



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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North America's Largest  
Oil Spill Training Event & Exhibition  
October 19-20 | Tampa Convention Center | Tampa, FL

Register  
Today

## DEEPWATER HORIZON: GETTING CLOSER TO FINAL WELL-KILL



Coast Guard Capt. Steve Truhlar, a HC-144A Ocean Sentry aircraft pilot stationed in Mobile, Ala., along with members of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department release pelicans at the Goose Island State Park in Rockport, Texas, July 28, 2010.

At this time last week it was thought that the insertion of the casing in the first relief well might go ahead midweek but some debris, resulting from the passage of the storm, was found at the bottom of the well bore.

As at Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> July, this was being cleared and the expectation was that the necessary casing would be installed over the weekend.

The expectation now is that the hydrostatic top kill will go ahead today or tomorrow. This involves pumping mud, followed by cement, in from the top to fill the pipe and overcome the pressure of the oil trying to come up. Ultimately, it will be the bottom kill that is driven into the annulus and filled with mud and cement that will finally close off the well.

As of Saturday night (July 31), Development Driller III had drilled the first relief well to a depth of 17,864 feet below the Gulf surface and seismic and acoustic testing continued to ensure the integrity of the wellhead. All signs were hopeful that the bottom kill would proceed as planned within the next week or two.

Meantime, oil on the surface is becoming increasingly hard to find – but overflights continue and, when oil is observed, skimming vessels are directed to intercept and recover. Skimming capacity is being maintained at a high level just in case something goes wrong. Tarballs continue to wash ashore in some areas and shoreline cleaning continues. One of the methods being used is tractor-drawn beach cleaning machines that operate in the similar way to the Fox Beach Cleaner, taking a “cut” of sand from the surface of the beach and lifting it via a sieve screening system that separates out debris and tarballs.

Gradually, the transition is taking place from an emergency response phase to a longer term remediation operation that is expected to continue for many months to come.

## **CANADA-UNITED STATES JOINT INLAND POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN 2009**

The Canada–United States Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan (the “Inland Plan”) sets forth cooperative measures for dealing with a release of a pollutant along the inland boundary of a magnitude that causes, or may cause, damage to the environment or constitutes a threat to public safety, security, health, welfare, or property.

The Inland Plan may also facilitate the provision of assistance in the event that only one country is affected, but the polluting incident is of sufficient magnitude to justify a request for assistance from the other country.

The revised Inland Plan supersedes the 1994 Canada–United States Joint Inland Pollution Contingency Plan, and complements the Canada–United States Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan, which describes a joint response mechanism for any polluting incident that threatens the waters or coastal areas of both countries. The Inland Plan is not intended to supersede any statutory authorities held by either Participant, to create any legally binding rights or obligations under domestic or international law with regard to the Participants or any other entity, or to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity against the Participants or any other entity.

The revised Inland Plan can be downloaded at <http://www.ec.gc.ca/ee-ue/default.asp?lang=en&n=DEB16A21>

## **USA: ANOTHER LEAKING WELL IN THE GULF**

July 29 - Authorities in Louisiana don't know how long it will take to cap a well struck by a vessel off the coast, as they tried Wednesday to minimize the damage from leaking oil and gas.

A Texas company called in to cap the well, Wild Well Inc., is working through the night to evaluate the condition of the wellhead and decide how to secure it.

The abandoned well was hit early Tuesday. A tugboat was pushing a dredge barge when the dredger hit the wellhead around 1 a.m.

Since then the wellhead has been spewing a mixture of oil, natural gas, and water into Barataria Bay in Southeastern Louisiana. The resulting sheen covers more than six square miles. The well was once operated by Cedyco Corp. of Houston but was declared abandoned by the state in November 2008. But U.S and state officials say Cedyco still is responsible for it, and the company has hired Wild Well to secure it. Read more: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/another-leaking-well-gulf/>

## **CHINA GRAPPLES WITH BLAST, CHEMICAL SPILL IN LATEST ACCIDENTS**

China sent hundreds of officials to assist people hurt in a gas-pipeline blast in the city of Nanjing and to retrieve 3,000 barrels of hazardous chemicals that washed into a river in Jilin as authorities grappled with the latest in a string of industrial accidents.

The explosion at an abandoned factory in the eastern city of Nanjing killed at least 12 people and left another 15 seriously injured, state broadcaster China Central Television reported late yesterday. Workers demolishing buildings at the Nanjing No. 4 Plastics Factory damaged a propylene pipeline, causing the blast, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The accidents in Nanjing and Jilin yesterday followed an acid leak at [Zijin Mining Group Co.](#)'s copper and gold mines in the eastern province of Fujian and an oil spill in northeastern China that shut beaches and a port this month. China's work safety administration last week [ordered intensified measures](#) at factories, mines and construction sites to prevent accidents.

The city of Jilin shut off the local water supply yesterday after barrels containing trimethyl chloro silicane, a colorless flammable chemical, were washed into the Songhuajiang river from a local factory by floodwaters, China Daily reported. More: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-07-29/china-grapples-with-factory-explosion-chemical-spill-in-latest-accidents.html>

## **USA: MICHIGAN COMPANIES RESPOND TO OIL PIPELINE SPILL**

Two of ISCO's corporate members – Marine Pollution Control (MPC) and Clean Harbors – are working on the spill response along with another company called Youngs. MPC advised that its primary focus is on containment, working to protect tributaries and prevent the oil from entering Lake Michigan, and provided the following report –

Marine Pollution Control (MPC), the first oil spill responder in the Great Lakes and one of the first in the nation, has once again been put to the test as it was called upon to respond to a pipeline spill near Marshall, Michigan. On Monday, July 26, an estimated 800,000 gallons of oil leaked from a pipeline transporting crude from Indiana to Ontario, and spilled into Talmadge Creek, which flows into the Kalamazoo River. That evening, the operator of the pipeline contacted MPC, and MPC immediately mobilized a crew of responders, boats, and containment boom from its Detroit operations center. MPC continued to mobilize resources to the spill site throughout Tuesday, and on Wednesday morning the call came from the EPA, through its Region 5 emergency response contractor, asking MPC to mobilize additional resources.

To date, MPC has mobilized fifteen professional and field staff (including supervisors, boat operators, recovery technicians, equipment operators, and technical services professionals) and a veritable arsenal of response equipment (including workboats, boom, response trailers, skimmers, vac trucks, and vac tankers). MPC crews are considered experts in boom deployment strategies and have been focused on this primarily in the first days of the response. Additional personnel and equipment are now broadening the MPC effort to include recovery. MPC is also gratified that it has been able to provide technical services professionals who can assist with oiled wildlife response.

"Our crews are doing a fantastic job," said Charles Usher, President of MPC. "The entire MPC team has really stepped up, working long hours, often at night, under adverse conditions, and we thank them for it."

For more information, contact Jeff Taylor, 313-849-2333, [jtaylor@marinepollutioncontrol.com](mailto:jtaylor@marinepollutioncontrol.com)

### **USA: CCNY-LED TEAM DEVELOPS NON-TOXIC OIL RECOVERY AGENT**

A team of chemists led by Dr. George John, Associate Professor at The City College of New York (CCNY), have developed a non-toxic, recyclable agent that can solidify oil on salt water so that it can be scooped up like the fat that forms on the top of a pot of chilled chicken soup. The agent could potentially be used to recover oil lost in the British Petroleum (BP) spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Professor John said.

In the laboratory, Professor John and colleagues added a sugar compound mixed in alcohol to diesel oil floating on top of a saline solution. "Within five minutes, the oil had gelled into a substance thick enough to be scooped up," he said. Then the team separated 80 percent of the oil from the gel using a vacuum distillation process.

The gelling agent developed by his team is environmentally benign. It uses a sugar-based molecule that can be obtained from renewable sources and is biodegradable. In addition, only a relatively small amount of the agent – five percent of the volume of the oil being recovered – is required for the process, which handles a range of oil from crude to vegetable oil, to work. Read more at: <http://www.pollutiononline.com/article.mvc/CCNY-Led-Team-Develops-Non-Toxic-Oil-Recovery-0001?user=2116810&source=nl:28218>

### **NEWS FROM ITALY ABOUT INORGANIC MINERAL-BASED SORBENT MATERIAL**

Letter received by your editor - "My name is Maurizio Canini, administrator of an Italian company specialized in oil spill problems since the eighties. Personally I was charged by the Italian Commercial Navy Ministry (now Environment Ministry) as in charge of operations for oil spill containment at big sea disasters like the Haven incident in the Mediterranean Sea near the Italian Coast (Genova) in 1992, and then the Moby Prince disaster in the same year.

The experiences gained over the years suggest that inerting the petroleum in place, using a particular kind of mineral, easy to find, and easy to place and spread all over the petroleum spots is one of the best solutions in these cases. This mineral is widely used in Europe, in particular on rivers, lakes and it has the property of floating on water (this mineral is thermally expanded and made hydrophobic). It is able to absorb oil and petroleum and also able to self-compact with oils, so forming a stand alone conglomerate able to move with the water current. Again the mineral is able to keep inside of itself the petroleum based oils until it reaches full saturation. If or when the conglomerates should reach the coast, they will be in any case be a minor impact compared with the free petroleum mass, and in this case the pick up and cleaning should be easier and faster.

The mineral product - 1 m3 of oil absorbing and hydrophobic mineral weigh just 90 kg. - 1 m3 of this mineral covers more than 1.000 m2 (meters). - 1 m3 of mineral will absorb up to 400 lt. of oil. - The mineral doesn't give back the absorbed petroleum if not at complete saturation - The mineral is able to absorb oil even if has absorbed some water (max. percentage of absorbed water: 20 % of the mineral weight) - The mineral is absolutely harmless; it's magnesium + aluminium silicate thermally expanded.

The use on water - It's not necessary to evenly distribute it; it's able to self-level on the water surface and has the tendency to seek the oil and petroleum spots. - Wind, waves, water currents improve the mix with oils and the following conglomeration (like a blob) - It is very easy to spread because you need simply pour it onto the water, keeping in the direction of the wind. - In case the petroleum absorbed by the mineral should arrive on shorelines the resulting damage will be very limited compared to the raw oil. - In case it should arrive on the beach our experience is that it was possible to collect it by using broom and shovel. - Once dried it is also possible to pick it up by using an industrial vacuum (in any case the mineral oil mix is lighter than sand). The collection will in any case be easier due to the mineral and low fluidity of the same.

Final Considerations - If the mineral should get lost, it is completely inert and doesn't cause any harm to the environment. Even if it should arrive on the beach fully loaded of petroleum the environmental impact is considerably reduced and the picking-up will be easier and faster. The mineral is very easy to find and in any case is commonly used in Europe. The mineral can also be collected on the open sea (once it has absorbed petroleum it becomes like a blob) and the residual oil spots could be picked up by oil skimmers. Regarding the mineral disposal (once loaded with petroleum), it is possible to incinerate it or to process for re-use. - We definitely think that the mineral should have positive effects even near to a so called wave curl or where the waves break. In this particular situation, the petroleum makes an emulsion with the water, and the mineral in this case acts like a filtration system." Readers who would like to know more may contact the writer - Fabrizio Massa, ZENIT Ambiente S.r.l., Via XXIV Maggio 116-19124 La Spezia - Italy Tel. 0039 0187.77.82.77 Fax. 0039 0187.75.27.18 Mob. 0039 333 50 66 703 [www.zenitambiente.it](http://www.zenitambiente.it) [fmassa@zenitambinete.it](mailto:fmassa@zenitambinete.it)

## **ARE YOU HAULING DANGEROUS GOODS? ADR SPILL RESPONSE KITS CAN HELP YOU COMPLY WITH ADR REGULATIONS**

The ADR legislation makes sure that if the dangerous goods that you are transporting spill you have the correct knowledge and equipment to deal with the spillage safely and efficiently. It protects not only the driver but also the public and the environment against the hazards presented by the transport of dangerous goods. Examples of dangerous goods mentioned in the ADR legislation are corrosive, flammable, toxic and explosive liquids, as well as radioactive materials. Read more at: <http://ezinearticles.com/?Are-You-Hauling-Dangerous-Goods?-ADR-Spill-Response-Kits-Can-Help-You-Comply-With-ADR-Regulations&id=4111060>

## **PUBLICATIONS: POLLUTIONS CHIMIQUES ACCIDENTELLES DU TRANSPORT MARITIME (Accidental Chemical Pollution by Shipping)**

Michel Girin, Emina Mamaca - Edition 2010 - This revealing book describes the risks related to chemical transport today, based on an analysis of existing knowledge, the regulations currently in force and the feed-back from fifty-five accidents which have occurred around the world since 30 years. Ebook available. More information: <http://www.quae.com:80/en/nouveautes/> [Source - CEDRE Newsletter, which contains news about CEDRE [http://www.cedre.fr/en/publication/newsletter/2010/181\\_E.pdf](http://www.cedre.fr/en/publication/newsletter/2010/181_E.pdf) ]

## **USA: RESOLVE MARITIME ACADEMY INTRODUCES HAZWOPER TRAINING**

Resolve Maritime Academy has introduced a new oil spill hazwoper training program at their Port Everglades facility at 3391 S.E. 14th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316. Enrollment for a 40-hour Hazwoper Course is now open; the Course begins Monday, August 16. The Hazwoper Oil Spill Training Program includes several courses:

- 4-Hour 1st Responder Awareness Course
- 8-Hour HAZWOPER Refresher Course
- 24-Hour HAZWOPER Course
- 40-Hour HAZWOPER Course

The 40-hour course, which meets the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.120, provides comprehensive training for workers who are involved in clean-up operations, emergency response operations, and storage, disposal, or treatment of hazardous or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites. (An additional three days actual field experience under the direct supervision of a trained experienced supervisor may be required and is the responsibility of the employer.) More info: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/resolve-maritime-academy-introduces-hazwoper-training/>

## **USA: OIL SPILL TECHNOLOGY EXPO PLANNED FOR MOBILE**

\$20,000 technology development grant for the best cleanup invention - Now that the gushing of oil into the Gulf of Mexico has been stifled, scientists and coastal communities are faced with the task of cleaning up what's left.

So far, most beaches have remained relatively clean, but that could change with a major storm or hurricane.

BP and the USCG no longer need additional skimmers, so this show is designed to address the need for the technologies borne of American ingenuity by an oil-hungry world that still experiences occasional major spills, as highlighted by the recent incident in China.

Oil spill disaster preparedness personnel from all the major oil-producing nations have been invited to Gulf Tech Expo to review the devices and technologies developed by U.S. inventors, as well as representatives from our own Gulf Coast cities still fearful of oiled beaches.

The "Gulf Tech Expo - Oil Spill Technology & Recovery Show," to be held at the Mobile Convention Center, August 13-15, is being billed as a clearing house for those who spent countless hours and dollars on ideas ranging from a rake to remove tar balls, to a "triage boat" used to treat oiled wildlife prior to being moved to a treatment facility.

"The show is an open platform for anyone who has an idea, invention, concept, or theory pertaining to any aspect of the restoration of the Gulf coastline," says Gary Gibson, show spokesperson. "All concepts will be examined by representatives from a variety of on-site agencies and foreign scientists. Over 20 countries provided help in our disaster and we believe we can return the favor by exhibiting the new containment and cleanup technologies developed in response to our own oil spill." Read more at: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/oil-spill-technology-expo-planned-for-mobile-99617859.html> More info: <http://www.gulftechexpo.com>

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