI, head, marine operations and incident response at the Ports and Yachting Directorate, Transport Malta was printed in The Times of Malta –

"Shipping and port operations are essential nodes of the transport chain. In the case of Malta, being an island State, our ports are vital for our connectivity with the rest of the world for the importation of commodities, consumer goods and fuels used for land transportation, aviation and other industry uses.

Like other transport modes ships need fuel, or as is better known within the industry, bunkers. In addition,



Malta, being strategically positioned, has a number of bunker operators that also service ships outside port as a value-added service to the maritime industry.

Incidents involving oil pollution from ships or marine terminals is a matter of concern. Apart from being harmful to the environment, the clean-up operation can be a very costly exercise and could result in a number of potential claims from third-parties. It is therefore important that tanker and bunkering operations are carried out with due diligence, in line with legal provisions and incorporating good practice to minimise incidents resulting in oil spills. [Continue reading the complete text of this interesting article](#)

NIGERIA: GROUP DRAGS SPDC BEFORE NOSDRA OVER 2016 OIL SPILL IN BAYELSA

January 8 - The Oil and Gas-Producing Areas Enlightenment and Empowerment Initiative (OGPAEEI), a non-governmental organisation (NGO), has dragged the Shell Petroleum Development of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) before the National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) over a November 2016 oil spill incident that occurred at the Ekoli River in Bayelsa State. OGPAEEI, in a petition to NOSDRA made available to newsmen in Yenagoa on Tuesday, urged the agency to compel the SPDC to comply with industry standards in the incident.

“The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC) is investigating reports of a leak around Otuokpoti community waterfront situated downstream the Ekoli River, where a section of SPDC’s Nun River – Kolo Creek Pipeline is buried. “Preliminary site visits did not indicate any spill. SPDC has, however, shut the pipeline as a precautionary measure pending further investigation,” SPDC stated. Independent / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: HYPREP APPEALS TO Ogoni PEOPLE TO SUPPORT CLEAN-UP PROCESS

January 10 - The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has implored Community Leaders, Youths, Interest Groups and the Entire Ogoni People to support the clean-up process by way of ensuring peace in Ogoniland for the project to succeed.

The project coordinator, Dr Marvin Dekil made the appeal on the occasion of the 2019 Ogoni day celebration. According to him, “Within the last one year, six months, HYPREP has carried out some of the emergency measures highlighted in the UNEP Report as well as other activities in preparations for the remediation of Ogoniland. Leadership / [Read more](#)

UK: MARINE POLLUTION (MARPOL) ANNEX II SURVEYORS

January 7 – The Maritime & Coastguard Agency has issued updated Guidance concerning International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) Surveyors. MCA / [Read more](#)

UK: OPERATION TOXIC DAGGER: ROYAL MARINES' ZULU COMPANY LEARN CHEMICAL WARFARE SKILLS



January 11 - Royal Marines special forces have undergone intensive chemical warfare training to prepare for another repeat of the Salisbury Novichock attack.

Zulu Company from 45 Commando, based in Arbroath, Scotland, will be the first marines to respond should there be a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incident at home or abroad.

Commandos in the unit have been given more specialist training following the heightened threat posed since the attack on Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia. Daily Mail / [Read more](#)

USA: ADMIRAL THAD ALLEN: THIS SENSELESS GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS HARMING COAST GUARD FAMILIES

January 7 - Today, with the government shutdown in its third week, it is beyond troubling that Coast Guard men and women are being unnecessarily subjected to financial hardship while enduring the operational, mission-related circumstances that are accepted as part of their compact with their country.

These are the Americans who flew over the rooftops of New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, saving thousands from flooded homes. These are the men and women who were the first ashore in Haiti after the earthquake, rendering aid, treating wounds, and delivering children in unsanitary, primitive conditions. These are the heroes who mobilized to respond to the worst marine environmental disaster in the nation’s history. These are the selfless service men and women who provided medical support to other Department of Homeland Security agencies to screen incoming airline passengers during the Ebola crisis and today are supporting the Department on the southwest border. These are the people who stand search-and-rescue watch and patrol our coastal waters and the Arabian Gulf. And these are the Americans who have accompanied the remains of my friends and colleagues to their final resting place in Arlington Cemetery, rendering honors and exercising the manners of our profession. [Continue reading on the U.S. Naval Institute website...](#) [Thanks to [gCaptain](#)]

USA: WASHINGTON STATE APPROVES UPDATED OIL-SPILL RESPONSE PLAN FOR CANADA'S PUGET SOUND PIPELINE

January 8 - When the Canadian government bought the controversial Trans Mountain Pipeline from Kinder-Morgan last year, it also bought a 69-mile-long spur that extends from the border with the U.S. and feeds Canadian crude to four Washington refineries.

The change in ownership triggered a required update to the oil-spill response plan for the spur, which has been operating since the 1950s. Sandy Howard, Department of Ecology spokeswoman, says [the state has now approved a new five-year plan](#).

KNKX / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

EMSA WELCOMES MS MAJA MARKOVČIĆ KOSTELAC TO ITS HELM AND BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO FORMER DIRECTOR



On 1 January 2019 Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac took up the position of Executive Director at EMSA. She joins the Agency after having been State Secretary for Croatia's Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure since 2016. At the close of 2018, EMSA said farewell to its former head Mr Markku Mylly after six years in the role and took the opportunity to wish him the very best in his retirement and future endeavours.

EMSA Newsletter / [Read more](#)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NEW DISCOVERY OF AN EFFECTIVE AGENT FIGHTING FOR THE REMOVAL OF OIL SPILLS FROM THE WATER'S SURFACE BY DR. PENG CHENG FROM OASIS PUBLISHERS

January 8 - Peng-Cheng Ma's research is titled, "[Bio-based oil gelling agent for effective removal of oil spills from water surface](#)."

In recent years, the phase-selective gelation method was adopted for the recovery of spilled oil. However, it was later assessed that the multi-step for the synthesis and rareness of starting materials were the two major obstacles for the large-scale production of the material. Therefore, Peng-Cheng realised that the development of new oil gelling agent (OGA) with characters like excellent gelling capability, fast diffusion/adsorption to oil, and easy process for production was highly desirable.

The study led by Peng-Cheng in the Xinjiang Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences, is a part of a larger project in developing material with hieratical structures for environmental and engineering applications. Peng-Cheng has described that in a study conducted in his group, powdered OGA was prepared by using biodegradable wheat bran as a raw material that was obtained from a local flour mill. PR.com / [Read more](#)



MAGNETIC SPONGE DEVELOPED FOR OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP

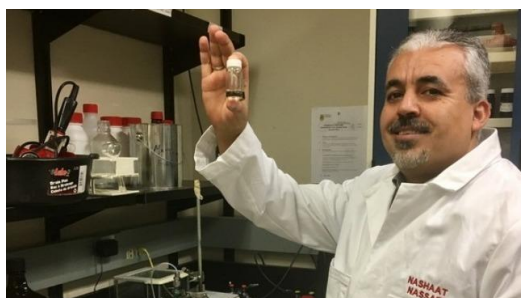


Photo: Nashaat Nassar, an associate professor at the Schulich School of Engineering, has developed a material that acts as a super sponge for spilled oil. Photo by Michael Platt, University of Calgary

January 9 - A team of researchers at the University of Calgary in Canada have developed a sponge for soaking up aquatic oil spills that is composed of magnetic boron nitride.

The non-toxic, biodegradable material, consisting of magnetic nanostructured white graphene, absorbs crude oil at up to 53 times its own weight. It can also be reused, and unlike some clean-up technologies, it allows for recovery of spilled oil.

Led by Dr. Nashaat Nassar, the team conducted tests demonstrated that, placed in water where an oil spill has taken place, the hydrophobic material repels water while attracting the oil, at which point the magnetic boron nitride surrounds and absorbs it. Once the oil has been soaked up, magnets are lowered close to the surface of the water, lifting the magnetic sponge and oil together, where it can be separated and the sponge reused. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dan Sheehan, Hon.FISCO, Member of the ISCO executive Committee]

TRAINING

ACCIDENTAL RELEASES MODULE - OFFSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

The EI Environmental Awareness E-Learning course was developed from an industry-led initiative and will provide participants accessible and standardised training across offshore platforms. This module will provide offshore workers with an overview of accidental releases and different control measures that can be implemented for good practice and risk mitigation. [More info](#)

2019 IOPC FUNDS' SHORT COURSE

The Director is pleased to announce that the ninth annual IOPC Funds' Short Course will take place from Monday 17 June to Friday 21 June 2019 in London.

As with the previous courses, the programme will cover all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and will include practical exercises involving a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process. The Short Course, which is supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), INTERTANKO, the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the International Group of P&I Associations, and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), will also offer participants the opportunity to understand the relationships and common objectives of all stakeholders which are particularly important in tanker incidents where the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions operate. [More info](#)

CERTIFICATE IN MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Kick-start your year by joining Lloyds Maritime Academy's [Maritime Environmental Management course](#), this January. In just 12 weeks you will gather the skills and knowledge needed for developing your maritime career.

EVENTS

USA: MICHIGAN - 29TH ANNUAL NO-SPILLS CONFERENCE - JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 1, 2019

Reminder: Registration is still open for the 2019 No-Spills Conference!

Come hear about lessons learned from recent events, new methods and technologies, policy developments and emerging issues. Presenters and participants include local, state, tribal and federal agencies, response contractors, industry specialists and researchers.

For more information and to register, visit the No-Spills website at www.no-spills.org

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019

UK & IRELAND: ISAA ALL IRELAND STEERING GROUP MEETING

Hillsborough, January 15. The next ISAA meeting will discuss setting standards for remediation of contaminated land and domestic heating oil spill clean-up. For more info contact johnadawes@btinternet.com

USA: MICHIGAN - 29th ANNUAL NO SPILLS CONFERENCE

Traverse City, January 30 – February 1. The theme is "Lessons from the Past and Planning for the Future." We are looking forward to a variety of presentations from local, regional and industry responders active in Michigan. [More info](#)

USA: GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL & ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE

New Orleans LA, February 4-7. The 2019 program will seek to highlight key findings, identify data gaps, and generate questions remaining after nearly ten years of intensified research in the Gulf of Mexico. The questions generated through plenaries, concurrent sessions, and attendee participation will form the basis for the 2019 conference report. [More info](#)

KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL HSSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Kuwait, February 18-20. Kuwait International Health, Safety, Security & Environment (KIHSSSE) 2019, is the 3rd Edition of the initiative taken by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation for bringing together the peers of Health Safety Security and Environment under one roof. This year the event stands at the forefront of blending HSSE as a practice to attain Business Excellence under the theme of "Transforming HSE Culture for a Resilient Future". [More info](#)

UK: IMO POLLUTION PREVENTION & RESPONSE (PPR) SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

London, February 18-22. [More info](#)

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019 (CONTINUED)

SAUDI ARABIA: PETROENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM 2019

Al Khobar, February 19-21. Held Under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Governor of the Eastern Province, under the theme Innovative Technologies for Environmental Sustainability, the symposium offers an unrivalled opportunity for the global oil and gas, petrochemical and environment community to come together and focus on the future. [More info](#)

UK: UK SPILL ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING, DINNER, AWARDS

London, February 26. The Annual Dinner for members and guests in London, at the Watermen's Hall in the City cost £95 per person. Book now at info@ukspill.org

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARCH 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
FRANCE	March 5	CEDRE Information Day	Paris La Défense
UK	March 5-6	Chemical & Product Tanker Conference	London
KENYA	March 11-15	UN Environment Assembly	Nairobi
UK	March 22	Marine Insurance London Conference	London
USA	March 26-27	SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Arlington, VA
TUNISIA	April 2-4	W'shop on Crisis Management & Decision Making	Tunis
USA	April 16-18	Clean Waterways Conference	Cincinnati, OH
USA	May 14-17	Hands-on OSR Strategies and Tactics Training	Leonardo, NJ
UK	May 15-16	NCEC HAZMAT 2019 Conference	Stratford on Avon
AUSTRALIA	May 20-24	SPILLCON 2019 Conference and Exhibition	Perth
CROATIA	May 28-30	ADRIASPILLCON 2019 Conference and Exhibition	Opatija
CANADA	June 4-6	42 nd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination & Response	Halifax, Nova Scotia
BELGIUM	June 12-13	European Environmental Ports Conference 2019	Antwerp
UK	June 17-21	IOPC Funds' Short Course	London
CANADA	June 18-20	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Vancouver BC
USA	October 28-31	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	New Orleans LA
TUNISIA	Nov. 13-14	Incident Management System Training Course	Tunis
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
USA	May 11-14	International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition	New Orleans LA

To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Alga Chronicle	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	November 2018
AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	Dec. 2018 issue
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	Nov. 2018 issue
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	October 2018
Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	December 2018
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	January 2019
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	December 2018
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2018 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	December 2018
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	October 2018 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	March-April, 2018
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	Jan. 2019 issue
Nautical Institute News	News from the Nautical Institute	June-July, 2018
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	December 2018
NOAA OR&R	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	December 2018
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Fall 2018
PEMSEA E News	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	October, 2018
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Jan 9, 2019
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	July 2018 issue

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

[Salvage World](#)

[Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter](#)

[Spill Alert](#)

[Technology Innovation News Survey](#)

[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)

Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union
Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm
Newsletter from the UK Spill Association
News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination
Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater

Current issue
Spring 2018 issue
December 2017
Nov. 1-15, 2018
Dec. 1, 2018

Your editor depends on regular receipt of updated links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries will be discontinued.

INFORMATION FOR ISCO MEMBERS

ISCO RESPECTS YOUR PRIVACY - UNSOLICITED MAIL

ISCO does not buy or make use of contact lists offered by data vendors. We do not send out unsolicited promotional mail to ISCO newsletter subscribers. We will only send you the ISCO Newsletter if you are a Member or have subscribed or given your contact information to ISCO. If you would like to receive the ISCO Newsletter you can subscribe online at www.spillcontrol.org If at any time you decide you do not want to continue receiving the Newsletter you should click on the “unsubscribe” button at the foot of the covering letter sent out with each issue of the ISCO Newsletter.

ANNOUNCING NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Disseminating news about new technical developments is of value to our community. Corporate Members are invited to contribute articles.

Corporate Members of ISCO can benefit from submitting news about new products and services in the “News from ISCO Members” section of the ISCO Newsletter. This is a free facility for Members. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it’s a cost-effective way to promote your company.

Because the ISCO Newsletter is initially prepared as a Word document it’s essential that text and photographs submitted can be easily copied and pasted into the preliminary draft of the newsletter. Please note that submissions must also comply with ISCO’s editorial policy.

1. The Editor has sole discretion over what is accepted for publication
2. The Editor reserves the right to edit press releases
3. Information in press releases must be factual and free from sales hype and exaggerated claims
4. Subject matter of press releases must be relevant to the interests of the spill response community
5. Space availability for printing press releases is limited and they should be kept short
6. If a press release is too long only part of it will be printed but a link can be included for downloading its entirety
7. Links for downloading additional information or viewing video material can be included
8. Depending on space availability press releases may be included in the next newsletter or held over for inclusion in a later issue.

INCIDENT REPORTS: ROAD TANKER ROLLOVERS, FUEL STATIONS, STATIC TANKS, ETC.

Note from editor – ISCO tends to focus on marine, river lake, rail and pipeline spills and doesn’t report on road tanker, fuel station and static tank spills. Two reasons for this (1) There are just too many and (2) Don Johnston of ISCO’s Industry Partner, the DG & Hazmat Group, reports very comprehensively every week on these kinds of spills in his publication “Newsy Stuff”. It would be superfluous for ISCO to duplicate the work done by Don. In “Newsy Stuff” he also reports on incidents involving Chemicals, CO and Gas Leaks, Confined Space, Contamination, Ethanol/Biodiesels, Fireworks/Armaments Explosions, Gas stations, Grain/Silos, LNG/LPG/CNG/Propane, PFOS/PFOA, Pipeline, Radioactivity, Rail, Refinery/Terminals, Road Tankers/Transport, Storage Tanks, and Wells. “Newsy Stuff” can be up to about 40 pages. It’s a free publication but you do need to be a member of the DG and Hazmat Group. To Join the Group send an email to dangerousgoods-subscribe@yahoogle.com

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