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- ♦ ***Attention Members: Be sure to add a link to SCAA's web site (www.scaa-spill.org) on your company's web page if you haven't done so already! Also, be sure to visit SCAA's web site for the latest information on the 25th Annual Inland Spills Conference, other conferences, and the latest industry news!***
- ♦ Last month, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 1699, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2001. The bill authorizes \$5.4 billion for Coast Guard programs and operations for fiscal year 2002. This amount represents \$300 million more than the Administration requested, and is an increase of \$845 million over the 2001 budget. (Source: *Marine Log*)
- ♦ As you may recall, the European Union's ("EU's") Joint Research Center is charged with tracking deliberate and accidental discharges of oil and other pollutants from shipping along Europe's coastline. This tracking is accomplished using satellite radar technology. Recent surveys reveal problem areas in the Mediterranean near Gibraltar, southeast of Crete, off Sicily, off Naples, and off the Italian coast. They have further found that large amounts of oil are deliberately pumped from ships along almost all of Europe's coastline. Of the oil released by ships, 75% is reported to have come from operational discharges, and 25% from accidental spills. These findings are expected to be part of a European Commission move to take a stronger stance in maritime pollution policies. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ♦ The House Appropriations Committee recently approved \$220.5 million that was requested by the Bush Administration for the Justice Department's Counterterrorism ("CT") Program, including \$116.7 million that was being sought for the state and local equipment grant program. While the overall CT funding for the program is the same as last year, the equipment grant money has been increased by \$12.7 million. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ♦ In a related story, *Emergency Preparedness News* reports on two recent CT exercises – a statewide tabletop exercise involving a simulated toxic chemical, and the second a national exercise involving a simulated smallpox virus. Both exercises revealed serious shortcomings in the response effort. Some interesting "lessons learned" from the toxic chemical exercise: (1.) Communications quickly break down. (2.) Detection capabilities are too dispersed and take too long to arrive on scene. (3.) Decontamination equipment is limited. (4.) Many first responders lack access to full training and standard equipment. (5.) Federal and local emergency management procedures don't always mesh effectively. ***It would be interesting to find out the number of private sector response entities that were involved in the exercises. To our knowledge,***

there has been very little involvement of private sector response entities in CT exercises on the federal level. We would urge any of our members that are interested in becoming involved in CT exercises to contact their Congressional representatives and promote the importance and necessity of the private sector response community in national preparedness efforts.

- ◆ MSRC has advised that there are several managerial position openings within the organization, most notably in Portland, Maine; Chesapeake City, Maryland; and Savannah, Georgia. Interested applicants should contact MSRC through its web site (www.msrg.org), or contact Christine Sciacchitano in Edison, New Jersey at 1-732-346-2452.

- ◆ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Response Team – Region 4 will meet on August 28-30, 2001 at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. For more information on the meeting and its agenda, contact Gordon Goff, Secretary, RRT 4, at 1-404-562-8765, facsimile 1-404-562-8693, or e-mail goff.gordon@epa.gov. (*Our thanks to Ferguson Harbour's Oscar McGough for providing us with this notice!*)
- ◆ The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is looking to sell some surplus oil containment boom. The Tribe owns 2,000 feet of sea curtain standard foam-filled boom that was manufactured by Kepner Plastics Fabricators, Inc. The outer covering is comprised of 22 oz polyvinyl fabric. The interior is a rolled polyethylene foam material. The bottom ballast is a ¼ " galvanized chain. If you are interested in making an offer on this boom, contact Sherri Groh, Environmental Planner for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, at 1-541-444-8266, or send her e-mail to sherrig@ctsi.nsn.us.
- ◆ Earlier this year, the Georgian-flagged ship "Zainab" was detained by the UAE for smuggling 1,300 tonnes of Iraqi oil – a direct violation of United Nations sanctions. The ship ultimately sank in UAE waters, causing a significant pollution event. As a result, the UAE ultimately placed an outright ban on any ships lacking classification certificates issued by the International Association of Classification Societies ("IACS"). While this move by the UAE has been met with much criticism by many flag states, some even questioning the legality of the ban, the International Maritime Organization has yet to consider the ban. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ Sorbent Products Company ("SPC") recently announced the addition of the Oil Only BattleMat to its line of BattleMat products. The Oil Only BattleMat is oleophilic and hydrophobic, and is made to absorb only oil and petroleum-based liquids. It is specifically designed for outdoor applications, and its bottom layer is a spunbound polypropylene that resists shredding and linting. The cover stock is a tan/brown camouflage. For more information on this product or any other the company has to offer, contact Jill Kelly at 800-333-7672, send e-mail to kellyj@sorbentproducts.com, or visit their web site at www.sorbentproducts.com.
- ◆ Senator John McCain (R-Arizona) has urged the Bush administration to eliminate funding for the Maritime Administration's Title XI program. As you may know, this program guarantees loans for vessel construction in U.S. shipyards. A public critic of the Title XI program, McCain has called it a corporate subsidy that "unnecessarily burdens the American taxpayers". While supporters of the program, including Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Mississippi), are seeking \$100 million in funding, the Bush administration has provided no funding to date. (Source: *JOC Week*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Employee absenteeism can result in any number of problems for a company. When it comes to disciplining an employee for absenteeism, there are many options at a manager's disposal – but deciding on which to use isn't always cut and dried. Following are some things to remember when doling out disciplinary action for absenteeism: (1.) Don't penalize employees who have a legal reason to be late or absent. (2.) Don't undermine your company's absenteeism policy by ignoring any step that's not convenient. (3.) Don't get bent out of shape if an employee challenges your interpretation of the company's policy addressing attendance. (4.) Don't put employees in the position of having to choose between their job and their family/health responsibilities. (5.) Do figure out what an acceptable number of absences will be if company policy doesn't specify a maximum number. (6.) Be sure to recognize the difference between an employee who was out one day all year as opposed to an employee with chronic absenteeism. (7.) Begin documenting absences as soon as you notice a trend. (Source: *Manager's Legal Bulletin*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Live all you can; it's a mistake not to. It doesn't so much matter what you do in particular, so long as you have your life. If you haven't had that what *have* you had? . . . What one loses one loses; make no mistake about that . . . The right time is *any* time that one is still so lucky as to have . . . Live!" – Henry James (1843-1916), *The Ambassadors* [1902], bk. V, ch. 2