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- ♦ We'd like to begin by extending our best wishes to all our members and readers for a safe and joyous holiday season. In the wake of the events on and after September 11, we've all had to cope with the aftermath and long-term ramifications of terrorist activities in our country. Overall, the country has responded very well, and citizens have showed a renewed sense of patriotism and pride across the nation. Further to that, our industry has also responded very well to the need for professional emergency response resources – this is highlighted by the involvement of many of our members and other private sector contractors in addressing potential and actual anthrax contamination in New York, Washington, and across the country, and in assisting with the World Trade Center cleanup. While we take pride in what our country has achieved since September 11, we are also extremely proud to be affiliated with the response community that has so diligently protected our citizens from the fallout of these terrorist acts. Together, we are making a difference.
- ♦ As many of you may have seen, SCAA issued a press release last week commending Senator Carl Levin on his statements during the Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the local role in homeland security. In his testimony, Levin said that while the government's role is indisputable, "...it is crucial that private companies are also consulted. My staff recently met with an association based in Detroit that represents independent pollution spill response companies across the U.S. They offered to provide their expertise and help to train local officials in remediation including chemical and biological hazards. Yet, they were unsure where to go to offer their assistance. The point is: we have private resources here that should not be overlooked. Many citizens tell me that they desperately want to help their country in some way besides spending money, and private companies may offer a way for citizens to help in what they may see as a more tangible way." *As you can see, the efforts of SCAA to further incorporate private sector response resources into homeland security initiatives are beginning to bear fruit. However, we need the financial support of our membership to continue these efforts!*
- ♦ Free subscriptions to a new publication entitled "Homeland Defense Journal" are being offered to the response community. The first issue will be released January 7, 2002, and will reportedly cover a wide array of subjects relating to homeland security and defense issues. To subscribe, send e-mail to events@cais.com, listing the word "Subscribe" in the subject line.

- ♦ Congress is considering a bill that attempts to organize the myriad of terrorism-related information by creating a web site for the exchange of such data. Introduced by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ), the 911.Gov Act of 2001 would require that the Office of Homeland Security create the web site – which would be at <http://www.911.gov> - in an effort to make it easier for the public to find and share information related to anti-terrorism efforts. Apart from this, a new (and free) information sharing mail site – WMDinfoshare – has been created and allows subscribers to share and discuss information related to preparing for and managing acts of terrorism involving WMD. To join, send e-mail to infoshare-request@wmdfirstresponders.com, then enter the word “join” or “subscribe” in the message box (don’t include the quotation marks!). (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News* and *The Beacon*)
- ♦ Notices appeared in recent editions of the *Federal Register* regarding upcoming public meetings that are being held by the Coast Guard in Washington, D.C. The first meeting will be held January 3, 2002 at the Grand Hyatt Washington, and will begin at 9:00 a.m. The purpose of the

meeting is to solicit input on the U.S. submission to the International Maritime Organization (“IMO”) Intersessional meeting on maritime security. For more information on this meeting, refer to the December 14, 2001 edition of the *Federal Register* (Vol. 66, No. 241, p. 64898). The second meeting will be a public workshop held at the Grand Hyatt Washington from January 28 through January 30, 2002. The workshop will begin at 9:00 a.m. each day, and discussions will include maritime security procedures, programs, and capabilities within the U.S. maritime transportation system. More information can be found in the December 17, 2001 edition of the *Federal Register* (Vol. 66, No. 242, p.65020)

- ◆ Last week, Exxon Mobil Corp. agreed to pay \$11.2 million for illegally polluting New York waters with benzene. The settlement – one of the largest ever negotiated involving a hazardous waste case – includes \$8.2 million in civil penalties and \$3 million for buying and restoring land in New York City on the Arthur Kill waterway between Staten Island and New Jersey. (Source: *AP Newswire*)
- ◆ *Speaking of settlements . . .* Connecticut-based MacDermid Inc., a chemical manufacturer, will pay \$3 million in restitution after pleading guilty to four violations of the Clean Water Act. The company is required to pre-treat its wastewater before discharging it into the sewer system, and to submit discharge monitoring reports to the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. For eight years, the company discarded highly polluted wastewater samples without reporting their content, and ultimately falsified their discharge monitoring reports. (Source: *Water and WasteWater Products E-News*)
- ◆ *Professional Mariner’s Maritime Casualty Conference & Expo 2002* will be held February 26 & 27, 2002 at The Maritime Institute of Technology Training & Conference Center in Baltimore, Maryland. More information on this event can be found on line at www.mar-cas.com, or by calling 1-207-236-6196.
- ◆ A call for papers has been issued for the 18th Annual International Conference on Contaminated Soils, Sediments, and Water that will take place October 21-24, 2002 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. The deadline for paper submission is February 15, 2002. For more information, visit the conference web site at www.umasssoils.com, or contact Denise Leonard at 1-413-545-1239.
- ◆ *Work/Life/Health*: Most people already know some of the rules on maintaining a healthy heart – consume less fat; eat more fruits and veggies; keep blood pressure and cholesterol levels in check, etc. However, here are some tips you may not have known: 1. Don’t skip breakfast. Most heart attacks occur between 7 a.m. and noon, and eating breakfast appears to make platelets (the cells that help blood to clot) less sticky, and therefore less likely to clump together and block a vital artery. 2. Cut sweets. While sugar is not directly related to heart disease, cutting back on them will leave more room for heart-friendly foods. 3. Get your B’s! There new evidence suggesting that folic acid (a B vitamin) and vitamins B₆ and B₁₂ may help prevent heart attacks. 4. Lighten up! People that overreact to stressful situations appear more likely to have heart trouble. 5. Exercise. Sedentary living – not high cholesterol – is the single biggest factor in heart attack deaths. Just 30 minutes of moderate exercise 3 times a week delivers the benefits of regular exercise. (Source: *TopHealth*)
- ◆ *Quote of the Week*: “If men are to be precluded from offering their sentiments on a matter which may involve the most serious and alarming consequences that can invite the consideration of mankind, reason is of no use to us; the freedom of speech may be taken

away, and dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.” – George Washington (1732-1799), *Address to officers of the Army [March 15, 1783]*