



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 388, 10 June 2013

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The 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference and Exhibition a topco event  
**Oil Spill Response Workshop (OSRW 2013)**  
26-27 June, 2013 Beijing China  
— Improving Environment amid Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response

## International news

### INTERNATIONAL OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE (IOA) PROJECT IS MAKING PROGRESS

Progress being made on the IOA project was discussed at the recent IMO OPRS-HNS Technical Group Meeting in London.

In the midst of a very large oil spill, having the appropriate response equipment at the exact time and location needed, throughout the duration of the response, is crucial. Facility in acquiring essential equipment from within the affected nation may not be enough to provide all the needed resources to manage an effective response. Obtaining critical response resources from international sources must be done in a coordinated manner, with a comprehensive process that allows for a number of key considerations.

When sourcing equipment for very large Tier 3 responses, once internal and regional sources have been exhausted or are expected to be exhausted, consideration should be given to the current range of dedicated oil spill response equipment sources, including a number of significant equipment caches located around the world. Each of these significant equipment caches has some sort of manager well-versed in their equipment inventories. Though a dedicated equipment cache may initially appear to present a myriad of equipment choices, equipment managers should be readily able to match equipment they manage to the specific type of spill response equipment requested. Equipment managers likely also understand regulatory requirements governing the extent to which their inventory can be drawn down and still meet contractual and regulatory obligations. Moreover, equipment managers can ascertain costs, conditions and logistics of supplying equipment to a requestor, indicating that existing oil spill response caches are, in most cases, the best source to obtain needed critical spill resources when the use of the IOA process is necessary.

In addition to large caches of dedicated spill response resources, other equipment sources include equipment manufacturers, government agencies or facilities, and private parties (including oil company facilities and stockpiles). Though these entities may have the needed resources, they may not operate in an emergency response timeframe. When implementing the IOA Guidelines to obtain equipment from some of these sources, expectations may need to be appropriately adjusted that such sources may not immediately provide response assets. There may be additional time required for these entities to determine exact quantities and types of equipment that could be released in order to remain compliant with contractual or regulatory obligations. Also, these entities may not have established mechanisms for issues such as compensation, transportation and other necessary aspects of transferring needed equipment to the affected nation.

The TG group re-established the larger correspondence group under the leadership of the United States (USCG, Project Lead Heather Parker and Scott Knutson) to finalize the Guidelines inter-sessionally, with a view to submitting an updated draft to the next Technical Group (#16) for the group's agreement, with the goal of submitting a final draft to Technical Group 17.

## International news (continued)

The intention is that the smaller Core Group will take on the bulk of the revision work on the IOA Lexicon before submitting it to the larger Correspondence Group for their review - in advance of submission deadlines for the next Technical Group (TG16) meetings (dates are still TBD).

Several countries and organizations want to include additional equipment sources, including Republic of Korea and ITOFF (International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation.). ITOFF was curious about why we chose who we chose to put in that section (i.e. what are the criteria for choosing which organization is listed/included). ISCO (International Spill Control Organization) requested to see more of their members listed in there as well. Iran has two sources of equipment they want to add in the Caspian (Baku) and another source out of Abu Dhabi.

It was requested to add manned submarines, offshore rig tenders and anchor handling boats to the lexicon listing.

The delegations who requested to be on the larger Correspondence Group are ISCO, Spain, Canada, New Zealand, France, Finland, Islamic Republic of Iran, United Kingdom, Japan, Republic of Korea, Poland, Norway, Nigeria, and Singapore.

[Note from editor – Because the process of transferring information from the existing ISCO website to the new ISCO website is taking longer than expected, the IOA page created for members of ISCO's internal IOA working group has not been updated recently. The new website should be launched soon and the IOA page will be brought up-to-date as soon as this becomes possible. In the meantime, ISCO is continuing to represent the interests of its members through participation in a series of conference calls with other core group members. Members of the ISCO working group should continue to alert the ISCO Secretariat in regard to any points they may wish to have raised during these discussions]

## Incident reports

### CANADA: OIL LEAK OPERATION DEEMED SUCCESSFUL



*Photo: A weighted neoprene gasket is manoeuvred from the Canadian Coast Guard Ship Anne Harvey to a smaller work barge for subsea placement to prevent oil from leaking from the Manolis.*

May 29 - A Department of Fisheries and Oceans spokeswoman says operations by the Canadian Coast Guard to seal cracks in the sunken ship Manolis L off Newfoundland are now complete and were successful.

The bulk carrier ran aground and sank off Fogo Island and Change Island in Notre Dame Bay in 1985.

The DFO spokeswoman said today a weighted neoprene gasket was used to seal the cracks and stop oil from escaping. *Norwester* [Read more](#)

### TURKEY: KIRKUK PIPELINE HIT YET AGAIN

June 5 - Militants bombed the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline early on Tuesday in Nineveh province, Reuters reported, quoting an Iraqi oil ministry official.

"Bombs destroyed part of the pipeline, causing severe damage, and halting crude flow," an unidentified official told the news wire.

It is not known when flows will resume, however there is believed to be sufficient storage to meet the supply gap.

The pipeline is regularly attacked by militants with a noticeable increase in recent weeks. Violence and sabotage held back Iraqi oil exports in May as Prime Minister Nuri Maliki pledged to confront anti-government insurgents following a spate of bombings and carnage pitting the Shia-Moslem majority against the Sunni minority. *Upstream* [Read more](#)



## RUSSIAN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES CLEAN UP RUSVIETPETRO'S OIL SPILL AS COMPANY DOES NOTHING



On May 26, oil began flowing down the Kolva River through Komi Indigenous land in Northern Russia. For a week now the oil has been coating the river and building up on the banks, with no reaction from Rusvietpetro, the joint venture company of VietPetro and Zarubezhneft, a state-controlled Russian oil company, and no cleanup being organised by the company or even the local authorities.

There has not been a word to the communities about how they will clean up the spill, not a word to their investors that the spill is even happening, and almost zero coverage by local and national media. And now the oil has reached the Pechora River, which flows into the Arctic Ocean.

Greenpeace Russia obtained photos from allies at the Save the Pechora Committee, an organisation that is on the ground there now, documenting the spill and the Komi Indigenous Peoples who are being forced to clean it up themselves. They have no idea how much oil has already spilled into their waterways, but based on the number of barrels they've filled already and the amount of oil left, they estimate it at 100 tonnes, or roughly 730 barrels. *Greenpeace* [Read more](#)

## ECUADOR OIL SPILL POLLUTES AMAZON TRIBUTARY

*This photo released by Petroecuador Tuesday, June 4, 2013 shows an aerial view of an oil spill caused when a landslide damaged a main pipeline of Ecuador's state oil company, near the volcano El Reventador, in Ecuador's Amazonian region, Friday, June 1, 2013. The Friday landslide damaged the trans-Ecuador pipeline, causing the spill of some 420,000 gallons (1.6 million liters) of crude oil. Some entered the Coca river, a tributary of the Amazon that also flows through Peru and Brazil. Photo: Petroecuador*

June 4 - Ecuador's state oil company resumed pumping through the country's main pipeline on Tuesday, four days after it was damaged by a landslide. But crude spilled by the accident reached tributaries of the Amazon River and polluted drinking water for a regional capital far downstream.

Petroecuador issued a statement saying pumping resumed at 9:15 a.m. (1415 GMT) through the Trans-Ecuador pipeline and it said the flow should be back to normal within hours. Closure of the line had forced Petroecuador to accelerate three 360,000-barrel shipments of oil for China to free storage space. *San Francisco Chronicle* [Read more](#)



## USA: UPDATE: USCG MONITORS CARGO SHIP CONTAINER LEAKS IN PORT VALDEZ



June 4 - The Coast Guard continues to monitor the cargo ship BBC Arizona at the Valdez Container Terminal following [discovery of oil leaking from the ship's containers](#) on Friday.

On Monday the Coast Guard mobilized the Coast Guard Pacific Area Strike Team to augment oversight and monitoring of clean up, disposal and decontamination of the BBC Arizona. The Pacific Area Strike Team, based in Novato, Calif., is a specialized Coast Guard response team, which deploys to assist on-scene coordinators during response operations.

The BBC Arizona's owner contracted Emerald Services Inc. to actively manage the spill area and mitigate environmental damage until a clean-up, disposal, and decontamination plan is approved by the Coast Guard. Sorbent pads and sausage boom were placed on the deck of the ship, scupper drains

secured, and a vacuum truck remains on scene to prevent oily water run-off from the leaking containers. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

## USA: ELECTRIC SUBSTATION RUPTURE CAUSES MAJOR OIL SPILL IN FORT SMITH



June 4 - OG&E workers discovered a mineral oil spill at a utility substation near Rutgers Road in Fort Smith Saturday June 1, according to Jenna Durant with the EPA.

The company notified the EPA and confirmed about 16,000 gallons of transformer oil spilled. Crews have removed, 7,600 gallons of water and mineral oil mixture, Durant said.

They have booms, pads and skimmers near Massard Creek now to protect it and are testing to see if oil got into the creek. The oil did not get in the Poteau River, according to officials. [4029TV.com](http://4029TV.com) [Read more](#)

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## AUSTRALIA: AUTHORITY KEEPS WATCH OF CLEAN-UP OF SANTOS OIL SPILL IN OUTBACK QUEENSLAND

June 3 - The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection says it is closely monitoring the clean-up of an oil spill in south-west Queensland. About 240,000 litres of oil spilled from Santos's 'Zeus' oil field in the Copper Basin last month before before the company plugged the leak.

A Santos spokesman says the leak was plugged quickly and the company is working with the Queensland Government to remediate the site. Rehabilitation work at the site is already underway. [ABC News Queensland](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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## CANADA: CLEAN UP AT POSSIBLE ILLEGAL CHEMICAL DUMP SITE NEAR STRASBOURG

May 28 - For three days, RCMP, fire trucks and Hazmat crews have been parked at an abandoned homestead north of Strasbourg, cleaning up unknown chemicals. Mounties said somebody first noticed strange chemical containers at the farm along Highway 20 on May 22 and called the police. The evidence found led officers to believe the area may have been used as a clandestine lab site or an illegal chemical dump.

On May 25, RCMP called out a 'clandestine lab team' which includes specially-trained crews from the Ministry of Environment, RCMP, the local fire department and EMS to clean up the site. The team is expecting to stay on the site for several more days while the investigation and clean up continues. [NewsTalk 980 CJME](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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## SOUTH AFRICA: SELI 1 WRECKAGE SPILLS MORE OIL

May 28 - Oil leaked from the wreckage of a bulk carrier off Blouberstrand on Wednesday afternoon, the City of Cape Town said.

The navy had conducted controlled blasts to weaken the structure since Monday, said disaster risk management centre spokesperson Wilfred Solomons-Johannes. "When it blasted one of the tanks underwater it ruptured, and it then released oil that was onboard the wreck." [iAfrica.com](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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## COLOMBIA: 'FARC ATTACK ON PIPELINE' CAUSES OIL SPILL IN SOUTHERN COLOMBIA



May 20 - An alleged FARC attack has caused an oil spill in the south of country, Colombia's nationally-run oil company Ecopetrol said Sunday.

According to a company press release, a rebel explosives attack on a pipeline in Orito, a remote municipality in the southern Putumayo department, caused an undefined quantity of crude oil to flow towards key rivers. One employee was injured in the explosion.

Following the attack, Ecopetrol shut down the pipeline while local environmental authorities took charge of attempting to prevent the spilled oil to reach the Putumayo river, the most important river in the southern department. [Colombia Reports](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Abe Ash, via Linked-in Oil Spill Professionals Group]

## ARCTIC NEWS REPORTS AND ARTICLES

### Canada at the helm: challenge and change at the Arctic Council

Earlier this month Canada began its two-year tenure as the chair of the Arctic Council ("AC"). There is little doubt that Canada has assumed the helm at the most dynamic and challenging time in the organization's 17 year history.

The Canadian Chair at the AC will be held by Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency and Minister of Health. Canada's stated goals for its chairmanship will be the promotion of business in the Arctic, as well as increasing opportunity for indigenous people to participate in the Arctic's development. The desire to use the AC as a forum for the promotion of business represents a new direction for the AC, away from its traditional areas of concern. *Team North Alert*  
[Read more](#)

### Big Oil's big play for Arctic - Industry comparing notes on oil spill response plan, but doubts remain

May 17 - With the public increasingly worried about oil spills, aboriginal groups calling for an Arctic drilling moratorium, and the oil industry keen as ever to tap northern deposits, oil-spill response preparedness was a big topic of discussion at the Arctic Council meeting in Sweden this week.

As Canada, which has large untapped deposits under the Beaufort Sea, assumed its chairmanship on Wednesday, the group of eight nations that surround the North Pole signed a pact on oil-spill prevention in Kiruna, Sweden's most northern city.

Coinciding with the meeting, the London-based International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP), whose member companies produce more than half of the world's oil, was eager to talk about industry efforts to improve the handling of oil spills in Arctic environments, which it says have advanced significantly in recent years.

Non-governmental organizations such as the OGP and Greenpeace requested observer status at the council but their requests were denied. *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Gerald Graham, Worldocean Consulting]

## CANADA: PIPELINE AND MARINE OIL SPILL RESPONSE NEWS

### "I'm confident it will go"- Enbridge CEO ready to work with B.C. on pipeline



June 5 - The CEO of Enbridge Inc. said Wednesday he's willing to work with the B.C. government to allay doubts it has about the safety of the proposed \$6-billion Northern Gateway pipeline.

The province officially declared opposition to pipeline last week, telling a federal review panel the project shouldn't go ahead because there are too many unanswered questions about how Calgary-based Enbridge would respond to a spill.

"I don't view it as a blow," Enbridge CEO Al Monaco said following a pipeline safety forum hosted by the National Energy Board. *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#)

### Another Major Tar Sands Pipeline Seeking U.S. Permit

June 3 - Canadian energy giant Enbridge is quietly building a 5,000-mile network of new and expanded pipelines that would achieve the same goal as the Keystone.

Enbridge has already begun growing its existing pipeline infrastructure to increase the flow of Canadian and U.S.-produced oil into refineries and ports in the Midwest, Gulf Coast and Northeastern Canada. The company's plans have largely escaped public scrutiny, in part because its expansion has proceeded in many segments and phases.

The linchpin of Enbridge's Canadian oil transport system is its proposal to increase the capacity of Line 67 (often referred to as the Alberta Clipper pipeline) to bring an additional 430,000 barrels a day of oil into the United States. Line 67 runs from Hardisty, Alberta to Superior, Wisc. and currently ships up to 450,000 barrels of oil a day. Enbridge wants to expand the line's capacity to 570,000 barrels a day, with the possibility of future growth to 880,000 barrels a day. That's larger than the Keystone XL's proposed daily capacity of 830,000 barrels.

*Inside Climate News* [Read more](#)



## Other News (continued)

### Canada's offshore oil spill response outdated, audits found

*Photo: Tankers would use Douglas Channel to gain access to the terminus of Enbridge's proposed Northern Gateway oil pipeline at Kitimat, B.C. (Darryl Dyck/Canadian Press)*

June 3 - Internal government audits of the Canadian Coast Guard's capacity to monitor and respond to a marine oil spill found a system that was outdated, disorganized and in need of an overhaul.

But many of the substantial recommendations in the reports have languished, despite pressure on Ottawa to deal with concerns over a potential increase in oil tanker traffic off the British Columbia coast.

Two 2010 audits "each found a number of significant deficiencies in the program's preparedness capability, and questioned the capacity of the [Canadian Coast Guard] to respond to a significant marine pollution event," said a March 2012 draft report for the federal Fisheries department.

In particular, the report — obtained by The Canadian Press using Access to Information — found that about 83 per cent of the oil spill response equipment across the country is ready to use, but most of it is outdated.

"Although operationally ready to respond, most of the assets held by the (emergency response) program average 25 or more years in service and have either become obsolete or are coming to the end of their useful life," said the report of the Environmental Response Capacity Definition Project. "Maintenance is increasingly difficult as technical support and availability of parts are compromised." *CBC News* [Read More](#) [Thanks to Gerald Graham, Worldocean Consulting]



### ESTONIA AND FINLAND IN OIL SPILL PREVENTION EXERCISE OFF PALDISKI IN ESTONIA



*Photo: The oil recovery vessel Halli belongs to three such vessels operated by the Finnish Navy, of which one is always on four-hour standby.*

May 30 - An exercise in oil spill prevention and response involving Estonia and Finland was held in the sea area off Paldiski on 29 May 2013. The Puhas Meri 2013 exercise organised by Estonia covered the testing of alarm systems, various recovery systems, cargo transfer and bilateral cooperation.

Eight oil recovery vessels from Estonia and Finland took part in the exercise, together with Estonia's newest addition to the fleet, the Kindral Kurvits (PVL-101). Representing Finland were the Finnish Navy's oil recovery vessel Halli, the Finnish Border Guard vessel Merikarhu, and

buoy tenders Seili and Oili 1 operated by Meritaito Oy. The exercise is held annually under bilateral agreements between the countries bordering the Baltic Sea. *SYKE* [Read more](#)

### BALTIC NEIGHBOURS TO TRAIN AT INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE OFF ROSTOCK

June 7 - Twenty-seven oil response ships from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Sweden will train next week the response to a major oil spill under the direction of the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), Germany.

The HELCOM BALEX DELTA exercise takes place off the coast of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and is an annual exercise under the umbrella of HELCOM.

## Other News (continued)

The aim of this exercise is to test the alarm procedure, the response capability, and the response time of the HELCOM Contracting Parties, including all the nine coastal Baltic States and the EU. The staff functions and the cooperation between combating units will be tested and practised. In addition, the exercise will focus on communication between the involved units and on the interaction between offshore response units and shoreline clean-up units.

Date: Thursday 13 June, 2013 Place: Entrance Marinestützpunkt Hohe Düne, Rostock, Germany *Helcom* [Read more](#)

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### EMSA: BETTER PLANNING AND COORDINATION WHEN CRISIS STRIKES



*Photo: EMSA participating in the inauguration via video link-up*

June 3 - Efficient response to disasters inside and outside Europe is the aim of the Emergency Response Centre. Launched by the European Commission on 15 May, the centre will operate 24 hours a day and be capable of dealing with several simultaneous emergencies in different time zones. The ERC will monitor the situation, analyse humanitarian and civil protection issues, and trigger immediate response if needed. "Making a coordinated and immediate response is an essential part of any lifesaving action.

We have established the ERC to enable the EU and its Member States to respond to overwhelming natural and man-made

Disasters in a more timely and efficient manner," explained European Crisis Response Commissioner, Kristalina Georgieva. The ERC replaces and upgrades the Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC), thereby becoming EMSA's new contact point in the event marine pollution response is needed. *EMSA Newsletter* [Read more](#)

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### INDIA: UNION GOVT APPROVED PLAN TO EASE THE EFFECT OF OIL SPILLS ON ENVIRONMENT

June 3 - The Union government approved the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) in the Month of June 2013 in order to lessen the effect of oil spills on land and in marine areas.

The basic thought behind approving NOSDCP is to diminish the impact of all oil spills on the environment by setting specific standards for oil spill equipment stockpiles, establishing time frames for oil spill response and increasing collaboration among partner agencies.

It is important here to note that the 18th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan and preparedness meeting was held at Dehradun on 31 May 2013 and since then there has been no major oil spill.

Severe efforts were put in by the various resource agencies and stakeholders for cleaning of oiled mangroves at Sikka and Sarmat in the Gulf of Kutchchh, capping of gas leak from the ONGC well off Kakinada, and response to the fire onboard M.V Amsterdam Bridge off the Mumbai harbour. *Jagranjosh.com* [Read more](#)

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### AUSTRALIA: ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AFTER QUEENSLAND OIL SPILL

June 3 - To Queensland conservationists are raising concerns about the Government's handling of a 240,000 litre oil spill in the state's south-west. The oil leaked from a Santos project in the Cooper Basin, near the floodplains that feed Lake Eyre.

Queensland's Environment Department says it's monitoring the clean up closely, but The Wilderness Society says information about the spill has been hard to come by and it's concerned about the long-term impacts of the leak. *The World Today* [Read more](#)

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### KAZAKHSTAN HOLDS EXERCISE ON RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS IN KASHAGAN



June 6 - "Kashagan 2013" large-scale exercises started in Kazakh Atyrau on June 6, Kazinform news agency reported. Within the exercises, the Kazakh emergency services test their readiness for the third level oil spills.

The exercises are being held by the members of North Caspian Consortium operating Kashagan oil and gas field in interaction with the Kazakh regional authorities, the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The participants will exercise the ways of joint activity in case of oil spill.

Kazakh Minister of Emergency Situations Vladimir Bozhko is expected to attend the exercises.

## Other News (continued)

Kashagan is one of the largest fields discovered in the past 40 years. According to the analysts, it has the potential to unite the top five largest oil companies in the world. Kazakh geologists estimate geological oil reserves at 4.8 billion tons. According to the project operator, total oil reserves are 38 billion barrels (six billion tons), with a recoverable volume of about 10 billion barrels. Natural gas reserves are estimated at over one trillion cubic meters. Oil production start at the field is expected until the end of 2013.

At present, the Kashagan project participants are Eni, Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil, Total and KazMunaiGas, which own equal shares (16.81 per cent), as well as ConocoPhillips - 8.4 per cent and Japan's Inpex - 7.55 per cent. *Azernews* [Read more](#)

## NIGERIA: DIEZANI ALISON-MADUEKE: THE WOMAN WORKING TO CLEAN UP AFRICA'S DIRTY OIL

As thieves siphon off 200,000 barrels a day in Nigeria, Nick Kochan meets the minister tasked with cracking her country's £1bn-a-year 'blood oil' industry

Well-resourced gangs are diverting some 10 per cent of Nigeria's oil production and channelling the money into kidnapping, piracy and terrorism. The result is not only funds lost to the country's exchequer but also devastating damage to the environment and to the health of people in the region. Some 200 foreign oil company employees, some from Shell and BP, have been among those kidnapped for ransom in the Niger delta over the last seven years.

A campaign to close down the "crime cabals" who divert crude oil to the tune of 200,000 barrels a day is top priority for Diezani Alison-Madueke, the Nigerian oil minister. She is leading a lobby to get the world community on side on behalf of affected Gulf of Guinea countries such as Benin, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Liberia and Togo as well as Nigeria. "We are very keen to join hands as soon as possible with the international community in fighting this terrible menace," she said.

Britain and the US are assisting in developing a fingerprinting system for tracking stolen crude. Mrs Alison-Madueke points out that the global community enjoys wide access to Gulf of Guinea oil, with some three-quarters of US oil imports from Africa coming from the region. *The Independent* [Read more](#)

## People in the news

### NEIL MARSON, MISCO, APPOINTED AS BESL'S NEW COUNTRY MANAGER FOR AZERBAIJAN

Mr Neil Marson MISCO has been appointed Briggs Environmental Services In-Country Manager in Baku Azerbaijan. Neil, joined Briggs Environmental Services in 2009 as Senior Consultant after a long career with HM Coastguard and then as an independent consultant to the oil industry.

Neil took up his new position with BES on the 1st of June 2013. See also report on the ISCO News page.

### ENSIGN TRAVIS MEYER, USN RECEIVES SCAA'S ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE AWARD



*Pictured is (l. to r.) Michael Gallagher, Member, SCAA Board of Directors; Ensign Travis Meyer, USN; and New York Maritime College President Wendi B. Carpenter, RADM, USN (Ret.).*

2013 marks the 5th Anniversary of the Spill Control Association of America's Environmental Excellence Award program, created to encourage careers in marine transportation and marine environmental fields. SCAA Board member Mike Gallagher recently presented the 2013 Environmental Excellence Award to Travis Meyer, a student at the New York Maritime College with impressive credentials. Travis enlisted in the Navy as a seaman recruit and because of his demonstrated capability and performance, the Navy paid his tuition to send him to the New York Maritime College for three years. Travis was commissioned an Ensign Naval Officer and is reporting for Nuclear Submarine Training. SCAA [Read more](#)

### EEA APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Belgian Hans Bruyninckx has taken office as executive director at the European Environment Agency (EEA)

Bruyninckx replaces Jacqueline McGlade who held the position for 10 years. McGlade's second five-year term as executive director ended last week. *Edie Energy* [Read more](#)



## USA: SENATE CHAMPION FOR ENVIRONMENT, CHEMICAL SAFETY DIES



Sen. **Frank R. Lautenberg** (D-N.J.), who since the 1980s championed federal legislation aimed at ensuring the safety of chemicals and the chemical industry, died on June 3. He was 89 and the oldest person serving in the Senate. Hailing from a state with a robust chemical industry, Lautenberg advocated for preventing and preparing for chemical accidents.

In the wake of the disastrous 1986 leak of methyl isocyanate from a Union Carbide plant in Bhopal, India, that killed thousands of people, he co-authored the Emergency Planning & Community Right-to-Know Act.

“One goal is to develop a national emergency planning infrastructure for chemical accidents, designed to plan for and prevent chemical emergencies,” Lautenberg said about the law in 1988. “The second objective is to give citizens the right to know what chemicals are being stored in and emitted into their communities.” That second part is the annual Toxics Release Inventory, which industry reports to EPA. *Chemical & Engineering News* [Read more](#)

## ISCO news

### ISCO AT OIL SPILL RESPONSE WORKSHOP IN BEIJING AND A 30% DISCOUNT ON THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR ISCO MEMBERS

ISCO will be represented by Mr Lee Guobin, Member of the ISCO Executive Committee. Visitors attending the Workshop should get in touch with Lee Guobin at the event to find out more about ISCO and hear about the advantages of becoming a member of ISCO.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference and Exhibition

**Oil Spill Response Workshop (OSRW 2013)**

26-27 June, 2013 Beijing China

a topco event

Thanks to Mr Guobin and Topco, ISCO Members are able to secure a 30% discount, representing a saving of about \$240. Members wishing to take advantage of this very special offer should get in touch with the ISCO Secretariat as soon as possible at [info@spillcontrol.org](mailto:info@spillcontrol.org) and, if you are not yet a member of ISCO, you can still qualify by joining now by downloading and submitting the ISCO [Online Joining Form](#). ISCO will confirm to Topco the names and details of members wishing to attend and eligible for the discount.

ISCO members attending OSRW will have the opportunity to meet senior officials of the China Transportation Ministry, China State Ocean Administration and China Environment Protection Ministry, and to network with many potential customers in China.

The 3rd Conference and Exhibition Oil Spill Response Workshop (OSRW 2013) will be taking place on 26-27 June, 2013 in Beijing China. Showcasing the latest and best technologies and solutions for oil spills, it is Chinese Only Event on Oil Spill Response. The event designed to be Asia's top networking, knowledge-sharing and sourcing event of choice for oil spill prevention and clearing professionals and companies. About 200 professional delegates will meet 10 excellent vendors and suppliers at the event. Click [HERE](#) to get more info on the programme and speakers.

### ISCO & BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ATTEND CASPIAN OIL AND GAS EXHIBITION BAKU AZERBAIJAN JUNE 2013



*In the picture: Neil Marson MISCO (left) with Captain Bill Boyle, MNI, FISCO (right) At Caspian Oil and Gas Exhibition Baku Azerbaijan June 2013*  
ISCO

ISCO was represented by Captain Bill Boyle, MNI, FISCO, Member of the ISCO Executive Committee. Captain Boyle is General Manager of ISCO Corporate Member, Briggs Environmental Services, and is responsible for day-to-day national and international operations, liaising with clients and government agencies, national and international.

It was announced at the event that Mr Neil Marson, MISCO, has been appointed Briggs Environmental Services In-Country Manager in Baku Azerbaijan. Neil, joined Briggs Environmental Services in 2009 as Senior Consultant after a long career with HM Coastguard and then as an independent consultant to the oil industry.

Neil took up his new position with BESL on the 1st of June 2013.



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 130 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Fellow of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#)

### CHAPTER 130: KNOWLEDGE-BASED CONTINGENCY PLANNING

The response planning described herein is based on the knowledge reviewed and contrasted with its counter beliefs in articles 1-129. The scope of the plan embraces salvage operations onboard casualties, cargo/bunker transfer in safe havens, and dispersion/recovery of releases at sea and onshore. The stated intention is to reduce/terminate casualty-related releases from ships or oil wells as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible and to restore environments to their pre-release condition as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible.

As to the relevant physicochemical properties of oils/HNS, the plan notes that these and their individual values are well-known and readily available from the industries which respectively refine, synthesise and/or use them; that these properties in relation to oils are distillation profiles; water-immiscibility, viscosity, density, melting points and pour points; that the first controls the rate and extent of component evaporation, the next triplet controls droplet size distribution on agitation, and the last pair controls whether they will be solid or semi-solid at ambient temperatures; and that the specific values of these properties for individual oils quantify the rate and extent of evaporative loss from spread layers, the half-life dependent rate of natural dispersion of such layers, their amenability to dispersants and to mechanical recovery and whether they will be solid or semi-solid at specific sea temperatures. Again the plan notes that the properties in relation to individual HNS are boiling point, vapour pressure, water-immiscibility, viscosity, solubility, melting point and density; that their respective values show that most will evaporate, only a few having viscosities high enough to form persistent slicks while others dissolve or sink before dispersing, dissolving or evaporating; that all but an identifiable few have viscosities > 5cSt at 15 °C; that none form emulsions and that only an identifiable few are solid at ambient temperatures. Thus, the plan notes that available tabulations of property values enable quantitative predictions to be made as to floating or sinking and as to evaporation, natural dispersion and solution prior to stranding on known wind/tide vectors for all oils/HNS; that recovery is not possible for evaporated, dispersed or dissolved oils/HNS; and that dispersants are not required.

As to the effects of all such releases as mediated by natural evaporation, dispersion and solution, the plan notes that the tabulated physicochemical property values referenced above, initially limit and subsequently dilute post-release concentrations of vapours/gases in the atmosphere and of dispersed droplets and solutes in seawater to levels and exposure times below those of species-extinction/ ecological-disaster; that all organic compounds degrade to carbon dioxide and water by direct oxidation or through the food chain and post mortem biodegradation; that while physical coating with pollutant layers prior to natural dispersion and degradation can kill individual organisms, such deaths have not caused species-extinction/ecological-disaster; and that while such layers can disrupt commercial activity, compensation is available.

As to potential release-volumes, the plan notes that these are limited by tank-volume, by the smaller volumes otherwise packaged, by cargo/bunker transfer and by blow-out prevention. As to release-prevention, the plan notes that releases from other than initial tank-damage or from other than initial blow-outs are prevented by cargo/bunker transfer or by expeditious well-capping; that such post-accident prevention reduces potential commercial impacts in inshore waters and shorelines while benefiting individual organisms otherwise liable to coating. As to biodegradation, the plan notes that stranded slicks degrade more slowly than those dispersed, dissolved and diluted in seawater before or after stranding; and that these seawater processes are by far the greatest avoiders of shoreline and organism coating. As to potential release-response the plan notes that while nothing can be done to recover dispersed droplets or dissolved/evaporated molecules, no harm arises from the degradation of such within the ecology of sea, shore, land or atmosphere; that success or failure in avoiding the stranding of non-soluble/non-volatile pollutants depends on the proximity of the release-point, the quantity released, and the pollutant volatility/viscosity which determines rates of natural evaporation/ dispersion, dispersant-induced dispersion and mechanical-recovery to the extent of near-shore releases over 5000 tonnes being beyond practically achievable rates of dispersant treatment by aircraft while encounter rates per metre swath for single-ship recovery units cannot be expected to be more than about 1-2% of those of single aircraft.

However, when pollutants do strand despite tank-volume limits; natural evaporation, dispersion, solution; dispersant-use and/or mechanical recovery, the plan notes that the best response is to return them to the sea for resumption of the natural and intervention processes which all but prevented the said stranding and which could have prevented it had the slick had further to travel before stranding; that water-depth limitations imposed on dispersant-use close to shore are thus unnecessary/counter-productive; and that dispersant-use onshore returns stranded pollutant from the low onshore rates of biodegradation to the higher rates available in seawater; that dispersant-induced return is physically more effective than mechanical return and is more cost-effective than the physical separation of pollutant from beach material and the downstream processing otherwise unavoidable when pollutant viscosity is too high for successful dispersant-use.

1 The *Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at [www.authorsonline.co.uk](http://www.authorsonline.co.uk)

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

## IN SITU BURNING: CHAPTER 22



A short series of articles on In Situ Burning contributed by Dr Merv Fingas of Spill Science, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6W 1J6 [fingasmerv@shaw.ca](mailto:fingasmerv@shaw.ca)

Merv Fingas MSc PhD worked for more than 35 years in the field of oil spill technology at Environment Canada's Environmental Technology Center in Ottawa, Ontario. As head of the Emergencies Science Division at the Centre, he conducted and managed research and development projects. He is currently working independently in Alberta. Dr Fingas is the Member of ISCO Council for Canada.

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### Summary of the Serial

This is the 22nd of a series of articles on in-situ burning of oil spills. This series will cover in-situ burning step-by-step and will present the latest in knowledge on the topic.

### 22. Ignition Devices II

A variety of ignition devices or methods, both commercial and non-commercial, have been used to ignite oil slicks, although the methods of igniting oil on water have not been well documented.<sup>1,64</sup> Many of the methods used were modifications of ignition devices used for other purposes.

In general, an ignition device must meet two basic criteria in order to be effective. It must be safe to use and it must apply sufficient heat to produce enough oil vapors to ignite the oil. The main factor is that the lighter, i.e., more volatile or less weathered the oil, the more easily it will ignite. For heavy oils, more heating time is required to produce enough ignitable vapors. For heavy oils, a primer, preferably diesel fuel or kerosene is used to soak in the oil for a few seconds before applying an igniter. For many oils the igniter must also transmit the heat as low as possible to the oil layer. Much of the heat will rise, and thus will not necessarily ignite oils without a significant vapor emission.

#### Helicopter-mounted devices

Useful, commercial devices used today for igniting oil slicks are the helicopter-mounted igniters. These are helicopter-slung devices that dispense packets or globules of burning, gelled fuel and produce an 800°C flame that lasts up to 6 minutes.<sup>1,64</sup> This type of igniter was designed for the forestry industry and is used extensively for forest fire management. Two helicopter-based systems suitable for igniting in-situ burns are the Simplex Heli-torch manufactured by Simplex Manufacturing of Portland, Oregon and the Universal Drip Torch available from Canadian Helicopters (DNZ Group) in many locations across Canada. The Simplex Helitorch was used during the NOBE in-situ burn exercise off the coast of Newfoundland in 1993.<sup>1</sup> Simplex information can be found at <http://www.simplex.aero/slung/>.

While the two units are assembled differently, they operate in a similar way. Both have a 205-L fuel barrel connected to a fuel pumping and ignition system. On the Simplex torch, all parts are mounted on an aluminum frame to which the slinging cables are attached. The pumping and ignition system of the Drip Torch are attached to the fuel transport pipe which is connected with a hose to the opening of the barrel. The pipe with all the attachments is mounted on top of the barrel with clips and the whole system is slung by cables running from the pipe.

The fuel used in the helitorch system is a mixture of a powdered gelling agent with either gasoline, jet fuel, or a diesel/gas mixture. SureFire, an aluminum soap, is the most commonly used gelling agent. Alumagel is another type of gelling agent that was used to make Napalm for military purposes. It is currently available only through military surplus. The SureFire powder is more readily available and gels faster than Alumagel. An improved version of SureFire gell, known as SureFire II, is now available. The manufacturer claims that this new product mixes easier, gels faster and at a lower temperature, and remains in suspension longer than the original product. SureFire and SureFire II are available from Simplex Manufacturing in Portland, Oregon.

When preparing to operate a helitorch, the gelling agent and fuel must be mixed in a secure area well away from any ignition sources. The first step is therefore to set up a mixing area where the fuel is mixed with the gelling agent and a loading area where the barrels are loaded onto the helitorch system. These two areas should be separated from the helipads and helicopter refueling areas.

The fuel is mixed with the gelling agent directly in the specialized barrels that come with the helitorch unit, using the raised hatch opening in the barrel. The required ratio of gelling agent to fuel depends primarily on the type of fuel and the air temperature. In general, the lower the flash point of the fuel, the less gelled agent is required.

The amount of fuel needed to ignite an oil spill is primarily related to the number of slicks and the degree of weathering of the oil. The amount of fuel should not normally be related to the amount of oil to be burned. During the NOBE burn test in 1993, 20 L of gelled fuel were used to ignite a slick of 50,000 L. One barrel of gelled fuel containing 180 L could ignite approximately 450,000 L of oil covering the same area as during this trial. Figure 23 shows a HeliTorch being discharged of excess fuel before the helicopter returned to base. The volatility of the type of oil used and the temperature may also affect the amount of gelled fuel required. It

## Special feature – In situ burning (continued)

should also be noted that the amount of gelled fuel dropped depends on the individual operator, since not every operator holds down the ignition switch for the same amount of time.

Before the helitorch is deployed, wind conditions are checked so the pilot can approach the burn from an upwind or crosswind direction. Water currents are also checked to ensure that the burning gel will not drift towards any vessels involved in the burn operation. A test drop can be carried out. If this indicates that the gelled fuel is igniting and falling properly, the pilot positions the helicopter over the desired location, fires the torch on a slow pass, and then leaves the area. If igniting a fuel with a high flash point, the pilot may have to hover over the burn area and release multiple balls of burning fuel to concentrate the fire in one location.



**Figure 23** A helicopter discharges remaining fuel from a Helitorch after successful ignition of an oil burn as shown behind the unit.

### References

- 1 Fingas, M., "In-situ Burning", Chapter 23, in *Oil Spill Science and Technology*, M. Fingas, Editor, Gulf Publishing Company, NY, NY, pp. 737-903, 2011
- 64 ASTM F 1990-07, *ASTM Standard Guide for In-Situ Burning of Oil Spills - Ignition Devices*, ASTM, 2007

**To be continued**

## Publications

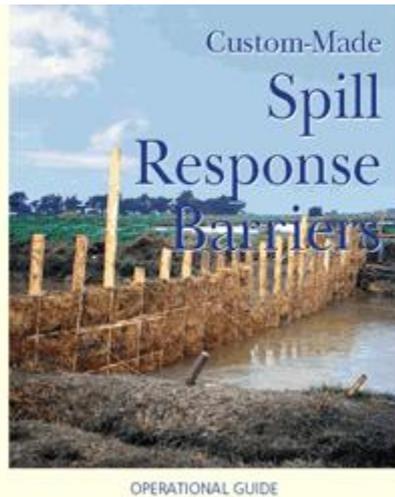
### FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

|  |  |                   |
|--|--|-------------------|
| <a href="#">ASME EED EHS Newsletter</a>              | News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday   | Most recent issue |
| <a href="#">Bow Wave</a>                             | Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters       | Current issue     |
| <a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>                     | News from Cedre in Brittany, France                      | May 2013 issue    |
| <a href="#">The Essential Hazmat News</a>            | Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals            | March 13 issue    |
| <a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>                  | Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater         | June 1 issue      |
| <a href="#">USA EPA Tech News &amp; Trends</a>       | Contaminated site clean-up information                   | May 2013 issue    |
| <a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>    | From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination          | April 16-30 issue |
| <a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>               | International news for the oil tanker community          | No. 23 2013       |
| <a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>                        | Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group | June 2013 issue   |
| <a href="#">Soil &amp; Groundwater Product Alert</a> | From Environmental Expert                                | June 3 issue      |
| <a href="#">Soil &amp; Groundwater Ezine</a>         | Articles, papers and reports                             | May 2013 issue    |
| <a href="#">Soil &amp; Groundwater Newsletter</a>    | From Environmental Expert                                | June 6 issue      |
| <a href="#">Soil &amp; Groundwater Events</a>        | Upcoming events compiled by Environmental Expert         | May 2013 issue    |
| <a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>                  | New and forthcoming IMO publications                     | April 2013 issue  |
| <a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>          | News for prevention & control professionals              | June 5 issue      |
| <a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>                      | News from the European Maritime Safety Agency            | June 2013 issue   |
| <a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>                 | Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management      | April 2013 issue  |
| <a href="#">Int'l Environmental Technology</a>       | Environmental Monitoring, Testing and Analysis           | April 2013 issue  |
| <a href="#">HELCOM Newsletter</a>                    | Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission          | May 2013 issue    |

### CEDRE: CUSTOM-MADE SPILL RESPONSE BARRIERS – NEW OPERATIONAL GUIDE

During the response to many oil spills in coastal or inland waters, the use of [manufactured booms](#) has often been supplemented by the use of devices put together by response teams in emergency situations.

## Publications (continued)



In many cases, due to the site characteristics, the pollutant's behaviour or insufficient or even a complete lack of specific response means, responders build makeshift devices with locally available resources to contain, deflect or trap the pollutant or to protect sensitive areas.

The efficiency of these custom-made barriers is highly variable according to the materials and techniques employed.

The use of custom-made barriers may therefore be considered, however these barriers should not be improvised in an emergency but rather should have been designed, tried and tested, as part of a response planning and preparedness effort.

The second section of this guide comprises practical datasheets for various custom-made barriers.

These datasheets present the deployment conditions, equipment required, benefits and limitations observed in the field for each type of barrier. This is in no way an exhaustive inventory of what could be imagined. On the basis of the information presented and the many illustrations provided, readers will be able to determine the most appropriate

equipment for the situation in hand, and then to assess the chosen solution during exercises.

This guide is mainly intended for public and private personnel in charge of spill response preparedness, but also for response teams, who will find practical advice on building devices that can then be adapted to the given situation. [More info](#)

## Events

### IOSC 2014: CONFERENCE PREPARATION SWINGS INTO HIGH GEAR – THE “CALL FOR ABSTRACTS” CLOSES ON JULY 15, 2013

#### International Oil Spill Conference



API • BSEE • IMO • IPIECA • NOAA • USCG • USEPA

## IOSC 2014

The 2014 International Oil Spill Conference will be held in the United States in Savannah, Georgia from May 5-8 at the scenic Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. The “Call for Abstracts” for paper and poster submissions opened on January 25, 2013 and will close on **July 15, 2013**. All interested participants are encouraged to visit the IOSC’s website at [IOSC 2014](#) to view detailed information about the Conference, register to attend, reserve exhibition space as a vendor, and/or submit abstracts for possible paper and poster presentations.

The IOSC 2014 will also host a film festival, photography contest, technical short courses, and an on-water display of oil spill cleanup technologies and tactics.

First held in 1969, the IOSC provides a forum for professionals from the international community, the private sector, academia, government, and non-governmental organizations to highlight and discuss innovations and best practices across the spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response and restoration related to oil spills. The goals of the IOSC remain much as they were in 1969: “. . . to delineate the overall dimensions of the oil spills problem, explore the present state of the art of prevention and control of oil spills, and review the relevant research and development efforts of government and private industry, both here and abroad”.

The IOSC convenes triennially on a rotational basis with the Interspill and Spillcon conferences. Seven organizations manage the IOSC through an Executive Committee: the American Petroleum Institute, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the United States Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the International Maritime Organization, and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association.

#### Conference Papers and Posters

The paper and poster presentations are the backbone of the IOSC’s technical program and contribute to the vast canon of oil pollution knowledge shared between international community, the private sector, academia, government, and non-governmental organizations. Prospective authors are encouraged to visit <http://www.iosc.org> and click the “Papers and Posters” tab to find instructions for submitting abstracts electronically using the IOSC’s online manuscript submission system. Deadline for Abstracts is **July 15, 2013**. Abstracts must be in English, may not exceed 400 words, and must be designated for either a paper or poster.

Traditionally, the IOSC solicits a broad range of technical and policy papers under four general categories: Preparedness, Prevention, Response, and Restoration. Depending on historical events, emerging problems, or regulatory changes, specific focus topics under these four categories fluctuate in interest between successive IOSCs. For IOSC 2014, the Executive and Program Committees have developed a list of 38 Focus Topics that are considered timely and appealing for papers and platform presentations in 2014. Although abstracts submitted on any relevant subject will be considered, a submission has a higher probability for acceptance if it relates to any of the IOSC 2014 Focus Topics – available online at [http://www.iosc.org/IOSC2014\\_CallForPapers.pdf](http://www.iosc.org/IOSC2014_CallForPapers.pdf)

## Events (continued)

Submitted abstracts will be reviewed by volunteer subject matter experts from industry, government, and academia and evaluated based on relevance, uniqueness/originality, technical content, and clarity. Abstracts are double-blind reviewed – the evaluators are not provided the author names and vice versa.

Authors whose abstracts are chosen will receive invitations in August 2013 to develop technical papers with 20-minute platform presentations or static posters with interactive discussions.

Specific guidelines for poster or paper development will accompany the acceptance notices and will also be available at <http://www.iosc.org> under the “Papers and Posters” tab. As the invited papers and posters are developed, they will be peer-reviewed and checked for technical accuracy and format following a rigid submission schedule established by the Program Committee.

Final papers and posters approved for the Conference will be published in the online *IOSC Proceedings*.

### Online *IOSC Proceedings*

The *IOSC Proceedings* is the official chronicle of the Conference. In 2013, the IOSC launched its new online *IOSC Proceedings* after digitally converting all past Conference hardcopy formats into useable online content. Separate from the Conference website, the *IOSC Proceedings* website at [www.ioscproceedings.com](http://www.ioscproceedings.com) offers free access to over 3000 articles related to oil spill prevention, response, and restoration. Spanning over 40 years of oil pollution issues and discussions, the online *IOSC Proceedings* provides easy access to unique articles and perspectives not available elsewhere.

Future conference *Proceedings* will only be published in an electronic format.

## Training

### USA: CSB RELEASES NEW 3-DISC SAFETY VIDEO DVD SET; CONTAINS 31 CSB PRODUCTIONS DEPICTING VARIETY OF ACCIDENTS

June 5, 2013 – The U.S. Chemical Safety Board today announced production and release of a new three-disc, single-box set containing all safety videos produced to date for completed CSB accident investigations. The DVD set is available free of charge and may be ordered by filling out the [DVD request form](#) at [www.CSB.gov](http://www.CSB.gov).

CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, “The CSB Safety Videos are known around the world for their forceful depiction of the events that lead to deadly releases, explosions and fires, and their clear explanations of the root causes of the accidents – all derived from the high-quality detailed investigations carried out by CSB staff. We believe the new three-disc set, including our latest videos, will facilitate distribution and bring safety awareness to an even higher level.” [More info](#)

## Correction

### PORT CRAFTS RESPONSE IN CASE OF OIL SPILL – ARTICLE IN ISSUE 385 (20 MAY 2013)

This article, highlighted in the May 20 ISCO Newsletter as being a Canada/US issue, actually only applies to the US. It relates to Vancouver, WA rather than to Vancouver, BC.

Apologies for the mistake and thanks to Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting for spotting the error.

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO is 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 IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations. ISCO is managed by an elected executive committee members of which are **Mr David Usher** (President, USA), **Mr John McMurtrie** (Secretary, UK), **Mr Marc Shaye** (USA), **Mr Dan Sheehan** (USA), **Rear Admiral M. L. Stacey**, CB (UK), **M. Jean Claude Sainlos** (France), **Mr Kerem Kemerli** (Turkey), **Mr Paul Pisani** (Malta), **Mr Simon Rickaby** (UK), **Mr Li Guobin** (China), and **Captain Bill Boyle** (UK). The Executive Committee is assisted by the non-executive ISCO Council composed of the following national representatives – **Mr John Wardrop** (Australia), **Mr Namig Gandilov** (Azerbaijan), **Mr John Cantlie** (Brazil), **Dr Merv Fingas** (Canada), **Captain Davy T. S. Lau** (China, Hong Kong), **Mr Li Guobin** (China, Mainland), **Mr Darko Domovic** (Croatia), **Eng. Ashraf Sabet** (Egypt), **Mr Torbjorn Hedrenius** (Estonia), **Mr Pauli Einarsson** (Faroe Islands), **Prof. Harilaous Psarftis** (Greece), **Captain D. C. Sekhar** (India), **Mr Dan Arbel** (Israel), **Mr Sanjay Gandhi** (Kenya), **Mr Joe Braun** (Luxembourg), **Chief Kola Agboke** (Nigeria), **Mr Jan Allers** (Norway), **Capt. Chris Richards** (Singapore), **Mr Anton Moldan** (South Africa), **Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri** (UAE), **Mr Kevin Miller** (UK), and **Dr Manik Sardesai** (USA). More info on Executive Committee and Council Members can be found on the ISCO website at [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org)

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