



**41-01**

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- ◆ The U.S. Fire Administration has posted Federal guidelines and other information about responding to bioterrorism incidents at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/hazmat/bioagents.htm>. At the site, there are downloadable documents entitled "How to Handle Anthrax and Other Biological Agent Threats" and "Weapons of Mass Destruction Threats: Sample Guidelines". The site also provides documents on updates on the investigation of anthrax associated with intentional exposure, and the recognition of illness associated with the intentional release of biological agents. It also posts links to the following web sites: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases; Association of Infection Control Practitioners; and Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense.
- ◆ Last week, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta sent Congress proposed legislation aimed at strengthening security and safety in the transportation of hazardous materials in the U.S. Among other things, the Department of Transportation's proposed legislation would (1.) increase the authority of DOT inspectors to examine packages in transportation; (2.) Provide those inspectors with the authority to stop seriously unsafe transportation; (3.) Increase the maximum civil penalty for hazardous materials violations from \$27,500 to \$100,000; (4.) Expand the requirements for training persons involved in the transport of hazardous materials; (5.) Address the current overlap of hazardous materials transportation regulations between the DOT and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, except in certain areas; and (6.) Specifically allow states to participate in a coordinated program of hazardous materials carrier registration and permits. (Sources: DOT Press Release and *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ Since the September 11 attacks in New York, the U.S. EPA and OSHA have taken hundreds of samples in the New York City metropolitan area, and have found no significant health hazards. The EPA is collecting data from 16 fixed air monitors at ground zero and in the residential and business districts around the site. In addition, the EPA and OSHA are using portable sampling equipment to collect data from a variety of locations in the area. They have also been sampling the air, dust, water, river sediments, and drinking water and analyzing them for various pollutants including asbestos, radiation, mercury and other metals, PCB, and bacteria. The results of the environmental and occupational sampling that is being performed are now available on the agencies web sites at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov), and [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov). Additional data will be posted as it becomes available. (Source: *Safety News*)

- ◆ The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (“NIOSH”) has released its free August 2001 edition of the “NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards and Other Databases” on CD-ROM (publication number 2001-145). The entire set of International Chemical Safety Cards has been updated from the previous July 2000 version, and additional information on chemical protective clothing has been included. Several new OSHA and NIOSH measurement methods have also been added. Complimentary copies of this CD-ROM are available by writing to the NIOSH Publications Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45226, telephone 1-800-35-NIOSH (64674), facsimile 1-513-533-8573, e-mail [pubstaft@cdc.gov](mailto:pubstaft@cdc.gov). (Source: *Safety News*)

- ◆ In the September 7, 2001 edition of this newsletter (35-01), we discussed the Department of Transportation's public meeting to be held on November 14, 2001 that was intended to solicit comments on the development of certain guidelines on the knowledge required for civil penalty enforcement proceedings related to the handling of hazardous materials. The DOT recently announced that the November 14 meeting would be rescheduled, and that the comment period on the development of these guidelines would be extended until February 28, 2002. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ An interesting article appeared in a recent edition of the *Philadelphia Business Journal* regarding expectations for increases in insurance premiums, particularly with regard to property and casualty insurance. Several property and casualty insurance providers predicted premium increases anywhere from 12 to 30 percent – with 50 percent increases not beyond the realm of possibility. The increases will likely stem from increased costs for re-insurers – the companies that help primary insurance companies carry some of the risk associated with a given policy – which are likely to raise their rates 50 to 100 percent.
- ◆ A Code of Practice on Ship Recycling has been launched by a working party representing the International Chamber of Shipping, BIMCO, INTERCARGO, INTERTANKO, ITOFF, ITF, and OCIMF. The Code outlines the measures that shipowners should be prepared to take before disposing of ships for scrap. Besides mentioning the measures that shipowners may take prior to delivering ships to recycling yards – such as the cleaning and certification of tanks as safe for hot work and entry – the Code also incorporates an "Inventory of Potentially Hazardous Materials on Board". This is a document that is supposed to be completed on the ships' last voyage prior to being scrapped, and it's available for download at [www.marisec.org/recycling](http://www.marisec.org/recycling) (Source: *Marine Log*)
- ◆ Senators John Edwards (D-North Carolina) and Chuck Hagel (R-Nebraska) have proposed legislation aimed at strengthening preparations by local, state, and federal governments for response to chemical or biological terrorist attacks. The proposed legislation would earmark \$1.6 billion for improving national, state, and local defenses against biological or chemical weapons. Significant resources would be devoted to the development and building of supplies of vaccines and antibiotics and improving the means of detecting chemical agents. Additionally, local fire fighters, law enforcement, and medical professionals would receive training and equipment needed to guard against such attacks. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ◆ The budget of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration ("OSHA") is expected to increase for the 2002 fiscal year. The Bush Administration originally proposed a \$400,000 increase in their budget, giving them a spending limit of \$426 million. Congress recently increased that number to \$435 million during committee-level negotiations. The increase is expected to remain when the budget numbers are finalized. (Source: *Safety News*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Did you know that death rates from cardiovascular diseases have dropped by some 60% since 1950? One of the major factors contributing to this decline is that only 25% of adults smoke, wherein 30 years ago, 40% smoked. Some other factors include better control of blood pressure and healthier levels of cholesterol in the bloodstream. That notwithstanding, heart disease remains the number one cause of death in the U.S. for both men and women. Only 50% of heart patients have identifiable risk factors (e.g., smoking, obesity, high cholesterol levels, high blood pressure). (Source: *Health Connection Newsletter*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Nothing ever becomes real 'till it is experienced – Even a proverb is no Proverb to you 'till your Life has illustrated it." – John Keats (1795-1821), *Letter to George and Georgiana Keats [February 14 – May 3, 1819]*