



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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CLEAN GULF PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS – REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Reminder – There's an interesting selection of Pre-Conference Workshops at Clean Gulf 2009, but you should register before 30th October. For details of the workshops, presenters and instructors, click on http://www.cleangulf.org/pre_conference_workshops/

UPDATE: ITALIANS SEARCH FOR RADIOACTIVE WASTE SUNK BY MAFIA

Italian investigators are scouring a shipwreck allegedly containing toxic and radioactive waste dumped by the mafia in the Mediterranean. Following years of speculation, environmentalists, local politicians and now the EU are urging the government to act.

Last week, the marine survey ship *Mare Oceano* embarked on its mission to examine the wreck of a cargo ship off the southwestern Italian coast alleged to contain toxic waste. The closely watched probe was sparked by claims by a mafia informant that in 1992 he helped sink a vessel, the *Cunsky*, along with 120 barrels of toxic materials -- much of it possibly radioactive. The wreck, which lies some 500 meters beneath the waves, is thought by prosecutors to be one of more than 30 toxic-waste laden ships dumped at sea by the mafia.

More info: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/europe/0,1518,656681,00.html>

UPDATE: AUSTRALIA - OIL SPILL OFF AUSTRALIAN COAST POSES MAJOR THREAT TO MARINE LIFE

Sea birds are dying and thousands of marine creatures are at risk from a massive oil spill in the Timor Sea, off north-west Australia, warn the first scientists to survey the isolated site.

A ruptured drilling rig has been spewing oil, gas and concentrate into the ocean for the past nine weeks, but until yesterday the environmental impact was unclear because of the remoteness of the spot, 155 miles offshore. Now a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) team has travelled there and returned with a report detailing an ecological disaster unfolding far from the eyes of the public.

Gilly Llewellyn, a WWF biologist who led the survey team, said the leak – the equivalent of 2,000 barrels of oil a day, according to an Australian government estimate – was taking place in an area "teeming with marine life", including dolphins, turtles, sea snakes and migratory seabirds.

The spill, reportedly the worst in Australian waters for 40 years, was "a massive contamination event, spread over thousands of square kilometres", Dr Llewellyn told The Independent. She said: "At one point the sun was setting and we were sailing through this slick that we couldn't see the end of. Then we saw a pod of dolphins surface literally in a sea of oil. It just made me feel sick." More at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/oil-spill-off-australian-coast-poses-major-threat-to-marine-life-1808410.html>

BRAZIL: INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON GOVERNMENT & OIL/SHIPPING INDUSTRY COOPERATION

I TOPF and Transpetro are jointly organising a Seminar to be held in Copacabana Palace Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on Wednesday 18th November 2009. The Seminar will address issues related to cooperation in oil spill preparedness and response and feature presentations on sustainable and responsible operations. Attendance is open to representatives of central and local government, oil companies, shipping companies, P&I Club correspondents, law firms, salvage companies, oil spill clean-up companies, environmental groups and academic institutions. Presentations will be in English and/or Portuguese with simultaneous translation. Attendance at the Seminar, including a buffet lunch, is free of charge. Attendees will, however, be responsible for arranging and paying for their own travel and hotel costs. More information: <http://www.itopf.com/news-and-events/#rio>

UPDATED REGIONAL CARIBBEAN ISLANDS OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE AND CO-OPERATION PLAN

The latest 2009 version of the Caribbean Islands Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan can now be viewed at <http://cep.unep.org/racrempeitc/regional-oprc-plans/caribbean-island-oprc-plan-2009>

EUROPE: EUROPEAN DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY SAFETY PERFORMANCE

CONCAWE Report 7/09 - European downstream oil industry safety performance - statistical summary of reported incidents – 2008 can now be downloaded at http://www.concawe.be/DocShareNoFrame/docs/2/APCOHDGAJJIKPLOHICOFLLAVEVCBG939YBD73BKG6W3/CEnet/docs/DLS/Rpt_09-7-2009-04431-01-E.pdf

CO-ORDINATED SURVEILLANCE OPERATION IN THE WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (OSCAR-MED)

A Co-ordinated Surveillance Operation in the Western Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED) was organized by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) between 12 and 16 October 2009 from the airbase of Hyères (Toulon), France, in close cooperation with the French Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée.

This activity represented the first attempt in the Mediterranean region to enhance operational cooperation in combating illicit discharges and was aimed not only at ensuring an extended aerial coverage but also at exchanging information on the pollution detected among the different countries and at facilitating the process for a successful prosecution of the offenders in the region. More info at: <http://www.rempec.org/newsmore.asp?id=263&lang=en>

HELCOM MOVING SWIFTLY TO INTEGRATE OILED WILDLIFE



ISCO Member, the Sea Alarm Foundation, attended the HELCOM Response meeting that took place from 23-25 September in Stockholm, Sweden. An important agenda item was the discussion of a paper prepared by Estonia, Sea Alarm and WWF that seeks to include oiled wildlife response in the HELCOM Response Manual.

The HELCOM Manual on 'Co-operation in Response to Marine Pollution' facilitates international cooperation between Contracting Parties on operational combat of oil pollution, surveillance activities and exercises. Including wildlife in this manual would mean that Contracting Parties can extend their cooperation in situations where local resources are not able to deal with the size or complexity of an oiled wildlife incident. Read more at: <http://www.sea-alarm.org/?p=2099#more-2099>

USA: 2009 CONFINED SPACE UPDATE

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

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

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

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

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

USA: CHLORINE EMERGENCIES - AN OVERVIEW FOR FIRST RESPONDERS (FIRST RESPONDER DVD)

The Chlorine Institute (CI) is pleased to announce the completion and availability of a new training DVD for first responders. The DVD is a [Telly Award recipient](#) for safety program excellence. The Institute undertook this project after identifying a need to improve awareness and preparation for the initial response to a chlorine emergency. This project is directly aligned with the Institute's core mission of promoting chlorine safety. We expect this material to be a valuable resource in helping first responders prepare for the initial response to any chemical emergency, in particular one in which chlorine might be involved. More info at: <http://www.chlorineinstitute.org:80/Bookstore/ProductDetail.cfm?ItemNumber=3204> [Thanks to pcjr at Hazmat 101 Group for passing on this item]

COLUMBIA: REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON MARPOL ANNEX I & V / ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CAOP

November 3-6, 2009, Cartagena, Columbia. The workshop will review the regulations for the control of operational discharges from ships regarding oil (MARPOL Annex I) and garbage (MARPOL Annex V). It will also cover the aspects of enforcement and the measures to be taken by Contracting Parties in the event of non-compliance. Additionally, the Special Area provisions for the Wider Caribbean Region in MARPOL Annex V will be reviewed. More information: http://cep.unep.org/racrempeitc/activities/activites_2008-2009/regional-workshop-on-marpol-annex-i-v

AQUA-GUARD ANNOUNCE SUCCESSFUL TESTING OF HEAVY OIL SKIMMER



Aqua-Guard recently completed heavy oil testing of their RBS TRITON™ (U.S. Patent 7,303,688) brand of brush oil skimming systems. Tests were conducted to the ASTM F631-99 "Standard Guide for Collecting Skimmer Performance Data in a Controlled Environment" and witnessed by a senior surveyor of Det Norske Veritas, DNV.

It was witnessed that the RBS TRITON™ brush recovery technology in combination with an onboard positive displacement lobe pump is capable of recovering and discharging heavy oil with the absolute viscosity of 195,959 cSt.

Cameron Janz, Chief Operations Officer, Aqua-Guard Spill Response Inc. commented "Our Aqua-Guard RBS TRITON™ brush oil skimming systems have been used in various types of oil spills over the past several years with remarkable results. Many of our clients are now asking for heavy oil recovery capability, so we agreed to conduct a rigorous and comprehensive test with heavy oil in the range of 195,000 cSt. The results were outstanding as our system was able to recover and move high volumes of this oil with ease. Our patented RBS TRITON™ oil skimming technology is available in our complete line of skimming systems from small industrial systems used in refineries to our large offshore systems".



More info: <http://www.aquaguard.com>

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR RESPONDING TO HNS SPILLS (5)

Fifth article in this series - At an early stage any SRO embarking on the development of a chemical / HNS response capability will have to consider measures for the protection of personnel. In addition to the normal Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) held for oil spill response work, SROs will need to provide additional body protection for chemical / HNS incident work. Depending on the types of materials that may be encountered, protection at one of four levels will be required – Level A, B, C, or D.

Level A protection is required in unknown situations or when the situation requires the highest level of eye, skin and respiratory protection. The SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) and the totally encapsulated suit are the protective equipment of choice for these conditions.

Level B protection is needed when the situation requires the highest level of respiratory protection but a lesser degree of skin protection is needed. The SCBA and chemical resistant suits are the protective equipment of choice for these conditions.

Level C protection is worn in situations where the hazards are known and the atmospheric concentration of the contaminant does not present a cutaneous hazard. Assuming also that the atmosphere is not oxygen deficient which means that a SCBA is not needed, adequate respiratory protection can be obtained by using air-purifying respirators. Air-purifying respirators and standard clean-up clothing consisting of liquid-repellant coveralls are the protective equipment of choice for these conditions.

Level D protection is worn in situations where there are no airborne contaminants of concern and where the likelihood of harm by contact with the spilled material is minimal. Coveralls are the protective equipment of choice for these conditions.

More detailed information can be found at <http://www.coastguard.se/ra/volume2/pdf/a5prot.pdf> and <http://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/3/erg-gmu/erg/clothing.aspx> http://www.ehso.com/OSHA_PPE_EPA_Levels.htm and many other web sites.

The availability of Level A, B and C protection will be a vital factor in defining which kinds of chemical / HNS incidents a SRO is capable of dealing with. There are no short cuts – the equipment is not cheap and the most up-to-date high quality protection systems should be selected. Remember too that this equipment needs to be properly stored and looked after. SROs will need to revise their existing Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM) procedures to include post-use and routine maintenance of equipment on which people's lives depend.

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter.