



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE 2011: CALL FOR PAPERS

The 21st Triennial International Oil Spill Conference will be held May 23-26, 2011 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Over 2,000 people from 50 countries are expected to attend the technical sessions and view more than 250 exhibits. The Conference theme for 2011 is: "Industry and Government Working Together"

The IOSC is a proven venue contributing to the critical concept of industry and government entities working together within the oil spill response community, the broader field of incident management, and society as a whole. It provides a forum for professionals from the international community, the private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations to highlight and discuss innovations and best practices across the spectrum of Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Restoration.

For information on how to submit a paper or a poster for this prestigious event, please [click here](#).

UK: EXTENDING THE 'POLLUTER PAYS' PRINCIPLE: ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE REGULATIONS

The EU Directive on Environmental Liability (2004/35/EC) is based on the 'polluter pays' principle. The directive imposes liability on operators of sites and activities for damage or threat of damage to protected species, natural habitats and sites of special scientific interest (biodiversity), as well as water and land. The directive requires operators to prevent, disclose and remediate such environmental damage.

The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2009, which came into force on March 1 2009, transpose the directive into UK law and impose two liability regimes for environmental damage. The first is the regime which imposes strict liability on operators listed in Schedule 2 of the regulations (including those covered by the pollution prevention control regime, waste management operators, those that discharge and abstract water and those that handle dangerous substances) for damage to protected species, natural habitats, sites of special scientific interest, surface and ground water and land.

The second is the regime which imposes fault-based liability or negligence on operators that are not listed in Schedule 2 for damage to protected species, natural habitats or sites of special scientific interest.

The regulations were amended in January 2010 to clarify their application in relation to marine habitats. For more information on this and the ways in which the regulations extend the "polluter pays" principle, go to: <http://www.internationallawoffice.com/newsletters/detail.aspx?q=9af92774-5848-4c39-8bd2-833fc66002ba>

USA EPA: FEBRUARY 2010 ISSUE OF TECHDIRECT AND DECEMBER 1-15 TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

TechDirect's purpose is to identify new technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and ground water. You can download and read the latest issue at: <http://www.clu-in.org:80/techdirect/td022010.htm>

The December 1-15, 2009 *Technology Innovation News Survey* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. The *Survey* contains market/commercialization information; reports on demonstrations, feasibility studies and research; and other news relevant to the hazardous waste community interested in technology development. The latest survey is available at: <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

CANADA: INLAND SPILL MANAGEMENT IN URBANIZED AREAS

Paper by J. Li, downloadable from the Wessex Institute Library.

Urban oil spills are frequent in many industrialized cities and towns. Although the volume of an inland oil spill is usually small compared to that of an ocean oil spill, the frequency of inland oil spills is far greater than that of ocean oil spills. Thus, the cumulative volume of inland oil spills can still cause significant environmental impacts on the receiving water bodies. This paper describes an inland spill management study in an industrial city in the Greater Toronto Area in Canada. The study began with a compilation of oil spill database. Characteristics of oil spill events were analyzed at different spill locations. It was found that human errors and equipment failures were the primary causes of oil spills. More info at: <http://library.witpress.com/pages/PaperInfo.asp?PaperID=797>

USA USCG R&D CENTER - FINAL REPORT: HEAVY OIL DETECTION (PROTOTYPES)

Current methods for locating and recovering submerged oil spills are inadequate. Detection methods are often improvised on-scene, and recovery techniques are labor intensive and not always successful. The U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center has embarked on a multi-year project to develop a complete approach for dealing with spills of submerged oils. This report describes the assessment of detection techniques using sonar, laser fluorometry, real-time mass spectrometry, and in-situ fluorometry to locate oil sitting on the sea floor. Evaluation of four proof-of-concept devices was conducted at the Oil and Hazardous Material Simulated Environmental Test Tank (OHMSETT), now called The National Oil Spill Response Test Facility, in Leonardo, NJ, between November 2007 and February 2008. Further testing of two of these prototype devices, plus three additional detection systems, was conducted at OHMSETT in January 2009. This report contains the results of these tests and recommendations for Federal On-scene Coordinators when responding to spills of heavy oil.

For the convenience of members of the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group and other interested parties, this report has been uploaded on the ISCO website, where it can be viewed together with other documents relating to Sub-Sea Oil Recovery. http://www.spillcontrol.org/Joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=72&Itemid=117

NIGERIA: GUNMEN ATTACK OIL PIPELINE IN NIGERIA AFTER MILITANTS END THEIR CEASE-FIRE

A spokeswoman for Royal Dutch Shell PLC says gunmen have attacked and damaged one of its Nigerian subsidiary's pipelines. Spokeswoman Precious Okoloba did not report any injuries Sunday, and such attacks in the oil-rich Niger Delta normally occur in pipelines running through remote creeks and swampland. But a local security official described Saturday's pipeline breach and oil spill in Bayelsa State, southern Nigeria, as serious and a potential danger to the environment.

The attack came after the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, the main militant group in the region, announced it would resume attacks against oil facilities. But the group did not immediately claim responsibility for Saturday's attack. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5hXunzkeZcXnJzB6iOR2Pe3Oix80g>

CANADA: CANUTEC - 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CANADIANS

CANUTEC, the Canadian Transport Emergency Centre, was established in July 1979 to promote public safety during the transportation of dangerous goods. Now in its 31st year of operation by Transport Canada, CANUTEC is a national bilingual advisory centre staffed by professional scientists specialized in emergency response and experienced in interpreting technical information. The Centre is responsible for providing guidance and emergency response information to both emergency responders and the Canadian public.

CANUTEC handles approximately 1000 incident situations yearly and is involved with more than 25,000 calls annually. Each incident, whether transportation related or not, involves a rapid risk assessment of the situation based on a variety of factors including the chemical and toxicological hazards of the substance being transported, its location relative to populated areas as well as other environmental considerations.

CANUTEC continuously strives to improve its services in order to provide enhanced tools and information for Canadians. In fact, CANUTEC offers a registration program through which Canadian companies can obtain permission to display the CANUTEC 24-hour emergency telephone number on their dangerous goods shipping documents. This is a free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week service for the Canadian industry. More than 6,000 companies now benefit from this essential safety program and CANUTEC has access to more than 1.9 million Safety Data Sheets. These can be immediately accessed by CANUTEC's Emergency Response Advisors during incidents to provide essential technical information and advice to fire, police, ambulance, poison control centres, hospital services and the public to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

Furthermore, CANUTEC has published the Emergency Response Guide 2008 (ERG2008) in English, French and Spanish and will soon begin revising the document for the next North American 2012 edition. The ERG2008 is an emergency response guidance document distributed by Transport Canada to emergency responders throughout Canada. Its purpose is to assist first responders in making initial decisions upon arriving at the scene of a dangerous goods incident. It provides recommended evacuation distances, describes potential hazards of a dangerous good and supplies relevant public safety information including fire, spill and first aid measures.

In order to enhance access for Canadians to this valuable publication, CANUTEC has developed electronically accessible free versions of the document as well as a training package that are available on the CANUTEC Web site. For the downloadable database, visit : <http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/en/guide/ERGO/ergo.htm>, for the Internet interactive on-line version, visit: <http://wwwapps.tc.gc.ca/saf-sec-sur/3/erg-gmu/erg/ergmenu.aspx> and for the training presentation on the use of the ERG2008, visit: http://www.tc.gc.ca/canutec/en/guide/training_ppt.htm

With acknowledgement to Transport Canada, Winter 2010 Newsletter <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/newsletter-menu-winter2010-1078.htm#article6>

ISRAEL TO CALCULATE COST OF CONTAMINATION

Israel is to assess the cost of cataloguing and cleaning up all of its contaminated land as part of a national remediation programme. The Israeli government has pinpointed around 1250 sites which it believes are contaminated by fuels, oils, toxic metals and chloro-organic compounds. Most of these pollutants are hazardous to human health and to the environment and others are known or suspected carcinogens. The Ministry of Environmental Protection estimates that thousands more sites are contaminated in Israel.

The government has now hired one of the countries leading contaminated land specialists, LLD Advanced Technologies, to characterise the different pollutants in the soil at these sites and put a price on detailed surveying and remediation. The work will provide the backbone of the country's new Contaminated Lands Law, a draft of which has been out for public consultation in 2008. Read the complete report at: http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=17603&channel=0&title=Israel+to+calculate+cost+of+contamination

TECHNOLOGY: NEW MATERIAL ABSORBS OIL SPILLS

An ultra-lightweight sponge made of clay and a bit of high-grade plastic draws oil out of contaminated water but leaves the water behind. And, lab tests show that oil absorbed can be squeezed back out for use. Case Western Reserve University researchers who made the material, called an aerogel, believe it will effectively clean up spills of all kinds of oils and solvents on factory floors and roadways, rivers and oceans.

The aerogel is made by mixing clay with a polymer and water in a blender, said David Schiraldi, chairman of the Macromolecular Science and Engineering department at the Case School of Engineering. The mixture is then freeze-dried; air fills the gaps left by the loss of water. The resulting material is super light, comprised of about 96 percent air, 2 percent polymer and 2 percent clay. The aerogel can be made in granular form, in sheets or in blocks of almost any shape and is effective in fresh and saltwater or on a surface. Because absorption is a physical phenomenon, there is no chemical reaction between the material and oil. If the oil is otherwise not contaminated, it can be used. Read the complete report at: <http://x-journals.com/2010/new-material-absorbs-oil-spills/>

UK: PTF TRAINING LTD. IN LINK-UP WITH OHES ENVIRONMENTAL LTD.

With effect from 1st January, 2010 PTF Training Ltd. is part of OHES Environmental Ltd. Jeannie and Alec O'Beirne will continue working with the company and all contact details remain the same.

Robin Exley has been employed as Managing Director designate working with the PTF and ORS Training Team headed up by Ken Taylor. This move gives PTF the support of a much larger organization in which the existing services provided by OHES Environmental will be complemented by those provided by PTF and this will ensure that PTF's existing customers will benefit from the new structure. <http://www.ptftraining.co.uk> <http://www.ohes.co.uk/>

UAE: ISCO MEMBER, SEACOR MIDDLE EAST AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS CONTRACT

SES Middle East (SESME) has been appointed by Emirates Aluminium Company Limited (EMAL) to provide integrated fire, rescue and hazardous materials response (HAZMAT) services. SESME is now providing the services at the new USD 5.7 billion EMAL Aluminium Smelting Complex at Al Taweelah in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, UAE.

SESME has established on-site Emergency Fire Services, delivering emergency fire and rescue response to the EMAL site and its workforce twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. This service is being delivered in conjunction with the existing emergency response currently provided for the construction phase of the smelter. The SESME on-site response team provides pre-emergency planning and risk identification and assessment, fire fighting and fire safety services, technical rescue including road traffic accident and high angle rescue, HAZMAT response / cleanup, and fire prevention and inspection. All services will be rendered according to emergency plans and standard operating procedures prepared and reviewed by SESME. More info: <http://www.sesme.ae/>

AUSTRALIA: HAZMAT 2010 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Preston, Victoria, 5-6 May, 2010 - Hazmat 2010 is the key hazardous materials, chemical management and dangerous goods conference and exhibition in Australia. Held over two days, presentations by leading industry experts and international key note speakers cover current issues and future topics, such as + Risk Assessment & Management + Major Hazards + Dangerous Goods + Security & Training + Chemical Management.

FPAA HazMat 2010 Website: <http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/?events=hazmat>
Program and Registration Brochure: <http://www.fpaa.com.au/events/docs/HZ10%20Rego%20Orig.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.