



## ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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### IMO: MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

The 60<sup>th</sup> session of MEPC took place over 22-26 March, 2010. *Inter alia*, The MEPC considered the report of the tenth meeting of the OPRC-HNS Technical Group, which met in the week prior to the Committee's session, and approved for publication the following texts developed by the Technical Group: *Manual on Oil Pollution, Section I – Prevention; Publication checklist for new IMO manuals, guidance documents and training materials; Guidance document on the implementation of an Incident Management System; and Guidelines for oil spill response in fast currents.* Read more: <http://www.imo.org/>

### USA: CHEMICAL INFORMATION MORE ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC

As part of Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's strong commitment to increase information on chemicals, for the first time, EPA is providing web access, free of charge, to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Substance Inventory. This inventory contains a consolidated list of thousands of industrial chemicals maintained by the agency. EPA is also making this information available on Data.Gov, a website developed by the Obama Administration to provide public access to important government information. This action represents another step to increase the transparency of chemical information while continuing to push for legislative reform of the 30 year old TSCA law. "Increasing the public's access to information on chemicals is one of Administrator Jackson's top priorities," said Steve Owens, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. "The American people are entitled to easily accessible information on chemicals, and today's action is part of a series of ongoing steps that EPA is taking to empower the public with this important information." Until now, the consolidated public portion of the TSCA Inventory has only been available by purchase from the National Technical Reports Library or other databases. By adding the consolidated TSCA Inventory to the Agency's website and to Data.Gov, EPA is making this information readily available to the public at no cost.

Currently, there are more than 84,000 chemicals manufactured, used, or imported in the U.S. listed on the TSCA Inventory. However, EPA is unable to publicly identify nearly 17,000 of these chemicals because the chemicals have been claimed as confidential business information under TSCA by the manufacturers. Under Administrator Jackson's leadership, EPA has already begun a series of aggressive steps to provide greater transparency on chemical risk information, including an announcement in January that

signaled EPA's intent to reduce a certain type of confidentiality claim, or Confidential Business Information (CBI) claim, on the identity of chemicals.

For information about EPA's increasing transparency on chemical risk information see <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/advpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceac8525735900400c27/631cf22eb540c4db852576b2004eca47> For access to the entire TSCA Inventory, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/oppt/newchems/pubs/invntory.htm> [Thanks to Barry Weissman of Hazmat 101 Group for forwarding this information]

### **UK: NATIONAL MARITIME INFORMATION CENTRE**

A national control centre to help protect the UK's interests at sea has been set up by the government. The National Maritime Information Centre will target terrorism and other crime, and respond to disasters. Security Minister Lord West said piracy off the Horn of Africa and the seaborne Mumbai terror attacks of November 2008 highlighted the need for such a centre.

The facility is based at the national military control centre at Northwood in north-west London. Lord West said the maritime base would allow government agencies and departments to share information about activity at sea more efficiently, which would protect UK interests at home and abroad. Sharing information would help officials to identify and counter potential threats to the UK at an earlier stage, he added.

Threats identified by ministers include terrorism and other criminal activity. The centre will also assist the co-ordination of more rapid responses to accidental or environmental disasters at sea. Read more at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8579649.stm>

### **USA: BIG OIL SPILL DRILL HAILED A SUCCESS**

Coast Guard officials and 50 other representatives from federal, state and commercial organizations concluded a two-day triennial Spill of National Significance Exercise exercise Thursday and are hailing the event as a total success.

Known as "SONS 2010," the full-scale exercise was designed to test responses to a "Spill of National Significance."

This year's exercise simulated a 2.3 million gallon crude oil spill in the Gulf of Maine that had potential to impact an area of 500 miles in the coastal region along with other complications designed to challenge the joint response effort.

More than 600 participants from 50 agencies were asked to coordinate planning, communication, and resources to protect the New England coastline from the simulated oil spill.

"The SONS exercise is the Super Bowl of response exercises," said Capt. Jim McPherson, Sector Northern New England commander. "An oil spill of this magnitude requires preparation, practice and synergy from all federal, state and local and private organizations. This exercise has been invaluable in terms of the benefits that all the participants received from the experience. Most importantly, the maritime community and ecosystem will benefit from our preparation." Read the complete report at: [http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100326/GJNEWS\\_01/703269903/-1/FOSNEWS](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100326/GJNEWS_01/703269903/-1/FOSNEWS)

### **NIGERIA: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DOCUMENT OIL SPILL SITES; UNEP SAID TO BE WORKING ON 350 SITES**

The Federal Government has moved to identify and catalogue all oil-impacted sites with a view to generating a comprehensive database to be utilised for their remediation.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, Dr. Biodun Olorunfemi, said this on Tuesday in Abuja, at the inaugural meeting of the Niger Delta Environmental Clean-Up and Remediation Sub-committee. He explained that the government embarked on the move following high incidents of oil spillage, noting that 2,405 incidents were recorded between

2006 and 2009. He said, "In 2006, 252 spills were reported; in 2007, 598 cases were reported; while in 2008 and 2009, 927 and 628 cases respectively were documented." Similarly, at least 1,056 oil-impacted sites were remediated and certified prior to 2005, while 467 of such sites had also been resuscitated from 2006 to date.

According to him, "In the current year, a total of 502 of such sites have been programmed for remediation by some major oil companies, under the monitoring and supervision of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency.

"The United Nations Environmental Programme is currently cleaning up and remediating 350 such endangered sites in Ogoniland." Read the complete article at: <http://www.punchng.com/Articl.aspx?theartic=Art2010032431618>

## **USA: USCG GIVES FULL APPROVAL FOR MRA OPA-90 SALVAGE AND FIREFIGHTING SERVICES CONTRACT AND FUNDING AGREEMENT**



Marine Response Alliance, LLC (MRA) has received approval from the U.S. Coast Guard for its Salvage and Marine Firefighting Contract and Funding Agreement. The Coast Guard's all-inclusive acceptance of the contract means that MRA has the ability to fully contract with plan holders needing salvage and marine firefighting services required under the OPA-90 sanctioned Salvage and Marine Firefighting Final Rule, which takes effect on February 22, 2011. MRA is a US based emergency response partnership comprised of Crowley Marine Services, Marine Pollution Control, TITAN Salvage, and Marine Hazard Response (a joint venture of Wild Well Control and Williams Fire & Hazard Control). The MRA contract fully meets the Coast Guard's definition of "contract or other approved means," including the very important funding agreement aspect of the final rule. Read more at: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/pressrelease/uscg-gives-full-approval-mra-opa-90-salvage-and-firefighting-services-contract-and-funding-agreement/>

## **TECHNOLOGY: SMITHS DETECTION LAUNCHES BIO-ACT, A COMPLETE SOLUTION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE BWA THREAT ASSESSMENT**

Smiths Detection has launched BIO-ACT, a complete emergency response assessment solution for rapidly identifying Biological Warfare Agents (BWAs) in the field. BIO-ACT comprises four complementary technologies, giving emergency responders a complete toolkit to obtain the highest level of accuracy when assessing unknown powder scares for Anthrax, Ricin, Plague, Pan Orthopox and other BWAs.

BIO-ACT, which stands for biological advanced confirmatory technologies, consists of Prime Alert™, a microbe and toxin screener, BioCheck®, a protein and pH test kit, HazMatID Ranger™, a hand-held chemical identifier and Bio-Seeq PLUS™, a next-generation handheld BWA identifier. Each element provides unique identification and detection capabilities that allow emergency responders to quickly determine any threat level and make the appropriate public safety decisions. Read the complete press release on this new development in *Hazmat News*, the Newsletter published by HazmatLINK at <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com:80/352976/4a8f1dbfb5/1426002558/1cb13ae2f0/>

## **TECHNOLOGY: CHEMICAL SPILL CONTAINMENT, READINESS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY – USE OF AUTOMATED CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS**

The number of industrial chemical spills in North America is continuing unabated. The U.S. National Response Center and Environment Canada report that, on average, there are more than 40,000 reported spill events annually in North America. In Canada alone, there were 175,000 tons of chemicals released into the Canadian water system in 2007 (as reported by National Pollutant Release Inventory [NPRI]).

Despite industry having a best practice for managing incidents, accidents will happen, and managers must undertake due diligence to evaluate every possible contingency. This article explores the option of automated containment systems that can be instantly activated if a spill occurs. Read more at: <http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/23616/chemical-spill-containment>

## GUIDANCE ON DEALING WITH INCIDENTS INVOLVING PIPELINES

Here are two websites that may assist emergency responders dealing with both gas and liquid pipeline incidents.

<http://www.papapipelinevideos.com/>

<http://pipeline.mindgrabmedia.com/main.aspx>

Both of these are web based training sites with videos and interactive training modules and scenarios. [Thanks to Bill Hands of Hazmat 101 Group for forwarding this information]

## UK: NEWLY ANNOUNCED OIL AND HNS RESPONSE TRAINING COURSES



ISCO Corporate Member, Braemar Howells has just announced the following additional training courses – HNS 40 hour courses to be held at Gatwick over June 14-18, 2010 and November 15-19, 2010; IMO and MCA Level 2 On-Scene Commander oil spill response training courses at Gatwick over April 19-23, 2010; July 19-22, 2010; October 11-14, 2010 and at Liverpool over June 21-25, 2010.

More information from Karen Faircloth, tel. +44 (0) 1293 544482 or email [karenfaircloth@braemarhowells.com](mailto:karenfaircloth@braemarhowells.com). <http://www.braemarhowells.com>



## USA: T&T BISSO ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH FOSS MARITIME

Thursday, March 25th, 2010 - T&T BISSO, an industry leader in vessel emergency response, salvage and marine firefighting services, has announced an exclusive co-operative services agreement with Foss Maritime Company.

Foss Maritime, based in Seattle, offers a complete range of maritime services and project management to customers across the Pacific Rim, Europe, South America and around the globe. "Foss's extensive network of sister companies and partners positioned in North America and around the world will complement T&T BISSO's global strategies in providing professional, safe and results-oriented services conducted on or around the water," said Tim Dickensheets, director of vessel response services for T&T BISSO. Read more at: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/tt-bisso-announces-agreement-foss-maritime/>

## NEW BOOK PUBLISHED BY ISAA CHAIRMAN, DR DOUGLAS CORMACK



Chairman of the International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) and Honorary Member of ISCO, Dr Douglas Cormack, has recently published his latest book - no, not a new edition of his well known "*Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*", but something completely different – a philosophical work titled "*The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*". Distilling a lifetime of observation and experience, Douglas differentiates knowledge from belief, science from pseudo-science and commonsense from nonsense in a thought provoking book that commends knowledge as a superior guiding principle in a world where reality is all too often ignored in favour of arbitrary belief.

Douglas' book can be purchased on line from Authors on Line at:

[http://www.authorsonline.co.uk/book/870/The\\_Rational\\_Trinity%3A\\_Imagination%2C\\_Belief\\_and\\_Knowledge/](http://www.authorsonline.co.uk/book/870/The_Rational_Trinity%3A_Imagination%2C_Belief_and_Knowledge/)

Paperback edition costs £14.95 / US\$ 19.95 / Euro 17.34. Also available from Amazon.

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.