



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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## **AUSTRALIA: REGISTRATION FOR SPILLCON NOW OPEN**

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) and the Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) invite delegates to attend the International Oil Spill Conference for the Asia-Pacific region - Spillcon 2010 - *Global, Regional, Local*. For more info click on the banner above.

## **INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION: VIRAJ CLEAN SEA ENTERPRISES IN LINK-UP WITH TITAN SALVAGE**

Viraj Clean Sea Enterprises Pvt Ltd, Navi Mumbai, India (An Oil Spill Response Company and a Corporate ISCO member) has joined hands with Titan Salvage, Singapore (A Salvage Company of Crowley Group, USA) to give better support to their Indian Customers in both the fields of oil spill response and salvage operations.

For more info, visit [www.virajcse.com](http://www.virajcse.com)

## **INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION: ILLICIT DRUG LAB & INDOOR CANNABIS GROW AWARENESS TRAINING**

Perseus Training, a division of HazmatLINK Ltd, has teamed up with *NES* to offer a unique opportunity to create awareness amongst your staff and colleagues on the issues surrounding illicit drug laboratories and cannabis grow houses.

*NES* are based in the United States and are probably the leading organisation involved in the training of thousands of responders in the safe and effective handling and awareness of cannabis grow houses and illicit drug laboratories. *NES* has over 20 years of experience in this field and trains the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and most major metropolitan and rural narcotic agencies in the United States.

The UK has seen a large increase in the number of cannabis indoor growing operations with significant media coverage over the last couple of months. One thing that seems to be consistent in the images that have appeared in the media, is an apparent lack of awareness of the hazards associated with indoor cannabis grow operations, these usually include electrical, chemicals and mould hazards

In the UK, we have not seen the epidemic of illicit drug labs that the United States, Australia and parts of Eastern Europe have experienced, but there certainly has been an increasing number of these and the trend is likely to continue. Illicit labs are extremely hazardous and present a number of extreme health and safety risks to emergency responders and others that may stumble across them in the course of their duties. For training events and dates, see last page of this Newsletter.

For more info, contact: [enquiries@perseustraining.com](mailto:enquiries@perseustraining.com)

## **USA: TANKER COLLISION SENDS OIL INTO TEXAS WATERWAY**

January 24 - A barge collided with a tanker on Saturday in the port of Port Arthur, Texas, sending thousands of gallons of crude oil into the water, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

The tanker was carrying crude oil to Exxon Mobil Corp's refinery in Beaumont, Texas, located north of Port Arthur. The waterway, through which tankers carry oil to four refineries in Port Arthur and Beaumont, Texas, remained shut on Saturday night.

A 15-foot-by-8-foot (4.6 meter-by-2.4-meter) hole was torn in the side of the 807-foot (246-meter) tanker Eagle Otome in the collision with a barge being moved in the port, the Coast Guard said. No injuries were reported due to the crash.



Vapors from the estimated 450,000 gallons of spilled crude oil triggered warnings of a hydrogen sulfide release near the port where three refineries are located, leading authorities to recommend nearby residents leave their homes. Read the complete news article at: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE60N0EI20100124>

## **USA, ALASKA: GRAVEL BEACHES TRAPPING OIL FROM 1989 EXXON SPILL**

An estimated 20,000 gallons of crude remain in Prince William Sound, even though oil remaining after the nearly 11-million-gallon spill had been expected to biodegrade and wash away within a few years. The problem: The gravelly beaches of Prince William Sound are trapping the oil between two layers of rock, with larger rocks on top and finer gravel underneath, according to Michel C. Boufadel, chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Temple University. His study appeared Sunday in Nature Geoscience's online publication and will be published in the journal later. Read the complete article: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=122679162>

## **USA, ALASKA: NORTH SLOPE OIL SPILL CLEANUP COMPLETED**

The Department of Environmental Conservation says crews have completed the cleanup of a North Slope oil spill. About 46,000 gallons of crude oil and oily water spilled Nov. 29 from an 18-inch flowline that froze and ruptured along a 2-foot tear.

The line operated by BP Exploration carried the oil, water and natural gas to the Lisburne Processing Center for separation. It had been shut down by ice plugs. The department's on-scene coordinator, Tom DeRuyter, said crews hauled away the oily snow and tundra. The next step is restoration. BP will backfill the site and then cover it with tundra peeled away from another area being used as a gravel mine.

[http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/011510/reg\\_549743025.shtml](http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/011510/reg_549743025.shtml)

## **INDIA: TERI RESEARCH CENTRE INAUGURATED IN GURGAON**

Union Science and Technology Minister Prithviraj Chavan inaugurated the facility along with Dr M K Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Dr T Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and Dr RK Pachauri, Director General TERI.

While calling the facility an important landmark in the field of biotechnology, Prithviraj Chavan said, "TERI is one of the top-ranking organizations in the field of research and innovation and this facility and the product "Oilzapper" will be one of the most powerful bio-products in the emerging scenario providing great significance to bioremediation in the worldwide effort to tackle oil spill and oily sludge."

Oilzapper has been in use since 1997 and this technology is successfully used for cleanup of around 1,30,000 metric tonnes of hazardous wastes generated by nearly all the oil and

gas companies in India, both in upstream and down stream processes. Read more at: <http://www.indiablooms.com/EnvironmentDetailsPage/environmentDetails170110a.php>

## **USA: NOAA ADMINISTRATOR AND REGIONAL PARTNERS BREAK GROUND ON GULF OF MEXICO DISASTER RESPONSE CENTER**



Rendering of NOAA's new Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center.

NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco was on hand today to mark the start of construction on NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Ala. The facility will be the regional home to the agency's Office of Response and Restoration - the NOAA organization charged with responding to

oil spills, hazardous material releases, and marine debris. Read the complete news release at: [http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100122\\_center.html](http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20100122_center.html)

## **REMEDIATION: DEVELOPMENT OF A SURFACE WASHING AGENT PROTOCOL: EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE AND SALINITY ON THE RECOVERY OF HEAVY WEIGHT OIL FROM SUBSTRATE**

Chemical countermeasures used to treat oil spills are described under EPA's National Contingency Plan (NCP). Protocols currently are in place to test bioremediation agents, dispersants, and other chemical agents, but there is no standardized protocol to test the effectiveness of surface washing agents. Surface washing agents (SWAs) can be used following an oil spill event to enhance the removal of stranded oil from shorelines and other surfaces. EPA has developed a testing protocol to evaluate the effectiveness of SWAs in the laboratory.

You can access this article and fifty others - market/commercialization information; reports on demonstrations, feasibility studies and research; and other news relevant to the hazardous waste community interested in technology development – in the latest edition of *Technology Innovation News Survey*. Go to: <http://www.clu-in.org:80/products/tins/>

## **TECHNOLOGY: SPONGY GLASS – AN ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL BREAKTHROUGH**

Cleaning up pollutants and spills in waterways is no easy feat. A new discovery by Dr. Paul Edmiston called “Osorb” may well be the breakthrough that makes the difference.

Called spongy glass, as this new material swells up to eight times its dry weight, it soaks up liquids, binding with gasoline, chlorinated solvents and pollutants. Since it won't bind to water, it can easily clean water and make it pollution free. This unique glass can also be re-used hundreds of times.

Absorbent Materials, the company Edmiston founded, will market the product. According to Stephen Spoonamore, Absorbent's CEO, “this technology may revolutionize Water/Environmental Remediation, BTEX recovery.” More at: <http://envirothink.greenpress.com:80/>

## **USA, ALASKA: ESCORT TUGS RESCUE DRIFTING TANKER - EXXON: SHIP LOSES ITS POWER GENERATORS AS IT WAS DEPARTING SOUND.**

January 17 - An Exxon tanker carrying more than 25 million gallons of Alaska crude oil lost power early Sunday morning while leaving Prince William Sound and had to be towed to

safety, the U.S. Coast Guard said. Two tugs that had been escorting the 832-foot tanker Kodiak were nearby when it lost its generators and gained control of vessel, said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Lally. "Nothing was spilled," Lally said. Trouble was reported at about 3 a.m. when the tanker was in Hinchinbrook Entrance - where the sound opens into the Gulf of Alaska and at the end of the escort route, said Donna Schantz, acting director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. Three more tugs arrived and the tanker was taken to safe harbor around 9 a.m. at Knowles Head in the Sound, Lally said. The vessel was carrying 613,000 barrels of oil, he said. Read more at: <http://www.adn.com/money/industries/oil/story/1098141.html> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for relaying this news item]

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **UK SPILL: 2010 MARINE SPILL SEMINAR AT OCEANOLOGY INTERNATIONAL**

The seminar will take place over March 9-10 at London Excel, in London Docklands, and is co-located with Oceanology International 2010.

Download more information at: <http://www.ukspill.org/UKSpill10-Programme.pdf>

### **UK: HAZMAT EVENT 2010**

NCEC, 23-24 February 2010, Crowne Plaza, Birmingham • Hazardous Materials Response • Chemical Exposure and Monitoring • Emergency Planning • Developments in Legislation • Future Technologies • Practical Case Studies More info: <http://the-ncec.com/hazmat-event>

### **UK: PERSEUS TRAINING DATES**

Indoor Cannabis Grow Operations & Illicit Drug Laboratories Awareness - 26th April 2010: Preston, Lancashire, 28th April 2010: Dunstable, Hertfordshire, 30th April 2010: Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. More info: [enquiries@perseustraining.com](mailto:enquiries@perseustraining.com)

Indoor Cannabis Grow Operations & Illicit Drug Laboratories Operational - 19th - 23rd April 2010: Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. More info: [enquiries@perseustraining.com](mailto:enquiries@perseustraining.com)

### **DUBAI: OFFSHORE ARABIA**

29-31 March 2010 at Dubai International Convention & Exhibition Centre: held under the patronage of H.H Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President & Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and it is hosted and organized by the Regional Clean Sea Organization (Recso) and its members representing the oil companies operating within the Arabian Gulf. More info: <http://www.offshorearabia.ae>

### **CANADA: THE THREAT OF OIL SPILLS IN THE QUEEN CHARLOTTE BASIN**

Collectively, a number of large-scale development proposals on the North Coast of BC pose a potential oil spill threat to the Queen Charlotte Basin. These proposals notably include both a supertanker and LNG terminal in Kitimat. This presentation provides an overview of the region's rich biological diversity, outlines the various projects in the pipeline, and examines the oil spill risks associated with each of them. It also looks at the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area or PNCIMA for short, a federal planning initiative for BC's north coast. Lecture by Dr Gerald Graham: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109. More info: <http://web.viu.ca/simmsw/Lecture2010/3.%20Graham/3.Graham.pdf>

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.