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[www.scaa-spill.org](http://www.scaa-spill.org)

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- ◆ Following are two web sites that provide some good information on WMD/Bioterrorism news. (1.) The web site of The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc., found at [www.apic.org](http://www.apic.org), provides news on bioterrorism, anthrax updates, and products offered by the organization, and related information. (2.) The Chem-Bio.com Resource Center, found on line at [www.chem-bio.com/resource/](http://www.chem-bio.com/resource/), was designed to provide users with a central location to obtain documents released by the government and other organizations related to chemical and biological terrorism. Many of the documents available are in PDF format, and you'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view them (a link to a free download of the reader is available on the web site).
- ◆ The Third R&D Forum on High-Density Oil Spill Response will be held on March 11-13, 2002 in Brest, France. Organized by the International Maritime Organization ("IMO"), the forum will focus on the operational dimension of oil pollution combating techniques and equipment, particularly with regard to effectively responding to high-density oil spills at sea. Highlights include drift modeling, behavior and weathering, containment and recovery of floating oil, and recovery of sunken oil. For more information, visit IMO's web site at [www.imo.org](http://www.imo.org), or contact Mr. T. Liebert at 011-44-20-7735-7611, facsimile 011-44-20-7587-3210.
- ◆ The American Society of Safety Engineers ("ASSE") has published a new, general standard for safety, health and environmental training. The standard is intended to enable safety professionals to follow consistent training criteria. The standard, an industry first according to ASSE, has been approved by the American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") and applies to both the public and private sectors. The American National Standard, Z490.1, "Criteria for Accepted Practices in Safety, Health and Environmental Training", is a broad-based voluntary standard that covers all facets of training. The Z490.1 standard is available from ASSE for \$32 for ASSE members, and \$48 for non-ASSE members. For more information, visit ASSE's web site at [www.ASSE.org](http://www.ASSE.org), call them at 847-699-2929, fax them at 847-768-3434, or send them e-mail to [customerservice@asse.org](mailto:customerservice@asse.org). (Source: *Safety News*)
- ◆ **Food for thought?** In the case of the Secretary of Labor v. Mallard Bay Drilling, Inc. – which has been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court from the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals – the underlying issue at hand is whether "the U.S. Coast Guard exercised statutory authority to prescribe or enforce standards or regulations affecting occupational safety or health". The

case involved working conditions for employees on “uninspected vessels”. In this case, the “uninspected vessel” is a rig for oil and gas exploration that is located in Louisiana. In short, the Court of Appeals ruled that precedent had been set giving the Coast Guard exclusive authority in supervising seaman’s work environments, and added that there is no need for two federal agencies to overlap in governing working conditions. One of the Court of Appeals judges stated that “ . . .redundant control programs offer little except confusion, governmental proliferation and stultification of enterprise.” He went on to state that “ . . . because of geographic limitations, the Coast Guard is better suited to regulate the maritime workplace than is the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (‘OSHA’).” Does this mean that the Coast Guard has sound legal ground upon which it can establish training requirements for oil

spill response workers without OSHA? It will be interesting to follow this case, and see what opinion is rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court in the matter. ***Thanks to Marc Shaye for his summary on this issue!***

- ◆ The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (“MPA”) will be setting up a Maritime R&D Advisory Panel to provide guidance and expertise in the formulation of a maritime R&D program for Singapore. This effort is the MPA’s latest initiative aimed at developing Singapore as a center of excellence for Maritime R&D. The Panel will help to identify the sectors in Singapore with maritime R&D potential; develop a list of specific R&D projects with industry-wide interest and application; and assist in establishing link-ups between suitable local and overseas research institutions, maritime companies, and organizations to embark on these projects. (Sources: *MPA Press Release* and *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ The U.S. Coast Guard has published a final rule amending its regulations for pollution prevention from ships to align domestic requirements with international maritime pollution standards. This rule changes regulations concerning oily-water separators; operational discharges of oil; damage and intact stability of tank vessels; period of validity for an International Oil Pollution Prevention Certificate, and garbage record-keeping requirements. The Coast guard also amended oil mixture discharge shore connection requirements for certain vessels and redefined certain terms dealing with oil in order to provide consistency with industry standards and to help clarify U.S. oil regulations. The final rule becomes effective December 3, 2001. (Sources: *Federal Register* and *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ Christie Whitman, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (“USEPA”) Administrator, recently announced that the arsenic standard for drinking water will be lowered from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion, bringing the arsenic standards in the U.S. in line with European standards. The announcement was somewhat surprising since there has been a lot of political wrangling over how much arsenic that too much, and whether new regulations are even necessary. As you may know, arsenic occurs naturally in groundwater. (Source: *Water and WasteWater E-News*)
- ◆ ***Speaking of the USEPA . . .*** House representative Sherwood Boehlert (R-New York) has proposed legislation that would add the USEPA to the U.S. Cabinet, rename it to the Department of Environmental Protection, and make Christie Whitman its Secretary. The legislation, H.R. 2438, is co-sponsored by Representatives Robert Borski (D-Pennsylvania) and Mark Kirk (R-Illinois). President Bush has voiced his support of the legislation. As you may know, this status change has been discussed and proposed for many years, but has consistently been rejected because it was attached to other unpopular provisions. The current proposed legislation would not result in any significant changes, and will not increase the authority of either Whitman or the USEPA. (Source: *Waste Age*)
- ◆ ***Work/Life/Health:*** Employee retention is an ongoing issue with most employers. One contributing factor to many employees’ decisions to stay with a company or explore other employment options is their co-workers. In light of this, you might give your employees a say during your next hiring cycle. Ask them what characteristics they’d like to see in a new co-worker, and encourage them to refer friends or family for open positions. Introduce potential employees to the people they’d be working with, and give them a chance to ask each other questions. This should go a long way in ensuring that you and your employees are happy with new hires, and help with employee retention. (Source: *Manager’s Legal Bulletin*)
- ◆ ***Quote of the Week:*** “It is not enough to fight. It is the spirit which we bring to the fight that decides the issue. It is morale that wins the victory.” – George Catlett Marshall (1880-1959), *Military Review* [October 1948]