



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
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News

PIRACY STRANGLING SHIPPING LANES - POTENTIAL TO DISRUPT OIL FLOWS

A statement made by INTERTANKO's Managing Director, Joe Angelo in response to the hijacking of the VLCC Irene SL on 10.02.11 in the northern part of the Indian Ocean/Arabian Sea more than 1,000 miles from Somalia

"The hijacking by pirates of 2 million barrels of Kuwaiti crude oil destined for the U.S. in a large Greek tanker in the middle of the main sea lanes coming from the Middle East Gulf marks a significant shift in the impact of the piracy crisis in the Indian Ocean.

The Irene SL's cargo of Kuwaiti crude oil represents nearly 20% (one fifth) of total U.S. daily crude oil imports. This one cargo is 12% of all oil coming out of the Middle East Gulf each day, and 5% of total daily world seaborne oil supply.

The piracy situation is now spinning out of control into the entire Indian Ocean right to the top of the Arabian Sea over 1,000 miles from the coast of Somalia. This rapid expansion has been accomplished through the pirates' use of motherships.

If piracy in the Indian Ocean is left unabated, it will strangle these crucial shipping lanes with the potential to severely disrupt oil flows to the U.S. and to the rest of the world. We need to see a significant increase in government 'will' to eradicate piracy in the Indian Ocean and not just contain it".

Note from editor – At a meeting I attended yesterday someone commented that the piracy problem is no longer a matter of some impoverished fisherman trying to make a fast buck – it has become a mafia type operation being played for very high stakes. Are we going to see "environmental blackmail" next with threat of massive pollution if demands are not met? ISCO supports IMO's working towards creating a co-ordinated international response to the problem at a UN level. <http://www.intertanko.com/>

USA: OIL FROM BP SPILL STILL ON GULF FLOOR

February 21 - The clean-up of the Gulf Coast after the BP Deepwater Horizon spill is to move on to the next stage, the US government announced at the weekend, as environmental scientists insisted that significant amounts of oil still remain on the seabed and parts of the shoreline.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Jane Lubchenco, head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, launched what she said would be an intensive public consultation process to [decide how the gulf should be restored](#) to its pre-spill condition.

"The overall goal of this process is to hold the parties responsible for the spill fully accountable to restore, rehabilitate, replace or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and services injured by the oil spill," said Dr Lubchenco.

On the "polluter pays" principle, all costs will be met by BP and its contractors. Between the [explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig](#) on April 20 and the [final capping of the leak](#) on July 15 last year, 5m barrels of oil leaked into the gulf.

Scientists who have been monitoring what happened to the oil and accompanying natural gas gave mixed reports to the AAAS meeting.

Terry Hazen of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California said hydrocarbon-eating bacteria, which had evolved to consume natural oil seeps on the seabed, quickly disposed of the [much publicised "plumes" of oil](#) droplets dispersed through the waters of the gulf.

But Samantha Joye of the University of Georgia said the latest remote video survey of the ocean floor, carried out in December, found globules of oil up to 100 miles from the source of the leak.

Summing up the evidence, Dr Lubchenco said: "Although most of the oil has gone, some still remains out there. Extensive sampling by NOAA and our academic partners shows that there are oil residues on the sea floor, and 83 miles of shoreline still have moderate to heavy [pollution]". [Read more](#) [Another article worth reading](#)

USA: EDGING CLOSER ON PERMITS - REGULATORS' VISIT BRINGS WORD THAT APPROVALS MAY BE NEAR

February 26 - Federal regulators' visits Friday to a pair of Houston sites where teams are developing new oil spill response systems could be a prelude to permitting new deep-water drilling, according to companies that met with the officials.

If their interpretation is accurate, the systems passed the test, and the [Gulf of Mexico](#) is one step closer to the first deep-water drilling allowed since last year's [Deepwater Horizon disaster](#).

Interior Secretary [Ken Salazar](#), [Bureau of Ocean Energy Management](#), Research and Enforcement Director [Michael Bromwich](#) and a number of technical advisers met with the two companies in Houston for briefings on the systems designed to contain undersea well blowouts.

The government is requiring that such systems be designated in applications for all new deep-water drilling permits in the wake of last year's deadly blowout and spill.

"We got a strong indication from them that they are ready to move forward," said Marty Massey, CEO of the Marine Well Containment Co., a consortium formed by Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp., [Shell Oil Co.](#), [ConocoPhillips](#) and later joined by BP that has developed one the response systems. [Read more](#)

UK: PROBE FINDS GANGS 'RECYCLING' TOXIC WASTE

February 18 - Britain's recycling industry is being exploited by criminal gangs that have illegally shipped large quantities of toxic material to developing countries, prosecutors will claim at a series of court cases in the pipeline.

The [Environment Agency](#) is pursuing 30 cases, most of which involve electrical waste that has been sold illegally in West Africa. Many other cases involve tyres, sent to south-east Asia, as well as household waste.

Typically, the culprits pretend that the broken televisions, computers and other devices are "used electronics" that are still fit for use, applying "tested" stickers before packing them in the back of containers. [Read more](#)

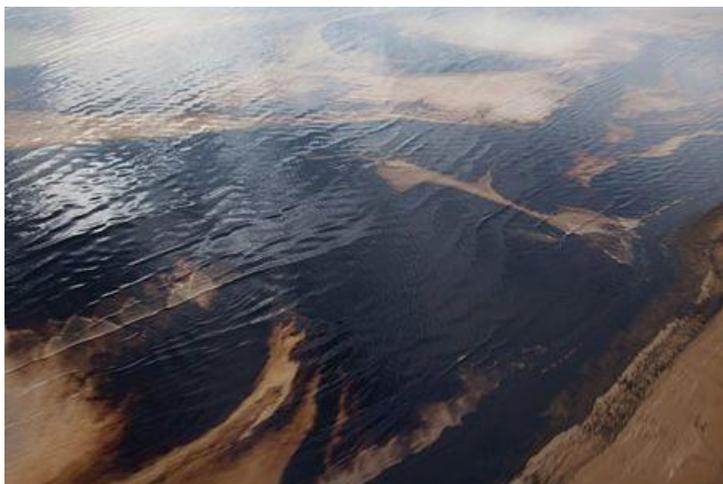
USA: PIPELINES HOW SAFE ARE THEY?

Dramatic pipeline explosions in San Bruno, California and Allentown, Pennsylvania, have brought pipeline safety to center stage in nearly every community in the U.S. Pipelines are no longer out of sight and out of mind. Explosions that can be seen for forty miles make the front page headlines and the evening news across the country. In nearly every community, people are asking the question, "How safe are the pipelines in my neighborhood?"

Pipelines may be categorized as being "gathering," "transmission," or "distribution," pipelines. Gathering pipelines provide a network of pipes, pumping stations and storage tanks for collecting crude oil and natural gas from producers and transporting these products to refineries and other treatment facilities. Nearly all gathering pipelines are located in remote rural areas or offshore locations.

Transmission pipelines provide a network of pipes, pumping stations and storage tanks to transport refined products to distributors throughout the U.S. Large urban areas in the U.S. are often the final destination for the majority of transmission pipelines. Transmission pipelines may be further categorized as being either a gas or as a hazardous liquid (HL) pipeline. Gas pipelines may transport natural gas, natural gas liquids such as propane and butane, as well as ethane, ethylene and propylene. A HL pipeline may be used to transport a variety of hazardous materials ranging from jet fuel and diesel to anhydrous ammonia and carbon dioxide. [Read more](#) [Thanks to Homer of Hazmat 101 Group for passing on this article]

IRAN: OIL SPILL FROM PORT PIPELINE CONTAINED



The oil slick began to spread after the Aghajari-Goureh pipeline in the port city of Daylam in Iran's southern province of Bushehr began leaking due to decay.

The spill was stopped by changing the route of the pipeline one day after the incident, but it entered the Gulf as a result of flooding and polluted about 25 kilometers of the Daylam coast.

The oil slick has contaminated more than 20 hectares of Persian Gulf waters and 700 hectares of farmland in Bushehr Province, Mohammadzadeh explained saying that the Oil Ministry has to compensate the damages caused by the incident.

Dr. Mohammad Baqer Nabavi, an official with IEPO, earlier announced that it would take at least two months to clean up the oil spill. [Read more](#)

NORWAY: CLEAN-UP AFTER OIL SPILL OFF NORWAY

A clean-up operation is underway after an Icelandic ship, Godafoss, ran aground late Thursday near the mouth of the Oslo Fjord. The vessel spilled fuel into the Ytre Hvaler marine park, Norway's only marine natural reserve.

The ship was carrying 800 tons of fuel when it struck a rock near the mouth of the Oslo Fjord shortly after departing Fredrikstad for Helsingborg in southern Sweden. An unknown quantity of fuel leaked out from the middle of tanks lining both sides of the ship, each holding 250 tons.

"The leaking has now stopped," Ane Eide Kjaeraas from the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) told Deutsche Welle. "We think that most of the oil that we see in the fjord now leaked out in the moment the ship ran aground."

Shortly after the accident, Norwegian and Swedish authorities brought out anti-pollution vessels, tugboats, surveillance planes and helicopters to assess the situation. Floating barriers were also set up around the ship to limit the damage. [Read more](#)



BIOLOGISTS REPORT DEAD DOLPHIN YOUNG WASHING UP ON ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI COASTS

Marine biologists are reporting that some baby dolphins, some barely three feet in length, are washing up along the Mississippi and Alabama.

Researchers tell The Sun Herald that 17 young dolphins, either aborted before they reached maturity or dead soon after birth, have been collected on the coasts of the states in the past two weeks — both on the barrier islands and mainland beaches. They said that is about 10 times the normal number for the first two months of the year.

Moby Solangi, director of the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies in Gulfport, said it's too early to tell why they died. [Read more](#) [Thanks to John S. Brinkman for sending in this and links to this news] Other links you can access - [One](#) [Two](#) [Three](#)

EUROPE: SECOND SHIP TO COMBAT OIL SPILLS IN THE BLACK SEA SHOULD BE BASED IN BULGARIA

The deployment of a second ship to combat oil spills in the Black Sea in 2011 should be in a Bulgarian port, the Bulgarian Maritime Administration (BMA) said in a statement on February 22 2011. To date, the only such ship is anchored in the Romanian city Costanta, according to the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

According to the BMA, the availability of another such vessel in the region would vastly enhance the capacity to deal with incidents and reduce the reaction in the case of an accident. It is essential however, for the ship to be in a Bulgarian port. [Read more](#)

USA: OSHA ISSUES NEW ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 10, 2011

This instruction, *Enforcement Guidance for Personal Protective Equipment in General Industry*, establishes OSHA's general enforcement and guidance policy for its standards addressing personal protective equipment (PPE). It instructs OSHA enforcement personnel on both the agency's interpretations of those standards and the procedures for enforcing them.

The instruction has been revised and updated to include the following significant changes: • Clarifies what type of PPE employers must provide at no cost, when employers must pay for PPE, or for replacement PPE, and when employers are not required to pay for PPE. • Clarifies the PPE payment requirements for PPE worn off the jobsite, for PPE that must remain at the jobsite, and for employee-owned PPE. • Sets forth enforcement policies that reflect court and review commission decisions concerning PPE. • Provides guidance that allows employers to use PPE constructed in accordance with the most recent national consensus standards. You can download and read the revised enforcement guidance by clicking [HERE](#)

BAHRAIN: REGIONAL WORKSHOP: DISPERSANTS AND OIL SPILL RESPONSE

A two days high-level workshop on chemical dispersants and their role in oil spill response took place in Bahrain recently. Jointly organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, the event was attended by more than 40 representatives from the oil & gas, the maritime and the environmental sectors of the region.

High-calibre experts like Dr. Stefan Micallef, Deputy Director Marine Environment Division of the IMO, Rob Cox, IPIECA's Technical Director, Alex Hunt, Senior Technical Advisor at the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), Alun Lewis, research chemist with 30 years consultancy record in oil spill response and further professionals discussed the capabilities and limitations oil spill dispersants with the participants. [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: INTRIGUES THREATEN OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT

Efforts at managing oil spill in Nigeria may come under bureaucratic intrigues as the Ministry of Petroleum has initiated a move to jettison the existing National Oil Spill Contingency Plan endorsed in 2003, by the Obasanjo administration.

Acting on the memo by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation on the need for National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, the Federal Ministry of Petroleum is making a case for the creation of such a plan which Environment Watchers said in Abuja last week "is a misplaced intervention". [Read more](#)

MARINE WELL CONTAINMENT COMPANY ANNOUNCES MANAGEMENT TEAM

February 23 - The Marine Well Containment Company today announced its newly formed management team. The company is a not-for-profit, independent organization founded by ExxonMobil, Chevron, ConocoPhillips and Shell, which is committed to providing rapid response equipment to contain a potential future underwater well control incident in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico.

“Our objective is to ensure that the well containment response system is in a state of continuous operational readiness to facilitate rapid deployment and response in the event that it is required”

The company has appointed Marty Massey as chief executive officer. Formerly U.S. joint interest manager for ExxonMobil Production Company, Massey will lead the management team and operations of the Marine Well Containment Company, with headquarters in Houston. “Our objective is to ensure that the well containment response system is in a state of continuous operational readiness to facilitate rapid deployment and response in the event that it is required,” Massey said.

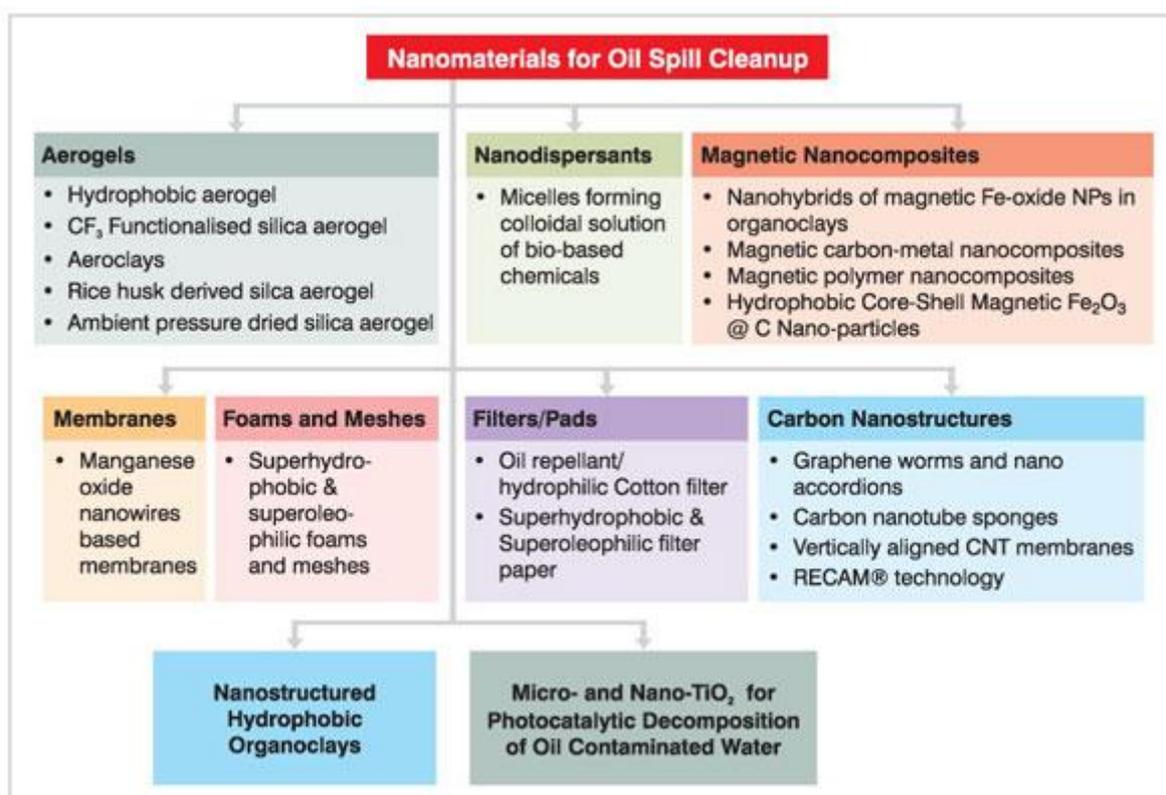
Dan Smallwood, formerly operations manager of Gulf of Mexico and Louisiana for ConocoPhillips, has been named chief operating officer for the company.

Astley Blair, formerly division finance officer for Chevron Global Supply and Trading, has been appointed as chief financial officer. Charles Miller, formerly vice president production, Shell Brazil Ltda., has been named chief technology officer. Carmine Dulisse, formerly security and emergency preparedness and response manager, ExxonMobil Development Company, has been named health, safety, and environment officer. [Read more](#)

Technology

NANOTECHNOLOGY-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR OIL SPILLS

Conventional techniques are not adequate to solve the problem of massive oil spills. In recent years, nanotechnology has emerged as a potential source of novel solutions to many of the world’s outstanding problems. Although the application of nanotechnology for oil spill cleanup is still in its nascent stage, it offers great promise for the future. In the last couple of years, there has been particularly growing interest worldwide in exploring ways of finding suitable solutions to clean up oil spills through use of nanomaterials.



[Read more](#)



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 15 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Member of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#).

HARMONISATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT (PART 15)

Before turning to the effects of floating and stranded oil on individual organisms, we must evaluate the belief that our consumption of shellfish exposes us to carcinogenic poly-nuclear aromatic hydrocarbons PNAH (c.f. article 11) despite fishing bans and depurations. Again, knowledge is more reassuring than environmentalist belief. Thus, knowing that PNAHs are ubiquitous in being among the combustion products of such organic materials as wood, garden-rubbish and tobacco, we also know that their presence in seafood accounts for no more than 2-3% of our total consumption; and that there is no evidence for oil-source PNAHs being the cause of cancer in marine species themselves at actual levels of exposure, let alone for cancer being caused by ingestion of cancerous tissue.

As to the surface-coating of individual birds with floating oil, we know that this is the most obvious biological consequence of oil release; that ingestion of oil by the bird in attempting to clean its plumage can cause internal damage, while heat loss through reduction of thermal insulation of the plumage is said to be the main cause of death; that, in any case, no species has been driven to extinction by oil release; that the best way to evaluate the significance of the numbers dying by oiling would be to compare them with the numbers dying and being born annually in maintaining species numbers at current levels; and that, thus far, no such studies have been reported, though the Royal Commission on the Environment did report in 1981 that bird species were generally on the increase despite all discharges/releases. In any case, we know that the species most liable to oiling are those which wade and bottom-feed, those which dive from the water surface to catch fish, and those which remain flightless on the sea surface during the annual moult; and that the species least at risk are those which dive on fish seen in flight and which do not dive where fish are hidden from sight by floating oil.

As to the oiling of individuals in other marine species, we know that those which leave and re-enter the sea to and from shorelines, are at greater risk than those which are permanently in the sea; that there is a paucity of reported oiling for the latter; that, in any case, the significance of oil-related deaths for all species could be evaluated as for bird species (c.f. previous paragraph); and that the grey seal population had been increasing dramatically in the fifty years prior to the 1981 Report of the Royal Commission on the Environment, despite the elevated levels of marine oil release in world war II.

As to sedentary shoreline species, we know that oil slick thicknesses increase as their areas decrease on being pressed against shores by onshore wind prior to being stranded by the ebbing tide; that shoreline surf may disperse such slicks into higher droplet concentrations than occur at sea; that such droplets may be incorporated in bottom sediments to contact subsurface and burrowing species; that such thicknesses may incorporate agitated-sediments and sink to the seabed as continuous mats close to shore; and that layer thicknesses greater than those encountered at sea can thus coat and kill the sedentary organisms thus affected. However, we also know that such oil will ultimately be removed by natural degradation whether or not attempts are made to remove it; and that the shore will subsequently be re-colonised as boat-slips scrubbed of organisms in the interests of pedestrian safety are re-colonised from their planktonic life-stages, or as weeded gardens are re-colonised from wind-borne seeds.

Thus, whether affected species are mobile or sedentary, comparison of impacts on their individual members with their capacities to recover lost numbers and to re-colonise denuded shorelines shows little cause for belief in species-extinction/ecological-disaster. Again, comparison of cost-free natural recoveries with the commercial losses associated with interruptions in amenity-enjoyment and bans on fishing, show that current response costs per tonne of released oil are as unjustified as are the beliefs in species-extinction/ecological-disaster which drive them ever-upwards; that the costs incurred in current spillage response would be more profitably incurred in the prevention of oil release; that response costs should only be incurred to the extent of their minimising commercial loss by restoring public amenity at greater than natural rates; and that fishing bans should be based on knowledge rather than on belief.

Thus, it may be concluded that this Column's invitation to reality-evaluate¹ environmentalist beliefs will show whether environmentalists can accept the supremacy of knowledge and thus assist in harmonising technology with the environment, or whether they will always prefer irresolvable belief-based debate to the harmony of resolving beliefs to positive or negative knowledge by reality-evaluation¹

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

Events

Events are listed here as soon as possible after they are notified to ISCO and will usually only be featured once in this column. To find a more comprehensive listing of upcoming events, including ones previously announced in this column, click [HERE](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE INFORMATION DAY – “THE FUTURE OF DISPERSANT USE”

17 March 2011, INHESJ, Saint-Denis-La-Plaine - The continuous three-month oil spill following the Deepwater Horizon explosion led to widespread use of uncommon or even completely novel techniques. With this as a backdrop, our Strategic Committee chose to focus our 2011 Information Day on the future use of dispersants. To do so, we have invited speakers directly involved in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill response and prone to provide a new perspective or reflexive methodology on the future of dispersant use and its limits. This event will also, we hope, be an opportunity for productive debates not only in terms of techniques but also through a more strategic and prospective approach to dispersant use in untapped geographical areas.

This Information Day is open to any interested person, subject to seating availability. Booking: [registration](#) form available on our [website](#). Contribution to costs, 120 Euros, lunch included. [Programme](#)

TURKEY: INTERNATIONAL RECYCLING, ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES AND WASTE MANAGEMENT TRADE FAIR

8-11 June, 2011, Istanbul - [More information](#)

USA: BOEMRE TO HOLD PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON OFFSHORE ENERGY REGULATION

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) will conduct a public workshop March 15, 2011, in New Orleans to discuss new requirements for offshore oil and gas companies to develop and implement Safety and Environmental Management Systems (SEMS). The new regulation, 30 CFR 250, Subpart S, was published in the Federal Register on October 15, 2010, and takes effect on November 15, 2011. [Read more](#)

UK: OCEAN BUSINESS 2011

The Ocean Technology Industry Meets in Southampton, UK - Ocean Business continues to grow and develop! In just three show cycles this ocean technology exhibition has firmly established itself as one of the most important events in the international calendar. Make a date to join your the global ocean technology industry in Southampton from 5 - 7 April 2011. [More info](#)

Publications

SHIP-SOURCE HAZARDOUS & NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (HNS) INCIDENT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE REGIME

A Power Point presentation describing Transport Canada's approach to HNS response preparedness. [Download](#)

ACCREDITATION OF SPILL RESPONSE CONTRACTORS AND RESPONSE ORGANIZATIONS

A Power Point presentation describing the approach followed by the International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) to raising standards of spill response through competency assessment of spill response organizations (SROs). [Download](#) [More info](#)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE MANAGEMENT OF OFFSHORE OIL SPILLS: GUIDELINES FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

The Deepwater Horizon catastrophe is shaping up to be the largest offshore oil spill in history and an ecological nightmare of epic proportions. Emergency Response Management of Offshore Oil Spills is intended to aid in the response of this tragic disaster by providing, in one volume, information to rapidly orient response workers. It outlines the toxic nature of crude oil, covering properties of crude oil, chemical composition, toxicity to humans and marine life, and investigates the impact of oil spills from historical case studies.

The current arsenals available to address oil spills, such as dispersants, absorbing booms, skinning, and other methods are also discussed. Technologies which are rapidly being developed to address the Gulf Oil Spill are considered, alongside with extensive information on chemical protective clothing, air monitoring, respiratory protection, management of waste, and much more. [Read more](#)

USA: RESOLVE, PENCO TEAM UP FOR OPA90 SMFF IN HAWAII

On February 2nd, 2011, a team of emergency responders from RESOLVE MARINE GROUP and PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION (dba PENCO)/AMERICAN MARINE CORPORATION, demonstrated their marine fire fighting capabilities in Honolulu Harbor. The highly trained crew of locally and internationally recognized professionals conducted an equipment deployment exercise, utilizing pumps and fire fighting monitors stored at the PENCO/AMERICAN MARINE facilities on pier 13, and operated from the deck of the M/V AMERICAN ISLANDER. The exercise was part of a vetting process, whereby the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington DC and in Honolulu approved RESOLVE and PENCO/AMERICAN MARINE as the only providers of OPA90 Salvage and Marine Fire Fighting services (SMFF) in the 14th Coast Guard District.

RESOLVE MARINE GROUP and PENCO/AMERICAN MARINE have previously teamed to successfully deliver timely response and “in-water” repairs to marine casualties in Hawaii, including the foundering M/V TONG CHENG and the grounded M/V VOGETRADER. Together, RESOLVE MARINE GROUP and PENCO/AMERICAN MARINE meet or exceed the criteria for SMFF providers enumerated in the new regulations, and continue to be proactive in meeting maritime industry needs in the Pacific.

[Read more](#)

USA: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY AND SUBSEA TECHNOLOGIES, INC. ANNOUNCE TECHNICAL COLLABORATION FOR DEEPWATER OIL CONTAINMENT SOLUTIONS

February 21, 2011 – Stony Brook University today announced that a technical collaboration agreement has been established with Subsea Oil Technologies, Inc. (“Subsea”) (<http://subseaoiltech.com>) of Houston, Texas, for research and development in, but not limited to, subsea oil and/or gas spill (blowout) containment methods and apparatus configurations.

As part of an initial stage of the collaboration, a patent application titled “Modular Pressure Management Oil Spill Containment System and Method” was filed at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) through the law firm of Volpe and Koenig, P.C., on January 20, 2011. The co-inventors of the patent application are Scott Wolinsky, a graduate of Stony Brook University and the inventor of Subsea’s patent-pending technology for containing subsea oil and/or gas spills, and Dr. Devinder Mahajan and Dr. Miriam Rafailovich of Stony Brook University’s Department of Materials Science in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. [Read more](#)

Stop press

MORE NEWS JUST RECEIVED ON THE SPILL IN NORWAY

Oil from the grounded Icelandic containership Godafoss has been carried south by the tide and reached the coastline of Aust Agder. The Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) have placed emergency preparedness teams and firemen on higher alert. “We started preparing some of the reconnaissance crew, equipment, and boats to be used in case some of the oil hits land as soon as we were told yesterday”, Hans Bakke, on duty chief fire officer in Øst Agder fire department tells NRK.

The cleanup operation is smaller than first feared, but employees of the Norwegian Nature Inspectorate are having to shoot hundreds of oil-coated seabirds. “We’ve received many observations of soiled and dead seabirds along the coast of Larvik as far down as Jomfruland in Telemark. We saw approximately 250 oil-coated birds on Sunday of the coast of Tjøme in Vestfold County, official Egil Soglo said yesterday. Ministers of the Environment and Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, Erik Solheim and Lisbeth Berg-Hansen, flew over the Vestfold archipelago to see the extent of the damage personally, praising everyone for their professionalism. Nevertheless, freezing temperatures are also posing a problem for crews, who have little experience at gathering slicks in freezing conditions. The oil that has leaked from Godafoss is also thick. These are some of the challenges we will have to face when the oil eventually arrives”, says Hans Bakke. It is still unclear as to how much oil has been discharged from the containership, according to NTB. [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for passing this on] [Source](#)

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