



**01-01**

**January 5, 2001**

- ♦ ***President's Reflections*** . . . Well, another year has come and gone, and we look toward 2001 with great anticipation. With the economy apparently headed for a downturn and the continued trend in the reduction of oil spills throughout the U.S., our profession must look for new and innovative ways to remain viable between incidents. Of course, the Association continues to actively promote the value of the private sector response community and working with various regulatory authorities to more fully integrate the expertise of our profession into national preparedness and planning initiatives. This includes the Weapons of Mass Destruction preparedness activities, such as training and participation in tabletop and deployment response exercises. It also includes the potential for local response organizations to perform routine maintenance activities on government-owned response resources. Let's face it – sooner or later another significant oil spill will occur in U.S. waters and/or abroad. We hope that the various international groups will remain vigilant and work together to ensure that the response community is willing and able to respond when and where needed. As an Association, we can play an important role in this – but not without input and action from our membership. We hope that all our members will commit to becoming more active in voicing their concerns and helping to address industry issues this year. SCAA works for its members and the industry – make it work for you! – ***Dave Usher***
- ♦ Bellingham Bay Shipyard (“BBS”) is now a staging location for a three-part oil skimmer and barge package provided by the Marine Spill Response Corporation (“MSRC”). Twelve BBS personnel have been trained by MSRC to be available for rapid deployment in the event of an oil spill in the North Puget Sound area. The move was likely made (in part) due to an increase in fuel barge traffic through the area following last years’ pipeline explosion in Bellingham, which shut down the pipeline indefinitely. (Source: *Marine News*)
- ♦ This week, the Filtration Division of Johns Manville Corporation announced the signing of a worldwide distribution agreement with New Pig Corp. for its sorbent products. The products will be distributed through New Pig’s newly acquired subsidiary EEP. Johns Manville (“JM”) has been manufacturing sorbents in its Richland, Mississippi plant since 1997 when it acquired Ergon Non-Wovens. JM’s product offering includes sorbents for plant maintenance and hazardous spill response, as well as an extensive line of marine spill control and clean-up items. JM is the sixth largest non-wovens roll goods producer in the world and a leading manufacturer and marketer of premium quality building products. For more information, visit JM’s web site at [www.jm.com](http://www.jm.com).

- ◆ ***Remember . . . We Want To Hear From You!!*** Be sure to send any company press releases to us for publication, along with any success stories or other newsworthy items. If you have general concerns you would like to bring to the attention of the membership, we are happy to publicize those as well. This weekly newsletter is your publication - help us to make it work better for you and the Association!! Contact us by phone at 1-313-849-2649, facsimile at 1-313-849-1623, or via E-mail at [mpcenvir@aol.com](mailto:mpcenvir@aol.com)
- ◆ An independent federal panel (The Gilmore Commission) recently called for the U.S. Counter-terrorism program to be revamped, citing a lack of coherence in the program under the Clinton Administration. The panel recommends that the program be placed under a White House czar, who would develop a comprehensive national strategy to include strengthening the role of state

and local first responders. The panel also stated its opinion that the nation must focus more on state and local concerns and capabilities, saying a disproportionately small amount of the total funds appropriated for combating terrorism are being allocated to state and local response efforts. The panel further contends that the federal counter-terrorism programs lack clear priorities and are deficient in numerous areas. They also offer a series of recommendations to improve intelligence and threat assessments; operational coordination; and training, equipping, and exercising state and local first responders. A full copy of the Gilmore Commission report, entitled "Toward a National Strategy for Combating Terrorism", can be found on-line at [www.rand.org/organizations/nsrd/terrpanel/](http://www.rand.org/organizations/nsrd/terrpanel/), or follow the links from [www.rand.org](http://www.rand.org). (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)

***Editor's Note: The Commission's findings and recommendations are in sync with what we've been saying about national WMD preparedness. More funding needs to be directed to state and local response preparedness initiatives, and it is imperative that private sector response organizations be included in these efforts!***

- ◆ The Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") is proposing that 2.65 million cubic yards of sediment be dredged from the Hudson River to remove polychlorinated biphenyls ("PCB's") that were discharged into the river some 20 years ago by General Electric. Projected to remove 100,000 pounds of PCB, the \$460 million plan would focus on 40 miles of PCB "hot spots" in the river. Representatives from both General Electric and local communities believe the EPA's plan would devastate the rivers' ecosystem, and will likely file a protest. (Source: *Environmental Protection E-News*)
- ◆ The Polembros Group (Greece) agreed last month to pay \$2.5 million in penalties, as well as overhauling their fleet, in order to settle charges arising from the detention of the tanker "Neptune Dorado" last September. The Polembros Group (vessel operator) and Elmhirst of Singapore (vessel owner) both pleaded guilty for failing to notify the Coast Guard of potentially hazardous conditions aboard the ship when she arrived in San Francisco. Upon the ships' inspection at the port, some 30 deficiencies were noted with regard to safety equipment and pollution controls. Polembros has accepted a three-year probationary period that requires the company to perform inspections, audits, training, and repairs throughout its fleet of 32 tankers and bulk carriers – regardless of whether the vessels call on U.S. waters. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ The International Salvage Union ("ISU") will host its "Third International Marine Salvage Conference" on March 14, 2001, at the International Maritime Organization's London headquarters. Conference issues will include a discussion of early experiences with the use of SCOPIC, practical lessons from salvage cases and the salvor's ability to meet the future needs of shipowners and insurers. For more information, visit the ISU's web site at [www.marine-salvage.com/news.htm](http://www.marine-salvage.com/news.htm), or call them at +44-20-7345-5122.
- ◆ ***Work/Life/Health:*** Did you know that headache sufferers spend more than \$4 billion each year on over-the-counter pain relievers? Following are five common headache triggers, and ways you can prevent them: (1.) **Stress** – which causes tension headaches and migraines. Take at least 30 minutes each day to relax! (2.) **Diet** – some foods contain substances that trigger headaches (e.g., caffeine, red wine, processed meats, cheese, citrus fruits, chocolate, lentils, MSG, and snow peas). (3.) **Eyestrain** – concentrating on one object for extended periods (such as a computer screen) can lead to headaches. Take "eye breaks" occasionally by looking out the window or at distant objects. (4.) **Sitting** – staying seated for extended periods can tighten muscles and lead to tension headaches. Be sure to shift positions often, and stretch at least once an hour. (5.) **Sleep** – too little or even too much sleep can bring on headaches. Control your internal clock by going to bed and getting up at the same time every day, even on weekends. (Source: *TopHealth*)
- ◆ ***Quote of the Week:*** "Conversation . . . is the art of never appearing a bore, of knowing how to say everything interestingly, to entertain with no matter what, to be charming with nothing at all." - Guy de Maupassant (1850-1893), *Sur l'Eau (On the Water)* [1888]