



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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International news

OGC CALLS FOR INPUT ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE COMMON OPERATING PICTURE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

August 26 - The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) along with the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) through the Geomatics Committee, IPIECA (the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues) and Resource Data, Inc. have issued a [Request for Information \(RFI\) to solicit input on an Oil Spill Response \(OSR\) Common Operating Picture \(COP\) recommended practice.](#)

This RFI is part of the OGP/IPIECA Joint Industry Project to produce a recommended practice for GIS/Mapping in support of Oil Spill Response and for the use of GIS technology and geospatial information in forming a COP for management of the response.

Organizations are encouraged to respond with recommendations for procedures, technology, and open standards that should be considered in a recommended practice for an OSR COP.

The RFI seeks input on three topics:

- Defining a COP and its use for Oil Spill Response (OSR)
- The scope of the geospatial information which shall be part of OSR COP
- Formats, media and methods for delivering COP information to organizations involved in OSR

Responses to the RFI should describe technologies and open standards feasible in a distributed information environment. A series of workshops is planned to discuss submitted RFI responses. Compilation of the RFI responses and the workshop outcomes will be documented in a report that can serve as the basis for consensus adoption of a standards-based COP best practice for OSR.

Rob Cox, IPIECA Technical Director said, "I anticipate the RFI process will be a basis for creating a COP recommended practice that will contribute greatly to globally coordinated operations for oil spill response."

Responses to the RFI are requested by 30 October 2013.

International news (continued)

The RFI includes instructions for how organizations can respond. Please contact George Percivall at gpercivall@opengeospatial.org with any questions. *GIS Café* [Read more](#)

Incident reports

PHILIPPINES: EXPERT: OIL SPILL STILL MANAGEABLE

August 26 - A British oil expert said the oil spill caused by the sunken MV St. Thomas Aquinas is “manageable and not catastrophic.”

Michael O'Brien, technical team [manager](#) of the International Tankers Oil Pollution Federation (ITOPF), presented his findings to Cebu City Mayor Michael Rama in a closed-door meeting yesterday.

The findings were later announced in a press conference by Asst. [Vice President](#) Lito Salvio of 2GO.

Divers continue to work to plug the sources of the leaking of bunker fuel and reportedly finished 90 percent.

Salvio said Genetron International [Marketing](#) was contracted to take care of the disposal of wastes caused by the oil spill.

“Since August 23, we have collected 2,500 bags of liquid and solid wastes from the oil spill,” said Kris Guanzon, Genetron representative. The wastes will be packed and shipped to Manila for treatment and disposal. *Inquirer News* [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: SALVORS MAKE PROGRESS PUMPING HEAVY FUEL OIL FROM MV SMART



August 27 - eNCA News posted an update today on the ongoing salvage of the MV Smart and the potential environmental impact of the cargo of coal that is open to the sea.

“The salvage has so far been very successful,” notes Captain Saroor Ali from the SA Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA).

In a statement obtained by East Coast Radio, Captain Nigel Campbell from SAMSA notes that the pumping operation to remove the fuel oil is about one-third of the way complete.

gCaptain [Watch video and see more pictures](#)

USA: DIESEL FUEL SPILLS INTO NEW BEDFORD HARBOR; CLEANUP AND INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY

Hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel leaked into New Bedford Harbor this morning, coating parts of the nation’s leading fishing port with a red-tinged sheen and leading authorities to a large effort to keep the spill from spreading.

By noon, public safety and environmental officials said the local fire department had contained the fuel with more than 1,000 feet of boom, which isolates the fuel on the surface of the water, and began deploying thousands of special pads to soak up the flammable liquid. *Boston.com* [Read more](#)

MALAYSIA: OIL SPILL UNDER CONTROL - S’GOR EXCO ELI WONG



August 31 - The diesel spill that has caused water disruption in large parts of Selangor and Kuala Lumpur is under control, says Selangor exco Elizabeth Wong.

She said in a statement yesterday that oil booms have been placed to contain the spill and orders for a clean-up operation have been issued.

“To date, the source of the pollution is under control and the oil spill no longer enters the river and is contained by the oil booms instead.

“Traces of oil on Sungai Selangor is also at a minimum and is expected to return to normal at about 8pm after the cleanup is completed,” she said. *Malaysia Chronicle* [Read more](#)

CHINA: CHEMICAL LEAK IN SHANGHAI 'KILLS 15'



August 31 - A chemical leak of liquid ammonia from a cold storage unit in Shanghai has killed 15 people, according to China's official news agency. There were also 26 people injured in the leak at around 11:00 local time (03:00 GMT), Xinhua reports.

Local media published pictures of firefighters at the scene.

China's industrial safety regulations are sometimes ignored by local authorities focused on boosting economic development, observers say. Local media say that the incident occurred in the city's northern district of Baoshan at a refrigeration unit owned by a seafood company, AFP reports. *BBC News* [Read more](#)

CUBA: OIL SPILL IN CUBAN REFINERY UNDER CONTROL

August 23 - The spill of 15,000 liters of crude oil occurred here in the Sergio Soto Refinery due to labor negligence is under control, its manager said today. Lester Aleman, CEO of the plant, located in the municipality of Cabaiguan (Sancti Spiritus province) told the local newspaper the Escambray that 14,000 liters were recovered, the rest was swept along by a flooding following heavy rain.

Aleman stressed that the spill, which occurred last week, was caused by the negligence of the operator on duty who did not timely reviewed the trap, and oil displaced the water seal.

Experts from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) in Sancti Spiritus assessed the environmental damage and described it as considerable. *Prensa Latina* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

PHILIPPINES: TANKER LOADED WITH PALM OIL RUNS AGROUND OFF PALAWAN

August 25 - A foreign tanker loaded with palm oil ran aground off Palawan province Saturday, the Philippine Coast Guard said.

The incident occurred Saturday morning off Busuanga town in Palawan, radio dzBB reported early Sunday.

The report said big waves swept ashore MT Glenn Australia, loaded with 1,000 tons of palm oil. The ship is now stuck on the shore of Barangay Panlaitan. *GMA News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

UK: TRAWLER RUNS AGROUND OFF THE LIZARD

August 29 - A French trawler carrying 20 tonnes of fuel has run aground off the Lizard in west Cornwall.

The Scuderia hit rocks at Lankidden Cove, between Cadgwith and Coverack, at about 23:00 BST on Wednesday.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) confirmed that one of the vessel's five tanks has been damaged.

A spokesperson said approximately 10 tonnes of fuel had been lost from the trawler since it ran aground. *BBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]



BULGARIA INVESTIGATES MYSTERIOUS CHEMICAL ON BLACK SEA BEACHES

August 30 - Authorities in southern Bulgarian Black Sea city of Burgas have launched an investigation on a yet unspecified substance that has appeared on a number of beaches in the region. The white granular chemical was thrown out in what are reported to be "vast quantities" on beaches near Kiten, Primorsko, Lozenets, Tsarevo and Sinemorets. Citizens who reported the substance said it is greasy to the touch and emits an oil-like smell. *Novinite.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Incident reports (continued)

INDIA: ONGC PIPELINE RUPTURES, OIL SPILLAGE IN BHADBHUT



August 31 - An oil spill has been reported in the coastal areas of Gulf of Khambhat following a rupture in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's (ONGC) pipeline, near Bhadbhut village of the district, officials said today.

"The rupture in ONGC's pipeline was brought to our notice by the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) yesterday. ONGC has been asked to take immediate steps to control the situation," said Bharuch collector Avantika Singh. She said, flow of oil in that line has already been stopped.

According to her, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was informed about the spillage, which undertook an aerial survey of the affected area using its advanced light helicopter Dhruv. The ICG, in its aerial survey, found that the spill has spread in the area of 2-3 nautical miles in the sea in Gulf of Khambhat. *Firstpost* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Other news

JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER REACTOR-DISASTER SITE

August 20 - Japan's government will lead "emergency measures" to tackle radioactive water spills at the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant, wresting control of the disaster recovery from the plant's heavily criticized operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co.

"We've allowed Tokyo Electric to deal with the contaminated-water situation on its own, and they've essentially turned it into a game of Whack-A-Mole," Trade Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told reporters Sunday in Fukushima. "From now on, the government will move to the forefront." Motegi's visit to the plant comes a week after a storage tank leaked 300 metric tons of highly radioactive water, which Japan's nuclear regulator labeled a "serious incident" in its worst assessment of the problems at Fukushima since the earthquake and tsunami of 2011 caused reactors to melt down.

Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry, which is led by Motegi, "is working to draw up, by some time in September, both emergency measures and more fundamental steps to eliminate the roots of the contaminated-water problem," the office of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in a response to written questions. *Philly.com* [Read more](#)

Russia Offers Fukushima Cleanup Help as Tepco Reaches Out

August 26 - Russia repeated an offer first made two years ago to help Japan clean up its accident-ravaged Fukushima nuclear station, welcoming Tokyo Electric Power Co. (9501)'s decision to seek outside help.

As Tokyo Electric pumps thousands of metric tons of water through the wrecked Fukushima station to cool its melted cores, the tainted run-off was found to be leaking into groundwater and the ocean. The approach to cooling and decommissioning the station will need to change and include technologies developed outside of Japan if the cleanup is to succeed, said Vladimir Asmolov, first deputy director general of Rosenergoatom, the state-owned Russian nuclear utility. *Bloomberg* [Read more](#)

CANADA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS

'Every tree and plant died': massive toxic spill guts Alberta



August 26 - A toxic waste spill, the largest of its kind in North America, has destroyed a chunk of landscape in northern Alberta.

"The substance is the inky black colour of oil, and the treetops are brown," reported *The Globe and Mail* in a recent story. "Across a broad expanse of northern Alberta muskeg, the landscape is dead. It has been poisoned by a huge spill of 9.5 million litres of toxic waste from an oil and gas operation in northern Alberta, the third major leak in a region whose residents are now questioning whether enough is being done to maintain aging energy infrastructure."

This is not bitumen, as is leaking on the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range elsewhere in northern Alberta. *Indian Country* [Read more](#)

CANADA (continued) Barbara Yaffe: Preparations for greatly expanded oil exports already moving forward



Vessels practise response to a hazardous spill in the waters of Vancouver Harbour. Earlier this year, the federal government announced changes to improve oil tanker safety around the city. Photograph by: DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS

August 28 - As opponents rage against new pipelines, planning has already begun in preparation for the hundreds of oil tankers the pipelines would supply off B.C.'s coast.

Port Metro Vancouver is creating a Canadian "Center of Excellence" for oil and liquefied gas shipments, in anticipation of the port becoming a major exporter of energy products.

In a recent submission to a federal panel on tanker safety, the port revealed the centre will be a "leading source of information on best practices for shipping Canada's energy and oil and LNG commodities on Canada's Pacific Coast."

And, in northern B.C., Ottawa is sponsoring an ocean-monitoring study to probe surface wind effects on bitumen from Kitimat to the Hecate Strait, to prepare for oil spill response measures. If the Northern Gateway pipeline gets the nod from Ottawa early next year, some 250 tankers could one day operate out of Kitimat.

Last March, Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver was in Vancouver to announce the three-member tanker safety panel, due to issue a report this fall. Oliver also reported Ottawa would review its \$1.3-billion oil pollution liability limit. The potential cost of a Pacific Coast tanker spill involving the gooey Alberta bitumen has been pegged at anywhere from \$9 billion to \$40 billion.

Transport Canada requires responders to be able to address oil spills up to 10,000 tonnes, compared to 30,000 tonnes in the U.S. *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#)

B.C. wouldn't be able to manage a spill from proposed Northern Gateway pipeline activities: internal documents

A worker uses a small boat to move logs on the Douglas Channel at dusk in Kitimat, B.C., on January 11, 2012. B.C. does not have the resources available to deal with a spill from the proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, according to documents obtained by the Canadian Press. Photograph by: DARRYL DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS



August 25 - Officials in British Columbia privately warned the province lacks the ability to manage oil spills from existing and future oil traffic, and even a moderate spill would overwhelm their ability to respond, documents show.

Ottawa's decision to deal with coastal oil spills from a base in Quebec would make it much harder to contain spills, and Transport Canada and the Coast Guard lack the needed "environmental expertise" to manage them, officials said the documents obtained by The Canadian Press under freedom of information laws.

The notes were written by B.C. environment ministry bureaucrats for the incoming minister's briefing book in June, and other concerns were detailed by emergency response officials in memos from last year.

B.C. environment ministry bureaucrats voiced a range of misgivings for minister Mary Polak. "The Ministry of Environment, as the ministry responsible for preparedness, prevention, response and recovery for spills, is not adequately staffed and resourced to meet the existing and emerging expectations to address spills," they wrote in the briefing book. *Calgary Herald* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Gerald Graham, World Ocean Consulting]

Alberta government releases long-awaited study into safety of pipelines

August 25 - A long awaited report on pipeline safety commissioned by the Alberta government has taken an overall positive view of the province's regulations.

But the study released Friday was quickly dismissed by critics as lacking in substance as it neither examined the effectiveness of enforcement nor drew lessons from specific spills in recent years.

Other news (continued)

The review, conducted by Group 10 Engineering, looked at rules around pipeline integrity, the safety of pipelines crossing water and spill response.

Among its 17 recommendations, Group 10 said regulations concerning pipelines near water need to be more consistent and clear — including a definition of what actually constitutes a water body. It also urged more harmonization between government agencies both within Alberta and outside it. *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#)

Oil spill preparedness changes need broader consultation, says NDP

August 26 - Relying on industry for advice is akin to 'fox in charge of hen house' - The B.C. government is relying on advice almost wholly from industry in its efforts to improve oil spill preparedness, which its own officials describe as inadequate, the NDP criticized Monday.

"When you have a panel which is established to give the government their so-called world-leading oil response standards being dominated by the very oil industry you are trying to protect the coast from, in some respects you have a kind of fox in charge of hen house situation," says NDP energy critic Spencer Chandra Herbert.

"And when the government is now having to admit that they are not even able to respond to a moderate oil spill, and yet are considering massively increasing the amount of oil travelling through our coastal water, we have a real problem," he said. *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Gerald Graham of World Ocean Consulting]

USA: BP AND THE LATEST ON THOSE GOM CLAIMS

Gulf oil spill settlement claims administrator says BP's allegations of fraud are 'spurious,' 'unfounded'



BP oil spill claims administrator Pat Juneau visited a claims center on Manhattan Boulevard in Harvey on June 4, 2012. (John McCusker, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archive)

August 26 - Patrick Juneau, court-appointed administrator of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill claims settlement program, came out swinging in a response to BP allegations that his payment program is rife with fraud, charging the company with making "spurious allegations of breaches of duty" and "broad, unfounded criticisms of the program's internal controls and fraud detection processes."

Juneau was responding to an Aug. 5 BP motion asking U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier to suspend payments in the claims program -- which has averaged payouts of \$100 million a week -- until an independent investigation of fraud allegations involving the program by former

FBI Director Louis Freeh is completed. That investigation is still underway. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

Judge refuses to suspend BP settlement payments to Gulf Coast residents and businesses

August 28 - A federal judge has rejected BP's latest request to suspend settlement payments to Gulf Coast residents and businesses while former FBI Director Louis Freeh leads an independent investigation of the program, which compensates victims of the company's 2010 oil spill.

U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier said an internal probe by the claims administrator's office didn't find credible evidence of fraud involving employees of the settlement program's Mobile, Ala., claims center.

Barbier also ruled that BP's separate complaints about alleged conflicts of interest inside the settlement program didn't warrant a halt in the claims process.

BP spokesman Geoff Morrell said the company is "reviewing its options" following the judge's ruling. "BP respectfully believes the Court's order is wrong on the facts and the law," he said in a statement. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

BP asks 5th Circuit to throw out claims settlement unless separate appeal on claims process is granted

August 30 - BP asked the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday to throw out a massive settlement of private claims stemming from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill if the appeal judges don't reverse a lower court's decision upholding how large business claims are being paid.

Other news (continued)

BP agreed to the settlement when it was first approved last year. But the firm has recently argued that rules approved by court-appointed claims administrator Patrick Juneau are allowing large businesses to be paid what could be billions of dollars for fictional losses. BP has said companies are receiving settlement payments based solely on how they choose to keep their business records, instead of for actual losses caused by the Deepwater Horizon accident and subsequent spill.

BP had originally estimated that the claims settlement would cost it \$7.8 billion, but last month increased that estimate to \$9.6 billion in a federal Securities and Exchange Commission filing, with a warning that the ultimate claims total could be even more. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

USA: ULL, PRIVATE BUSINESSES CREATE DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING PROGRAM

August 31 - The University of Louisiana at Lafayette on Monday signed agreements with private companies to collaborate on training disaster response personnel, an effort officials hope attracts emergency responders worldwide to train in a state that has much experience dealing with calamities.

"Lots of people around the world need this expertise," said Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., who joined Acadian Ambulance CEO Richard Zuschlag, UL-Lafayette President Joseph Savoie and others in signing the cooperative endeavors.

UL-Lafayette's National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies Institute will work with Safety Management Systems, a division of Acadian Ambulance, while the university's Marine Survival Training Center, will partner with American Pollution Control, AMPOL, and The Response Group for oilfield and chemical spill response.

Landrieu said Louisiana is well-experienced in dealing with natural disasters, including hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Ike, Gustav as well as man-made environmental messes like the BP oil spill, train derailments with chemical cargo and chemical leaks at South Louisiana's myriad plants. *The Advocate* [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: SEABIRDS AS GOOD AS NEW AFTER SPILL



August 23 - Nearly 240 seabirds are being rehabilitated by the Southern African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (Sanccob) following the oil spill from the bulk carrier stranded for two weeks off Buffels Bay near Knysna.

The Kiani Satu was carrying a cargo of 150 000 tons of rice and about 330 tons of fuel oil, some of which leaked from a ruptured tank.

The German bulk carrier was this week refloated and towed 110 nautical miles out to sea, where it sank.

Sanccob said it was cleaning and feeding 239 seabirds, including 66 oiled African penguins, 172 oiled Cape gannets and one white-breasted cormorant.

IOL Scitech [Read more](#)

USA: WILL ENBRIDGE ENERGY'S NEW PIPELINE IN MICHIGAN BE SAFER?

August 27 - A new oil pipeline is going underground in Michigan.

Enbridge Energy says this new pipeline will be bigger (36 inches vs. 30 inches) - it will pump more oil to the Marathon refinery in Detroit - and they say the pipeline will be safer,

The new line will replace the old 6B pipeline that broke in 2010. That break led to the worst inland oil spill in North America. Three years later - thick heavy crude oil is still being scooped up off the bottom of the Kalamazoo River.

By their nature – underground pipelines go unnoticed. That is – unless they're burying one in your backyard.

Dave Gallagher and his wife know what that's like. Their house is south of Battle Creek and sits along the Enbridge easement. The new pipeline Enbridge is installing will run just twelve feet from his back porch. *Michigan Radio* [Read more](#)



Other news (continued)

USA: INSPECTIONS TARGET FRACKED U.S. CRUDE SHIPPED BY RAIL

August 30 - U.S. rail-safety regulators began a "Bakken blitz" of inspections of crude oil tank cars this week as they seek to prevent a railroad disaster in the U.S. similar to July's fatal inferno in Quebec. Inspectors from the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration are examining rail cars moving crude from North Dakota's Bakken region, Cynthia Quarterman, PHMSA administrator, told reporters today during a break in a Washington meeting to discuss U.S. rail safety risks.

Crude produced by hydraulic fracturing in the Bakken was being hauled by a train that rolled away while parked overnight and crashed into Lac-Megantic, triggering an explosion that killed 47 people July 6. U.S. regulators are carrying out the inspections to make sure shippers are properly identifying the cargo in the rail tank cars from the region. Hazardous materials regulations require tank cars to carry placards telling railroads and emergency responders what's inside. *Fuel Fix* [Read more](#)

People in the news

AARON PARKER IS LEAD ADMINISTRATOR AT OIL SPILL RESPONSE OPERATIONS COMPANY



Aaron Parker has become a Lead administrator for Coast Guard classified Oil Spill Removal Organization (OSRO). Former Coast Guard Response Officer with a B.S. in Environmental Science and expertise in search and rescue, homeland security, environmental protection, law enforcement, disaster response and preparedness. Human resources professional with expertise in recruiting, selection screening, human resources development and training and employee relations

Cabras Marine Corporation owns and operates Guam's Oil Spill Response Operations Company (OSROCO), which is equipped with an array of small craft and specialist equipment

ISCO news

THE ISCO NEWSLETTER REACHES ITS 400TH ISSUE

The first issue of the ISCO Newsletter was published more than eight years ago on the 11th of July 2005. Since that time the readership has increased from about 100 to an estimated 3,000 made up of those who receive it every week via email, others who access it on the ISCO website at <http://www.spillcontrol.org> and the staff of companies and organisations that circulate the newsletter internally to their employees.

The idea of creating the ISCO Newsletter originated with ISCO's President, David Usher, at a 2005 meeting in Glasgow with John McMurtrie. The ISCO Newsletter is in fact a successor to the Oil Spill Bulletin and Environmental Review (OSBER), the monthly magazine published by Alba International Ltd. from the early '80s.

Amongst other news the first issue of the ISCO Newsletter contained reports on the listing Thunder Horse platform in the Gulf of Mexico, a new Technical Information Paper on dispersants from ITOPI, EMSA's future plans for strategically-located pollution combat vessels, HELCOM's intention to develop a Baltic Sea action plan and new Canadian legislation (Migratory Bird Convention Act) raising the maximum pollution penalty to \$1 million.

Today, the Newsletter continues its aim to keep readers informed on matters of interest to the worldwide spill response community with news, articles, and other features that help keep our readers well informed.

This said, ISCO's policy is one of continuous improvement and we welcome suggestions on how the Newsletter can better serve our community. If you have some thoughts on this, please write to the Editor at info@spillcontrol.org

REMINDER TO MEMBERS – YOU NEED TO RE-REGISTER

Because the old website has been replaced, your old user name and password for accessing the Members' Area will need to be renewed. You will need to re-register by going to <http://www.spillcontrol.org/index.php/joomla-pages-ii/user-registration>

You can re-enter your existing user name and pass word or choose new ones if you wish. After completing the form just click on "Register". If your membership subscription is up-to-date the administrator will enable your access.

WEBSITE UPDATING INFORMATION – INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE RESOURCE INVENTORY

Work on the website continues and in the Members' Area new information has been posted on the Response Resource Inventory (RRI) Working Group page. After logging in, select "Members' Area", go to "IMO" and select "Work Groups", then click on "RRI Project" Members should send new posts for uploading to info@spillcontrol.org



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 142 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 142: THE BENEFITS OF KNOWLEDGE-ONLY PLANNING

Further to the difficulties of securing the benefits of knowledge-only planning, this article recalls that the frequency of civil service staff turn-over and the infrequency of marine incidents are incompatible with the need for knowledge-continuity unless specific steps are taken to secure it; that while the equipment stockpiles of the new Marine Pollution Control Unit (MPCU) were established within the UK's marine administration on the knowledge acquired by the R&D programme of Warren Spring Laboratory (WSL), the knowledge also acquired by that R&D programme on how to use the said stockpiles was not secured against staff turn-over; that while this latter knowledge could have been made integral with an appropriate contingency plan, no such plan was created; and that consequently with none of instigating WSL staff remaining in the MPCU when the Sea Empress Incident ensued, the new non-WSL staff were unable to prevent the response from becoming an environmentalist belief-based failure. Thus, had the contingency plan preserved the knowledge of seawater concentrations being non-toxic and of species-extinction/ecological-disaster being absent from all incidents from the Torrey Canyon inclusive, the counter-beliefs of the environmentalist lobby could not have turned what would have been the first ever quick/cost-effective and exemplary incident response into yet another prolonged/cost-ineffective belief-thwarted fiasco as exemplified in articles 107-115.

As to the infrequency of incidents it is recalled that the Sea Empress Incident of 1996 was the first to involve the UK significantly since the Amoco Cadiz Incident of 1979, the intervening Tarpenbek and Braer incidents having respectively released no oil and 86,000 tonnes of Gullfacks crude oil, the latter dispersing so rapidly as to need no response. As to securing knowledge-continuity despite staff changes and infrequency of incidents, it is recalled that the failure to do so in the MPCU contingency plan resulted at the Sea Empress Incident in 67,000 tonnes of cargo being released, beyond the initial damage related release of 5,000 tonnes, through avoidable subsequent damage over about two weeks before the remaining 58,000 tonnes were finally discharged to the intended refinery. Again, preservation of knowledge within the MPCU contingency plan would have avoided the water depth limitations on dispersant use and would thus have enabled dispersant treatment, in collaboration with inshore recovery within the Haven, to prevent the initial release 5,000 tonnes from reaching shore or permitted it to be returned to the sea to complete the dispersion or recovery operation, thus avoiding what became a very extensive and time consuming recovery from both sea and shore, the downstream processing of which was yet again protracted by prohibition of in situ water decanting.

As to contrasting the above with new knowledge-preserving contingency plan now based on the physicochemical properties of oils and HNS which control their, fates, effects and possible responses thereto (articles 137 & 138) and with the predictive power of the incident-specific response plans based on substitution of the actual values for the physicochemical properties relevant to any particular incident (article 139) it is recalled that insertion of the physicochemical values relevant to the oils released at the Sea Empress Incident retrospectively predicted the amounts stranding from the amounts released in agreement with the amounts stranding on tidal streams and wind conditions of the actual incident; and that it can be concluded that the quantities floating, sinking, spreading, evaporating, dispersing dissolving as functions of time prior to stranding on known wind and tide vectors can thus be predicted for any particular incident. However, it can also be recalled that comparison of such incident-specific predictions with actual observation of outcomes will produce new and sharable knowledge which can progressively refine, for example, the current half-life ranges to actual values for specific substances as was initially done for Ekofisk crude oil by WSL at the 1976 blow-out.

Thus, we can recall that this new knowledge-only approach will not only improve the responses to incidents as of now, but will also progressively improve future responses as more detailed knowledge of individual fate, effects and response needs and non-needs is progressively acquired, reported, and thus shared among all involved in incident response; and that none of this can be expected to occur without general adoption of this new knowledge-only approach to contingency and incident-specific planning. After all, no such collective knowledge acquisition has yet occurred from the Torrey Canyon Incident till now.

However, now that this new approach is open for adoption, it is possible to look forward to spill reports to IMO being more that over-excited expressions of belief in global collapse in which releases are increasingly expressed in litres rather than tonnes to make them numerically as large as possible, the next step no doubt being to express them in cubic centimetres, and in which no knowledge of pollutant properties and amenability or non-amenability to available response techniques and equipment is ever included. In short, rather than being informatively instructive, they are simply generalised expressions of belief-based aversion to industrial-commercial activities.

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at 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.



ISCO congratulates Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, the DG & Hazmat Group on achieving the 1,000th issue of his "Newsy Stuff".

In this article, Don gives some history and background – 1998 to 2013.

DG-Hazmat Group Beginning - Back in mid-1998 I felt there was a need for Australian based Technicians, Engineers and the like to be able to freely communicate with manufacturers of gasoline equipment to open a communication road if you like where we in the antipodes could discuss problems and issues. Create a networking forum [this was before networking was a buzz word...] if you like.

The internet was in its junior days, in general the only active users were Universities and larger corporations and some government entities, Industry hadn't really cottoned onto the concept that the Internet was the new communication bubble, there were few businesses active on the 'Net' back then but it was globally-growing, daily.

I recall spending well over a year surfing [using Netscape and other now obscure search engines] and soliciting the DG-Hazmat Group to anyone and everyone who would listen, extolling the concept of a global forum specifically [then] within the gasoline/petroleum downstream area of our industry. Remember back then it was "Dial-Up" on the landline, no such thing as cable at all. In 1999 the DG-Hazmat Group really came into its own with people subscribing, and networking, many of who are still active and current members of the Group, today.

An example is Greg Davis out of GA [USA] who joined the Group back in 1999, I'm sure Greg's still with us and if my memory is correct Greg came to work one morning and saw a DG-Hazmat email of an incident in his back-yard [so to speak] the day prior. I remember Greg being a bit amazed that he had to find out about this incident via Melbourne in AU. There's also Pat McKune out of South Africa who subbed in early 1999, Pat's now Consulting in the South African downstream industry, Jetty Middlekoop from the Netherlands in 2001 and Alvaro from Chile in 2002 and there's lots more who've been with us for over 1.4 decades – Well done, all of you....

Statistics - The Group has come a long way since its infancy, there's been over 12,000 email messages processed, our subscriber numbers have levelled around the 1,200 mark and at last count your fellow subscribers are representative of over 70 different countries around our small globe, the attrition rate hovers at around 2 to 3% which indicates that most of you have a real purpose in belonging. As an aside and because the Group is 'Moderated' I'm aware in 14 years and after over 12,000 emails we've had two [Yes, 2] instances of spam getting past moderation, both of those were dealt a sudden electronic death, so to speak. The Newsy Stuff has grown relative to global incidents and relative to their publication by the media, over the past couple of years the editions have been 15 pages and distributed bi-weekly, on a numbers basis 30 pages of information is hitting in excess of 1,000 people every week, and you people are all part of the picture – Congratulations!!

Meeting Members - I've been privileged to meet some of the Group in conferences, seminars or just at a social level from both overseas and locally in AU & New Zealand, it's been extra special to know that the ability to meet and share wouldn't have been possible of not for this Group, and that's made it all the more worthwhile.

DG-Hazmat Group Networking - The ultimate in group networking is to form alliances with other kindred and professional groups which have common interests and our Group is representative with:

- **JOIFF** which is administratively based in Dublin, Ireland have an excellent introductory video on their web site illustrating their Fire Hazard Management protocols, if you've not visited their web site it is a "Must See".
- **ISCO** based in Aberdeenshire in Scotland aims to raise worldwide preparedness & co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, to promote technical development and professional competency, and to provide a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

DG-Hazmat Group Sponsors - The continuing reason why all information is sent out to all DG-Hazmat Group subscribers freely is due to the very kind sponsorship of:

- **TANKNOLOGY AUSTRALIA** - dedicates its resources to precision testing and evaluation to Environmental Compliance of underground and aboveground storage tank systems, throughout Australia. In Australia their direct call number is 1800:625:513.
- **FRANKLIN FUELLING SYSTEMS** - with the Total System Solution offers the world's most complete line of petroleum equipment including Submersible Pumping Systems, Piping & Containment Systems, Service Station Hardware, Dispensing Systems, Fuel Management Systems and Transport Systems.

Co-Moderator - Dr David Ritchie, FCILT CMIOSH FBILD MCIWM FIIRSM is kindly acting as my back-up Moderator and will be the Group Key Contact for the UK and EU, David is a Dangerous Goods Trainer with **RITCHIES TRAINING CENTRE** in Glasgow, Scotland.

FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

ASME EED EHS Newsletter	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	June 2013 issue
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	August 12 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	September 1 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	May 2013 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	July 1-31 issue
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No. 35 2013
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	August 2013 issue
Soil & Groundwater Product Alert	From Environmental Expert	August 26 issue
Soil & Groundwater Ezine	Articles, papers and reports	August 2013 issue
Soil & Groundwater Newsletter	From Environmental Expert	August 29 issue
Soil & Groundwater Events	Upcoming events compiled by Environmental Expert	August 2013 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	July 2013
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 2, 2013
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	August 28 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	July 2013 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	July 2013 issue
Int'l Environmental Technology	Environmental Monitoring, Testing and Analysis	April 2013 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	August 2013 issue
HELCOM Newsletter	Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission	May 2013 issue

MITIGATING MAJOR OFFSHORE INCIDENTS: OGP PUBLISHES MUTUAL AID FRAMEWORK

July 29 - OGP, the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers, has published new guidance to help companies aid one another in case of a major offshore incident, a move that strengthens the industry's efforts to improve response to major incidents, should they ever occur again.

The 20-page document, Mutual aid in large-scale offshore incidents – a framework for the oil and gas industry, includes guiding principles, suggestions on initiating a mutual aid arrangement and addressing complexities associated with health, safety, security and the environment; legal and regulatory requirements; terms of contracts or licenses; and logistical and technical challenges.

A section devoted to practical measures features suggestions on communications, equipment inventories, assurance processes, stakeholder dialogues and continual improvement.

Report No. 487, Mutual aid in large-scale offshore incidents – a framework for the oil and gas industry is available for downloading from the publications page of www.ogp.org.uk

ECBC ENGINEERS DEVELOP NEW DECONTAMINATION GUIDANCE

August 31 - Experts at the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) have partnered with industry and medical professionals to revise an ECBC Special Report featuring new guidance on Mass Casualty Decontamination for Hazardous Material (HazMat)/Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents.

The report is based on input from community responders, Army responders, Department of Defense (DoD) and DoD chemical-biological technical experts. The revised report was completed in May and was presented at the 2013 International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) International HazMat Conference in Baltimore, Md. in June.

"While there is no perfect solution to mass casualty decontamination and there is no single process or method that can account for all variables such as hazard, time, number of victims, environmental conditions, resource availability, etc., the information presented in Volume I and II of the revised report provides a means to help identify a simple, consistent mass casualty decontamination process that can be applied with reasonable effectiveness to any HazMat/WMD incident," said Bill Lake, ECBC's Engineering Support Division Chief.

Lake and ECBC colleague Stephen Divarco, Ph.D., partnered with Pete Schulze of the U.S. Army Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) School and Robert Gougelet, M.D., from the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth University, to upgrade the original April 2009 report to include new empirical data and technical information.

Research for new decontamination scientific advances was incorporated into the revised report, "Mass Casualty Decontamination during a HazMat/WMD Incident, Volumes I and II (ECBC-SP-024)."

For more information about ECBC, visit <http://www.ecbc.army.mil/> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Training

USA: HAZMAT SCENE SAFETY FOR THE NON-HAZMAT RESPONDER

This blog post deals with the 'Scene Safety' element for responders who are not HAZMAT trained. We also talk about a new HAZMAT Specialist course that is available online for responders worldwide to participate in. Enjoy. More at:

http://www.d4h.org/blog/post/20130822-HAZMAT-Scene-Safety-For-The-Non-HAZMAT-Responder?goback=%2Egde_167203_member_267919691#%21

Online 'HAZMAT Material Specialist' course - This course is the highest certification for hazardous materials responders in the USA. This certification allows HAZMAT Teams to advance in various Federal Levels and would be of great benefit to responders worldwide. It is offered through www.madonna.edu using the course code; OSH4180. [Read more](#) [Thanks to ADR Training UK]

AUSTRALIA: EMERGENCY RESPONSE SEMINAR ON DANGEROUS GOODS & TANKER INCIDENTS ON THURSDAY 5TH OF SEPTEMBER AT THE MELBOURNE PARK FUNCTION CENTRE.

Emergency Response Day has a focus on dangerous goods and tanker incidents and the ability to recover product and equipment after an incident. It also has an interest in the causal factors – why do incidents occur and how can they be prevented? Data informing this discussion will be tabled.

Program: <http://www.freightweek.com.au/Portals/6/Documents/Programs/Emergency%20Response%20Seminar.pdf>
From: <http://www.freightweek.com.au/Program/EmergencyResponseSeminar.aspx>

Products and Services

HYDRASUN AND PARKER SPEARHEAD INDUSTRY INITIATIVE ON HYDROCARBON LEAK REDUCTION

Hydrasun, a specialist provider of integrated fluid transfer, power and control solutions, is teaming up with Parker Hannifin, a global leader in motion and control technologies, at Offshore Europe 2013 to showcase a range of process control instrumentation products and added value services, which support the industry's Hydrocarbon Leak Reduction initiative. *Oceanbuzz* [More info](#)

Contracts and tenders

EAST AFRICA: LAKE VICTORIA ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT PHASE II

CONSULTANCY FOR PROVISION OF OIL SPILL TRAINING ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF OIL AND TOXIC CHEMICAL PRODUCTS SPILL IN LAKE VICTORIA.

TENDER No. LVBC/LVEMPII/2009-10/CS/06

Lake Victoria Basin Commission Secretariat now invites sealed proposals from eligible and qualified consultants for the provision of training services on prevention and control of toxic chemicals and oil product spill in Lake Victoria. Bidding will be conducted Least Cost Selection Method as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all consultants from eligible Countries. [More info](#)

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), **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 Psaraftis** (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 Sardessai** (USA). More info on Executive Committee and Council Members can be found on the ISCO website at www.spillcontrol.org

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