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- ◆ We have learned from one of our members that the Coast Guard has agreed that Owned/Dedicated (On-Site and Recall), Contract/Dedicated (On-Site and Recall), Letter of Intent/Dedicated (On-Site), and Owned/Nondedicated (On-Site) resources can be counted for the M (MMPD) and W1 (WCD Tier 1) two-hour response time requirements (See the last paragraph on page 10, and "Table 6. Resource Notification/Mobilization Response Times in Hours on page 15" of the OSRO Classification Guidelines). To date, we haven't seen anything in writing on this, nor have we heard how the Coast Guard will disseminate this information. This decision by the Coast Guard should alleviate some of the concerns that we have heard from our members over the new OSRO Classification guidelines. ***We would welcome any additional comments and/or further clarification on this issue from our readers!***
- ◆ The Secretary of Transportation has renewed the charter for the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee ("CTAC") for two years from May 27, 2001 through May 27, 2003. A copy of CTAC's charter is available by writing to Commandant (G-MSO-3), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001, by calling 1-202-267-1217, or by faxing 1-202-267-4570. (Sources: *Maritime Items* and *Federal Register*)
- ◆ The U.S. Department of Justice recently filed suit against the owners of the NEW CARISSA in an attempt to recover some \$7 million that was spent by the government in pollution cleanup and response costs following the grounding of the vessel and resulting oil spill. As you may recall, the owners, operators, and insurers of the vessel had filed suit against the federal government, stating that it was the negligence of the federal government that caused the grounding. Of course, the government has denied those allegations, and has filed counterclaims and a third party complaint against various parties. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ If you're looking for information on contacting ships at sea, particularly during an emergency, you might check www.itu.int/cgi-bin/htsh/mars/ship_search.sh. This web site allows users to search name, call sign, or Maritime Mobile Service Identity for a particular vessel, and provides emergency contact details and satellite phone numbers where available.
- ◆ Layoffs announced by U.S. companies in July (205,975) reflected a 65% increase over those announced in June (124,852), and constitutes the largest single-monthly job-cut total that has been recorded since 1993. Moreover, the July layoff figure is more than three times the total

job cuts recorded in the same month last year. Despite the layoffs, the nations unemployment rate remained at 4.5% through July. (Source: *MSNBC*)

- ◆ The Second Annual Decontamination/WMD Symposium will be held September 27-29, 2001 at the University of Maryland, Shady Grove Center in Rockville, Maryland. The event will feature nationally recognized speakers on decontamination, response to biological events, cold weather decontamination, SBCCOM personal protective equipment testing reports, and more. Registration is free, but the symposium is limited to 300 attendees and preference is provided to Maryland emergency responders. More information on the event can be obtained by contacting Ted Jarboe at Ted.Jarboe@co.mo.md.us. (Source: *The Beacon*)

- ◆ The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy is seeking an Executive Director to oversee all aspects of its operation. This is an executive, senior management position that requires expertise in budget oversight, fiscal responsibility, staff management, contract oversight, and oral/written communication. Expertise in managing major projects involving large quantities of information and the production of timely reports is required. Specific knowledge of national ocean law, policy administration, program organization, natural resource management, oceanography, and marine sciences is desirable, and salary is negotiable. The Executive Director will work in the Commission's Washington, DC area offices, and the position will last 18-24 months. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, September 7, 2001. Resumes and a statement of interest and qualifications of no more than 750 words should be sent to Philip A. Cooney, Chief of Staff, Council of Environmental Quality, Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Room 360, Washington, DC, 20503, facsimile 1-202-456-2710. (Source: *CEQ Ocean Commission Support*)

- ◆ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") is proposing to amend its National Resource Damage Assessment ("NRDA") regulations under OPA'90. The amendments are intended to clarify issues that were raised in a 1997 federal court decision and to make various technical changes. Comments are due by September 29, 2001, and should be submitted to Eli Reinharz, c/o Office of General Counsel/Natural Resources, 1315 East-West Highway, Room #15132, Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910. A complete discussion of the 1997 federal court decision and the proposed amendments is available in the July 31, 2001 edition of the Federal Register (66 Fed. Reg. 39464). (Source: *Maritime Items*)

- ◆ Some three weeks after his Senate confirmation hearing, new OSHA chief John Henshaw – who had a 25-year career in the private sector as an industrial hygienist -held a one-hour roundtable discussion with about two-dozen reporters. During the discussion, Mr. Henshaw outlined his four main priorities: (1.) Have OSHA take a leadership role in "advancing the dialog of safety and health" with the help of unions, business trade groups, professional societies, and private companies; (2.) Maintain strong and effective enforcement – the foundation for all OSHA does; (3.) Focus heavily on compliance assistance; and (4.) Promote voluntary efforts by industry. Mr. Henshaw also indicated that OSHA's entire regulatory agenda is under review, and that a new regulatory plan should be released this fall. (Source: *Safety News*)

- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Inter-office and external e-mail is a quick and effective way to communicate with co-workers and colleagues. When using e-mail to discuss current and/or former employees, follow these steps to limit your company's potential liability for defamation: (1.) Refrain from sending sensitive information via e-mail. (2.) Scrutinize your message for elements that a court may look for in a defamation claim (e.g., dissemination of false information, acting out of spite, communicating information to others without a "need to know", etc.). (3.) If you have to use e-mail, label the transmission as "confidential". (4.) Before sending, read and re-read the message to be sure all facts are straight, and that the message could not be misinterpreted. (5.) Double check to the "to" and "cc" lines – do the recipients have a need to receive the information? (Source: *Manager's Legal Bulletin*)

- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "It is an inexorable Law of Nature that bad must follow good, that decline must follow a rise. To feel that we can rest on our achievements is a dangerous fallacy. Inner strength can overcome anything that occurs outside." -- I Ching