



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 306, 24 October 2011

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News

NEW ZEALAND: RENA – PROGRESS OF OIL REMOVAL



This week the ISCO Newsletter is being "put to bed" early because your editor is travelling to Cork, Ireland, for an ISAA Training Event. However, as at time of writing the ship has not yet broken apart and, with fair weather expected this week, the difficult oil removal operation looks set to continue. Efforts are also being made to start the work of removing containers.

October 17 – Pumping resumes

Salvage teams are pumping oil from a stricken container ship off the [New Zealand](#) coast before bad weather arrives which could split the vessel in two and spew more oil on to beaches ... Salvage teams were adding extra pumps on Monday to speed up the recovery of the oil, which is as thick as peanut butter, from the 236m (775ft) vessel through holes in the side to a barge.

More than 70 tonnes have been recovered, but there are fears that bad weather will halt the operation and possibly send the stern section, which contains more than 1,000 tonnes of oil, tumbling into 60 metres of water.

Beaches that were fouled with dinner-tray-sized lumps of oil have been largely cleaned up after thousands of volunteers joined soldiers and specialists. [Read more and see video](#)

October 19 – Ship threatening to snap, oil pumping stopped

Pumping of oil from the stranded Rena was halted at 11.30pm yesterday as strong winds and rough seas made the operation too dangerous. Maritime New Zealand confirmed this morning that 90 tonnes of oil had been transferred from the Rena to salvage vessel Awanuia before it had to detach last night. [Read more](#)

TVNZ said that spokesman of Svitzer Salvage, Drew Shannon, confirmed their expectation to resume pumping on Thursday morning. Authorities have had vessels monitoring Rena's hull overnight to monitor the wreck, and are hoping to enter the damaged right side of the ship for the first time to fully examine how steadily held together the ship really is. [Read more and see video](#)

News (continued)

October 21 – Oil salvage getting up to speed

With fine weather expected until the middle of next week, salvage operations on board the stricken container ship Rena, stuck on a reef off New Zealand, are expected to continue steadily.

A total of 171 tonnes of oil had been removed from the vessel by Friday afternoon. Beach clean-up crews have recovered a total of 827 tonnes of solid waste so far.

WWF says around 120 little blue penguins have been rescued so far, but their chances of survival are comparatively good because penguins are some of the most resilient birds in recovering from oil spills. [Read more](#)

New Zealand salvors have pumped another 60 tonnes of heavy oil off the stricken container ship Rena overnight and will continue their operations through good weather today. The grounded cargo ship remains broken but stable on Astrolabe Reef off Tauranga as salvage teams work to empty the vessel's fuel tanks of about 1140 tonnes that remain. Maritime New Zealand salvage unit Manager Bruce Anderson said on Friday the pumping operation was making slow but steady progress. [Read more](#)

BP GETS \$4 BILLION FROM ANADARKO FOR GULF OIL SPILL COSTS

October 18 - Anadarko Petroleum Corp. will pay BP Plc \$4 billion toward clean-up and victim compensation for the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The amount is less than BP might have won in court, but it softens the blow of overall spill-related costs to the British group.

As part of the settlement announced Monday, Anadarko also said it will no longer pursue allegations of gross negligence against BP. It is unclear what impact this development will have on the remainder of the morass of litigation pending in federal court in New Orleans, legal experts said. [Read more](#)

USA: SENATE PASSES BILL TO TIGHTEN REGULATIONS FOR GAS AND OIL PIPELINES

October 19 - The U.S. Senate has passed tougher standards and penalties for pipeline companies as the result of three major pipeline leaks in the past 15 months, including the Enbridge pipeline break near Marshall in July 2010.

The new measure would increase penalties for spills and explosions, add federal pipeline inspectors, require automatic shutoff valves on new pipelines and create tighter requirements for when companies must notify emergency responders about suspected leaks or spills. [Read more](#) [Related article](#)

USA: PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS – SENATE COMMITTEE PRESS RELEASE

Opening Statement of Chairman Bingaman, Oct. 18, 2011 - "Good morning. Today we are going to receive testimony from two panels of experts about an issue of great importance to this committee – that is, offshore oil development. More precisely, we will examine the status of response capability and readiness for oil spills in foreign Outer Continental Shelf waters adjacent to U.S. waters. [Read more](#)

EUROPE: EMSA TAKES OVER THE LRIT- IDE, ENSURING SHIP POSITION INFORMATION FLOWS BETWEEN DATA CENTRES WORLDWIDE AS PART OF THE LRIT SYSTEM

October 18 - 4 times per day, 7 days per week, merchant ships around the world broadcast information about their position to satellites via a system called Long Range Identification and Tracking, or LRIT. Information from ships is relayed by satellites to Data Centres around the world, and the LRIT system enables maritime authorities to keep a constant eye on the position of ships that form a part of their country's fleet. On 18 October 2011, EMSA becomes the operator of the LRIT - International Data Exchange, or 'LRIT - IDE', the central node which acts like a 'switchboard' to manage the flow of LRIT information between various LRIT Data Centres around the world. [Read more](#)

US TO SET WATER POLLUTION STANDARDS FOR 'FRACKING'

The US government unveiled plans Thursday to set national standards for wastewater discharges from natural gas drilling amid growing concern over water pollution from a technique known as "fracking."

The Environmental Protection Agency said it would accept comments for new standards over the coming months for shale gas extraction as well as for gas from underground coalbeds. "No comprehensive set of national standards exists at this time for the disposal of wastewater discharged from natural gas extraction activities," the agency said in a statement. [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: GOVERNMENT SLOW TO RAISE CLEAN-UP CHARGES: OIL INDUSTRY

The oil industry has been pressing the Government for the past five years to change the way it charges for oil pollution clean-ups, says John Pfahler, the executive director of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand.

"The proposed methodology would have seen our share go from \$10,000 or so per offshore facility to over \$200,000," he said. "Industry supported that approach", largely because it accepted that floating production, storage and offloading units (FPSO's) "posed a greater risk to the environment".

A review of oil spill preparedness in February identified west coast oil industry activity as the greatest threat to the environment in the event of an oil spill, with the only major oil spill risk on the east coast at the Marsden Pt oil refinery. [Read more](#)

USA: 25 YEARS OF EPCRA

The Environmental Protection Agency marks 25 years since the passage of its federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) as part of the reauthorization for Superfund in 1986. EPCRA has played a significant role in protecting human health and the environment over the last quarter century by providing communities and emergency planners with valuable information on toxic chemical releases in their area.

Public demand for chemical release information skyrocketed in the mid-1980s after a deadly cloud of highly toxic pesticide killed thousands of people in Bhopal, India. Shortly thereafter, a serious chemical release at a plant in West Virginia hospitalized 100 individuals. These events led to the writing and passage of EPCRA by Congress that was signed by President Reagan in October 1986 and implemented in 1987. [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: NOSDRA - CHALLENGES OF CLEANING OIL SPILLS

NIGERIANS are full of expectations over what the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, NOSDRA, will do to check the prevalent cases of oil spills across the oil exploration belt. Its task seems simple — compel oil companies to consider the effect of their operations on their host communities.

Concerns over oil spillage are not new. Even NOSDRA was established by law in 2006, to co-ordinate implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency plan of 1990, the year Nigeria signed the International Oil Pollution Response and Co-operation Convention.

NOSDRA is to ensure that oil exploration activities in Nigeria meet environmental best practices, effect timely and effective response to oil spills and ensure proper clean-up and remediation of all impacted sites.

If the oil companies were willing to comply with the existing national environmental legislations in their areas of operation, NOSDRA's challenges would have been minimal. It has been monitoring oil spill sites and persuading recalcitrant oil companies to uphold the integrity of the environment of their host communities but with limited result. [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: NIGERIANS SEEK \$1 BILLION FROM SHELL FOR OIL SPILLS

A Nigerian tribal king filed a lawsuit in a US court seeking \$1 billion from Royal Dutch Shell to compensate for decades of pollution that sickened his people and damaged their lands, his lawyer said Thursday.

The suit was filed a day after the US Supreme Court said it will consider a lawsuit accusing Shell of human rights abuses in Nigeria in a landmark case that could make companies liable for torture or genocide committed overseas.

That case will assess the potential liability of corporations -- including multinationals with a US presence -- under the Alien Tort Statute, a US law dating back to 1789 that scholars say was meant to assure foreign governments that the United States would help prevent breaches of international law.

The 32-page civil complaint was filed Tuesday at the federal court in Detroit, Michigan. [Read more](#)

USA: SPCC COMPLIANCE DATE EXTENSION FOR FARMS

On October 18, 2011, the U.S. EPA amended the date by which farms must prepare or amend and implement their Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plans, to **May 10, 2013**. If EPA receives no adverse comment by November 2, 2011, then the rule will become effective on November 7, 2011. [Read more](#)

News (continued)

USA: OUTCRY OVER N.J. PLANS TO PRIVATIZE HAZARDOUS-WASTE CLEANUPS

With more Superfund sites than any state in the country and more than 16,000 hazardous-waste cleanups pending, New Jersey's industrial landscape has long made it a punch line of pollution jokes.

But now that state environmental officials are trying to trim the backlog by handing control to the private sector, they are facing a backlash from both the state's environmentalists and its industrial and chemical companies.

Under plans still being reviewed, state-licensed environmental professionals will be granted day-to-day autonomy, relegating state bureaucrats to the role of auditors on the majority of cases.

Environmental activists fear that leaving more of the cleanup to the private sector will lower standards and increase the risk to public health. [Read more](#)

USA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR OCEANOGRAPHERS

From a letter forwarded to your editor ...

I am a contract recruiter working on behalf of Battelle Memorial Institute headquartered in Columbus, OH. I was reaching out to you because we are currently looking for a Biological and Chemical Oceanographer with experience working on the agent that was used for the BP Oil spill cleanup efforts. I was hoping you would know of someone that may have been a part of the cleanup. These positions will be located in either Duxbury, MA or Houston, TX.

The requirements for both positions include: PhD in relevant environmental science and 15+ years of working experience in the field, including at least 10 years working experience with the oil and gas industry.

More information from - Holly Meyer, Contractor - Battelle Memorial Institute, Sidick Meyer Group, LLC. Tel. 614/885-7210 614/893-7210 (cell)

Events

CHINA: OIL SPILL WORKSHOP IN BEIJING ON 6 DECEMBER, 2011

To better address the challenges facing the oil and gas industry and catalyze the global oil spill knowledge and experiences sharing, Topco is organizing Oil Spill Response Workshop (OSRW 2011) on 6 December 2011 in Beijing, China.

The workshop features discussions on innovations and best practices across oil spill response strategies and brings to the audience the most update technology and cost-efficient solutions to contain oil spill. The course directors, panelists and audiences will be inter-reactive in their discussions so as to drive home the smart resolution to oil spill beyond its causes. [More info](#)

TURKEY: SPILL RISKS, OLD & NEW, IN SENSITIVE, STRATEGIC WATERS



A EUROSPILL SEMINAR, with the patronage of the Turkish Ministry of Environment, to be held in Istanbul on 14-15 November 2011

The Eurospill Association invites you to the launch of its first STRATEGIC SPILL RISK Seminar, to be held at the Istanbul Technical University, Istanbul, Turkey over 14-15 November 2011.

- The Seminar theme is Spill Risks, Old and New, in Sensitive, Strategic Waters, and addresses issues arising from offshore drilling in the Black Sea and oil transportation in the Istanbul Straits, both major spill risk areas.
- The Eurospill Association is organising this new event in conjunction with the Turkish Environment Ministry, EMSA, and the Black Sea Commission
- The seminar also features spill industry presentations, and an on water spill exercise in the Turkish Straits.
- The event is supported by Meke Marine, Lamor and Desmi
- Details of the event can be found at www.eurospill.eu
- To book your place contact info@eurospill.eu or call +44845 6259890

GI WACAF REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP 2011



GIWACAF

This IMO / industry partnership conference and workshop was a key oil-spill event for the region – A report received from Antoine Blonce, IMO / IPIECA, GI WACAF Project Consultant.

A set of recommendations aimed at boosting the next two years of private sector partnership intervention in the region was agreed during a regional workshop and conference in Lagos, Nigeria, on 10-14 October 2011, hosted by the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF).

During the event, headlined "Towards Operational Oil Spill Response in West, Central and Southern Africa", all the countries involved submitted their national action plans for the next two years of the Project.

Industry and government focal points exchanged experiences and reviewed progress achieved within the programme's action plan. The results will help determine objectives for the next biennium: ratifying the relevant international Conventions from IMO (OPRC90 Convention), developing regional agreements and enhancing technical cooperation.

Mr. Richard Santner, Senior Advisor Oil Spill Response, BP (in the picture), was named GI WACAF Chairman for the coming two years.



This conference, which gathered more than 300 participants, was organised by the GI WACAF Project with the support of IMO, IPIECA, the national authorities of Nigeria and the local oil industry. The event followed a regional workshop on policies for the use of dispersants in West and Central Africa, held in Accra, Ghana, 22-24 June.

The GI WACAF Project is a long-standing partnership between the IMO and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, to enhance the capacity of the twenty-two countries in the region to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills through the promotion of public/private partnerships whereby oil industries and the relevant national authorities work together.



Above: Some of the participants at the GI WACAF event

Local Press Release

<http://www.thenationonlineng.net/2011/index.php/newsextra/22753-experts-explore-response-mechanism-to-oil-spill.html>

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110180922.html>

More information on the GI WACAF Website - <http://www.giwacaf.org/>



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 48 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](#)

KNOWLEDGE OF DISPERSANT USE (CHAPTER 48)

As to comparing the efficiency of differing dispersant formulations on the basis of knowledge already available on natural dispersion, the WSL team devised the revolving flask test. This consisted in tumbling a mixture of a standard oil (topped Kuwait Crude) and the dispersant under test in a standard chemical separating funnel (the mechanically revolving flask) for a standard time, in stopping the flask to allow the continuous oil and water phases to separate; in drawing off a sample volume from the water phase containing dispersed oil droplets, and in analysing the oil-content of this water phase by extracting the oil from the water into chloroform and analysing spectrographically to determine the quantity of oil dispersed under the standard conditions of the test.

However, no attempt having been made to create the droplet-size range of secondary dispersion in the revolving flask, we see that the droplets migrate and re-coalesce to a floating oil phase at rates dependent on their individual sizes while the sample is drawn off for analysis; that consequently no attempt was made to obtain an absolute measurement of dispersant capacity; that the data thus produced is comparative as between one dispersant and another; that any desirable level of dispersant capacity can be accepted as satisfactory with all formulations below this level being rejected; and that the level of acceptance must be judged by means beyond the revolving flask method of initial screening (c.f. below). In addition, a simulated beach test was devised in which the artificial sand was glass beads with the oil dispersed from them being sampled and analysed as above. Again, it should be noted that the premixing of oil and dispersant does not occur at sea though it standardises the test, droplet size distributions being otherwise markedly dependent on addition technique. Yet again, the energy input by the laboratory system may not be sufficiently representative of reality. For these and possibly unidentified reasons, a sea test was devised to confirm the laboratory-based indications, to observe an acceptable level of dispersion and to further test the most promising laboratory failures.

The sea test apparatus is the double fanjet system which produced the subsurface concentrations tabulated in article 47 but with the oil pump rate adjustable to give oil carpet thickness from 1 - 4mm at the operating speed of the launch, a Seatruck. Similarly, the dispersant application rate could be varied throughout the test programme. Again, to standardise energy input a horizontal slatted 'breaker-board' was towed behind the dispersant treated carpet to immediately break it into droplets and the cut-off for acceptable dispersant performance is the degree to which 1mm diameter droplets are observable on the surface and in the water column behind the breaker-board, by observers on a second launch following behind. These observers simply recorded their observations for later assessment against pump-rates. To ensure impartial judgement, the observers were kept ignorant of the relative oil : dispersant pump rates and of which dispersant was under test at any time. In order to eliminate the effects of variation in natural agitation as distinct from that provided by the breaker-board, a standard dispersant of known capability was randomly introduced to the test sequence at times unknown to the observers, thus serving as an additional check on their judgement.

On one occasion, WSL was asked to conduct a dispersant trial in Bahrain as an adjunct to one of its spill-response training courses, during which the opportunity was taken to have 20 observers who recorded their observations independently and anonymously on a paper format. The subsequent analysis of these observations confirmed this apparently subjective test as being objectively reliable even with observers of no previous experience. In response to those who would advocate sampling and chemical analysis over such direct observation, WSL considered the sampling/analytical approach incapable of providing reliable data on concentrations immediately beneath the sea surface given the rapid and variable rate of their dilution with depth as revealed by the minute by minute sampling and subsequent laboratory analyses tabulated in article 47.

In the meantime, WSL produced a specification for dispersants as to surfactant carriers, prohibited ingredients, flashpoint, cloud point, viscosity, containers, labelling, shelf-life, and quantities to be submitted for testing. Thus, in attempting to offset belief in their toxicity, chlorinated hydrocarbons, benzene, and phenol were prohibited, while aromatic and naphthenic content was limited. Again, flashpoint had to be less than 61°C (142°F) a safety stipulation with the additional advantage of minimising carrier loss on storage in ventilated tanks, while cloud point had to be no more than -5°C (23°F). Yet again, the dispersant should not separate into two layers above -10°C (14°F) while its viscosity at 0°C (32°F) should not be more than 50cSt unless it was a concentrate when 250cSt was permitted, though However, if it exhibited non-Newtonian characteristics on dilution, its viscosity should not exceed 250cSt at a shear rate of 10^3 s^{-1} . It was further stipulated that delivery be in standard steel or polyethylene drums of 45 gallon capacity, though special arrangements could be made for bulk deliveries; that all containers must be labelled with the manufacturer's name, substance identification mark, batch number and flashpoint; that the same information must accompany bulk deliveries; that shelf-life must be at least 5 years; that manufacturers must submit details as to manufacturing capacity to meet prolonged emergency requirements, and that dispersants supplied against this specification must be evaluated for efficiency and toxicity before their use could be approved.

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.

EMBRACING THE DIRTY JOB OF CLEANING UP OIL SPILLS

When oil installations run afoul of the environment, industry calls Alan McFadyen. An article by Darren Campbell, reprinted here with acknowledgement to *Alberta Oil Magazine*.



This spring's leak on Plains Midstream Canada's 775-kilometer Rainbow pipeline that spilled 28,000 barrels of oil in northern Alberta was another example that oil and gas infrastructure is not foolproof. And in a province that produces approximately two million barrels of oil per day and has thousands of kilometers of pipelines that transport the stuff to paying customers, it seems inevitable that there will be leaks. When these spills happen, they can wreak havoc on the environment if they aren't contained and cleaned up quickly.

Thus, it's essential that regions that produce (and ship) oil are prepared to swing into action when spills occur. The man in the thick of this charged issue is Alan McFadyen, president and CEO of Western Canadian Spill Services Ltd. (WCSS) – the organization that oversees spill preparedness for the upstream petroleum industry in northeastern British Columbia, Alberta and a small section of Saskatchewan.

Few outside of the oil industry have ever heard of McFadyen. But his role is a critical one – both for the oil patch and the public. It's his job to ensure WCSS's strategic and operational plans are being executed and that it has the resources to meet its member's needs. Those needs include cleaning up spills quickly and efficiently, minimizing the financial impact on operators, and more importantly, reducing environmental impacts and assuring a skeptical public that the industry can effectively deal with these incidents. "The public is clearly more interested in this issue and that's because of the big spills in the Gulf of Mexico and others," McFadyen says. "Companies recognize the severity and the consequences of these spills."

In the case of the Rainbow pipeline incident, the consequences for the 300-member Cree community of Little Buffalo, located 30 kilometers from the spill site, was the belief that the smell and fumes from the leaked crude caused some residents to become ill. For companies that use the 220,000 barrel per day conduit, like Imperial Oil Ltd. and Husky Energy Inc., the spill shut in production and resulted in lost revenue at a time when the price of oil was riding high – in the US\$100 range. For the pipeline's operator, Plains Midstream Canada, the spill resulted in an expensive cleanup and repair program, a hit to its reputation and anger from the public and politicians, with former premier Ed Stelmach vowing to hold Plains Midstream's "feet to the fire" after the spill occurred.

McFadyen views the issue of oil spills through a long lens. In the 1980s, he worked for the Alberta government as a pollution technician. He also managed the environmental programs for ENFORM – the safety association for Canada's upstream oil and gas industry – and was managing director of WCSS before taking on the role as its president and CEO in January of 2011. "I've been at this a long time," he says.

So has the oil and gas industry. In the early 1970s, as a result of public concerns about oil spills after some high profile incidents, the Environmental Conservation Committee was struck in Alberta and it developed a provincial oil spill contingency plan. That plan called for industry to work together to develop oil spill co-operatives, secure equipment and undergo regular training. The first registered oil spill co-op was formed in 1972. Today there are 18 co-operatives that respond to oil spills throughout six zones in B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan. In 1996, WCSS was formed when the Prairie Regional Oil Spill Containment Advisory Committee was merged with the existing co-ops.

High profile spills like the Rainbow pipeline aside – it was Alberta's largest in 36 years – these incidents are becoming rarer in Alberta. Despite concerns that an aging pipeline network (40 per cent of pipe in Alberta was built before 1990) increases the likelihood of leaks and spills, the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board says in 2009 and 2010 there was a record low pipeline failure rate of 1.7 releases per 1,000 kilometers of pipeline. That's down from the former record of 2.1 releases per 1,000 kilometers set in 2007 and 2008.

While the number of oil spills is decreasing, the industry isn't resting on its preparedness laurels. Not only does WCSS have 18 oil spill co-ops in the fold, but a lot of the organization's member companies have their own spill response equipment and conduct their own training programs in addition to the ones WCSS holds annually. McFadyen's work to improve industry's performance in oil spill preparedness never stops. For example, the organization has developed two wildlife response units, which keep migratory birds and other wildlife out of harm's way at spill sites. "As problems occur or we foresee changes, we go to work and ensure that our state of preparedness keeps up with those changes," McFadyen says.

The end goal for McFadyen is for WCSS to have the best spill preparedness system in the world. He's confident the organization already has that in place. "Our members expect that. They want us to be proactive. They want to ensure that when an incident occurs, we're there to help," he says. "We've demonstrated we can do it. In some cases it involves a midnight call, firing up equipment and getting it there by daylight. But that's part of the game." [View original article](#)

Training

NEW TRAINING VIDEO: RADIATION MONITORING

Timely training for firefighters, hazmat teams, civil support teams, law enforcement and other emergency personnel who may participate in a response where radiation is suspected or confirmed.

"Radiation Monitoring" portrays monitoring activities at radiological incidents caused by terrorism, natural disasters, and industrial or transportation accidents. This new program conforms to ASTM-2601 - Standard Practice for Radiological Emergency Response, and studies:

Types of radiation
Health effects of chronic and acute exposure
Exposure measurements & limits
The Inverse Square Law: What it is and how to use it
WMD scenarios
Incident size-up
Equipment: dosimeters, radiation pagers & radiation detectors
Interpreting readings
Protective clothing
Decontamination of victims & emergency responders

The package includes a 30-minute DVD plus CD-Rom with Powerpoints, testing materials and other resources to help save time when planning a training session.

For more information about *Radiation Monitoring* and a link to a free video clip, visit <http://www.efilmgroup.com/Homeland-Security-/Radiation-Monitoring-Video.html>
If you have questions, please contact us: 800.842.0999 training@efilmgroup.com

NIGERIA: ABUJA OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT COURSE – CHANGE OF DATE

We hereby write to respectfully inform you on the change in the proposed date for the above subject matter. The change of Date was due to some unavaoidable official demands.

The re-scheduled date for the Training Course is as follows:

Date: 8-10 November 2011 **Time:** 8:00am Prompt Daily

Venue: Leadership Group Training Centre (Banana Republic), 37 Julius Nyerere Crescent, Off Yakubu Gowon Way, Asokoro, Abuja.

For more infocontact: Comfort Asokoro-Ogaji, Training Coordinator +234 8034517767

Safety briefing

H2S EXPOSURE – FAILURE TO FOLLOW PROPER PROCEDURE



The Safety Association for Canada's
Upstream Oil and Gas Industry

Description of Incident: A fatality associated with hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) exposure occurred at a lease site in Central Alberta. During the task of suspending an 8" pipeline that contained sour hydrates, the supervisor opened up the thief hatch on the 400 barrel fluid tank resulting in H₂S gasses being released to atmosphere and causing the fatality. The estimated concentration of H₂S was approximately 15% (150,000 PPM).

A second worker on site attempting a rescue was also knocked down as a result of H₂S exposure. Neither worker had supplied air at the time of incident. Two other workers on site properly masked up and rescued the first two workers from the danger zone. The second worker who had attempted the rescue was treated and released from hospital the following day.

What Caused It: The immediate causes of the incident are:

- **Opening the thief hatch** (inattention to job hazards): all workers on site were made aware of the presence of H₂S and that venting to atmosphere or opening up the thief hatch would release large amounts of H₂S.

Safety briefing (continued)

- **Failure to follow procedures:** there were company/ industry standards and training that stressed the hazards and enforced that H₂S was not allowed to enter the atmosphere. These procedures were not followed, when the supervisor opened up the thief hatch.

Underlying Causes of the Incident are:

- **Complacency:** It is believed that complacency in routinely working around sour gas is a contributing factor to this incident. The fatally injured supervisor was aware that opening the thief hatch would allow large volumes of H₂S to be released to atmosphere.
- **Failure to Refuse Unsafe Work:** The contract workers on site should have refused to perform unsafe work.
- **Insufficient Planning:** This type of work requires equipment to scrub out the toxic gas or contain it. The supervisor and the contract company did not have the proper equipment in place as required by company, industry and regulatory standards.

Corrective Actions:

Increased Supervision and Inspections:

The company has hired additional staff to complete inspections and field audits on all third party contractors and supervisors. These inspections are to ensure that

1. Proper safety equipment is in place and being used,
2. To ensure that all workers are aware of hazards and are following the policies and procedures in place,
3. To ensure that no unsafe decisions are made.

Annual HSE Orientations for Company Representatives:

The goal of this additional program, beyond the company's existing regular annual orientations completed with all workers is to focus on prime representatives or supervisors leading a project for the company in the field.

The company needs to ensure that all those in a supervisory role are aware of the HSE programs in place. These supervisory personnel must also have the knowledge and resources to ensure any work being done on a job site are done to the highest safety standards. The intent is to prevent unsafe decisions being made in the field.

Disclaimer: This Safety Alert is designed to prevent similar incidents by communicating the information at the earliest possible opportunity. Accordingly, the information may change over time. It may be necessary to obtain updates from the source before relying upon the accuracy of the information contained herein. This material is presented for information purposes only. Managers and supervisors should evaluate this information to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices.

Release Date: September 2011 **Incidence Type:** Fatality **Country and Region:** Central Alberta, Canada
For more information on this event, please contact: safety@enform.ca [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group, for forwarding this safety briefing from Enform]

Company News

ABANAKI ANNOUNCES SOLAR POWERED OIL SKIMMER GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION SYSTEM

Abanaki Corporation has added a Solar Powered Groundwater Remediation System to their broad line of oil skimming solutions. This system is typically used in monitoring wells located in remote areas where standard power is unavailable. An added benefit is that solar power is a renewable energy source which is environmentally-friendly and readily available.

The solar power oil skimming system consists of Abanaki's unique PetroXtractor belt oil skimmer equipped with a 12-volt DC motor, solar panel, timer, battery, battery box, and control components. Belt types used on this system will depend upon the viscosity of oil being collected. The PetroXtractor removes up to 12 gph of oil from water and can be installed in well casings with as small as a 2 inch inside diameter. [Read more](#)

UK: REMEDIATION AWARD FOR CUDDY GROUP

UK contractor Cuddy Group has shared in a remediation award announced at the recent Brownfield Briefing awards held in central London on October 12. Cuddy shared the "Best use of a combination of Remediation Techniques" award with QDS Environmental and Environmental Resource Management for the work the three companies have together undertaken on a three year programme at regeneration specialist St Mowden's Baglan Bay redevelopment in Port Talbot. The +500 acre site once housed one of the largest petrochemical plants in Europe. [Read more](#)

NO NEWS FROM MY PART OF THE WORLD ?

Your editor endeavours to produce a global balance in reporting news from around the world but is constrained by the difficulty in accessing information from some countries and regions.

Readers are invited to assist by contributing news and articles that will be of interest to our worldwide spill response community.

We are particularly interested in articles that describe your experience in innovation, new techniques and overcoming technical difficulties in responding to spills.

Please send items for publication to the editor john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

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You can join online by clicking on [Application Form](#) and membership is not expensive.

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- Keeping up-to-date by reading your free ISCO Newsletter
 - Raising your profile by contributing news about new products, technical developments, other items of interest
 - Submitting articles for publication on R&D and other matters of interest to the international spill response community
 - For Corporate Members – Free banner ad with link to your website in ISCO's International Directory of Supplies & Services
 - Using the ISCO website to promote / get info on upcoming conferences, seminars, exhibitions and training courses
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 - Taking advantage of registration discounts available to members for conferences being sponsored by ISCO
 - Getting help in setting up co-operative relationships with members in other countries
 - Requesting / responding to requests from ISCO for support in dealing with major pollution events
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As membership of ISCO continues to grow, the organization will have more funds available to enhance services for our members.

You can help –

- If every member helps by introducing just one new member, we will double our membership
 - Raise ISCO's international profile by recommending others to join the readership of the ISCO Newsletter
 - Join the ISCO Group on LinkedIn – Click [HERE](#)
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 - Come to ISCO meetings and let us hear your views
-

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