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

January 4, 2002

- ◆ We trust everyone enjoyed the holiday season, and that we're all ready to move forward into the New Year. A few reminders to our members: (1.) We're looking for input from the membership on programming ideas/topics for the SCAA Annual Meeting that will take place at the new Palms Casino Hotel in Las Vegas on March 24-26, 2002. The toll free number for hotel reservations is 1-866-725-6768, and members are encouraged to book early. Please see our web site ([www.scaa-spill.org](http://www.scaa-spill.org)) for more details. (2.) We're also soliciting input and/or comments from our members on 49 CFR §390.23 "Relief from Regulations", and how emergency response companies are addressing the issues surrounding this and related DOT legislation limiting driver hours. Send your comments to us at [mikes@scaa-spill.org](mailto:mikes@scaa-spill.org), or fax them to us at 1-313-849-1623. (3.) If you haven't responded to our WMD response capability survey yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. *Remember – all of the information we receive from individual companies is kept confidential.* We are compiling all of the information we receive to show legislators and regulatory authorities how many companies are capable of responding to incidents involving WMD, how many personnel are available to respond in Level C, B, and/or A PPE, and how many responses to potential threats of anthrax have been made by these private sector response companies.
- ◆ Late last month, Congress passed legislation that grants States up to \$200 million a year during a five year period for the clean up of more than 500,000 polluted industrial sites (i.e., brownfields). The bill contains several provisions intended to exempt innocent developers from having to pay remediation costs if toxic wastes are found on a site after it is purchased. Federal Superfund law still applies, and keeps the responsibility for cleanup on those who caused the pollution. It's also important to note that the federal prevailing wage law will apply to this new state grants program for brownfield cleanup. (Source: AP)
- ◆ *MarineLog* has named Admiral James Loy, Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, as its Maritime Person of the Year for 2001. The honor was given primarily due to the Coast Guard's response to the events of September 11, to which the agency responded with people, equipment, and strengthened security measures. In a recent speech, Admiral Loy had this to say about the new type of threat facing the U.S.: "It's kind of like preparing to play a game of checkers against a familiar opponent, only to sit down and discover that you are already 10 moves into a chess game . . . but, it is three

dimensional chess . . . against multiple opponents . . . whose pieces are unconstrained by your previous understanding of their rules of movement.” (Sources: *MarineLog* and *Journal of Commerce*)

- ♦ The Connecticut Maritime Association’s “Shipping 2002 - Down to Business” conference and exhibition will be held March 19-20, 2002 at the Westin Stamford Hotel in Stamford, Connecticut. Visit the conference web site at [www.cmaconnect.com](http://www.cmaconnect.com), or call 1-203-406-0109, for more details on the event.
- ♦ Several New York newspapers have reported on a suit filed against the city of New York by some 1,100 members of the Fire Department of New York, who are alleging that they weren’t provided with adequate respiratory protection for several days following the events of

September 11. It has been reported that a quarter of the 6,500 fire fighters that worked at ground zero following the attacks have respiratory ailments, and up to 200 are exhibiting such serious symptoms that they may be allowed to retire on a disability pension. (Sources: *New York Times* and *New York Post*) *This situation can serve as an example to underscore the importance of properly implementing and strictly enforcing personnel health and safety guidelines, particularly with regard to the donning of proper personal protective equipment, as is a pre-requisite in the private sector.*

- ◆ Lawmakers in Europe recently approved legislation designed to prevent a repeat of the circumstances surrounding the ill-fated tanker “Erika”. The measures cover port state control, classification societies, and the phasing out of single hull tankers. Under the legislative scheme, ships that have been laid up more than once due to poor condition and which fly flags of convenience will be banned and refused entry into European Union ports. In addition, vessels posing a risk will be subjected to more stringent obligatory annual inspections. The monitoring of classification societies will be increased, and when necessary, their recognition could be suspended. The legislation also calls for a general ban on single hull tankers by 2015 at the latest. These new measures, known as Erika I, will go into effect in the summer of 2003. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*)
- ◆ Sorbent Products Company (“SPC”) recently announced the introduction of a new series of mid-weight products to compliment two product lines – the *MRO Plus* and the *Oil Plus*. The *MRO Plus* is used for the cleanup and removal of oil and water based liquids. It is now available in a new mid-weight, 300 series that includes perforated pads, MRO 300 (16” x 20”, 100/case) and two 30” rolls, MRO 350 (30” x 150’) and 350DP (30” x 15’, perforated every 15” and up the center). The Oil Plus (“OP”) absorbs oil and petroleum products, and repels water. OP products are now available in a mid-weight. OP 300 pads are 16” x 20” and perforated along the centerline for dividing. The OP 350 Roll is 30” x 150’, and the OP 350DP is perforated every 15” up the center. Both products feature a new and stronger SPC perforation. For more information, visit SPC’s web site at [www.sorbentproducts.com](http://www.sorbentproducts.com), or contact Jill Kelly at 1-800-333-7672, e-mail [kellyj@sorbentproducts.com](mailto:kellyj@sorbentproducts.com).
- ◆ *Work/Life/Health*: Manager’s are often asked for references on ex-employees. Unfortunately, references that are provided can develop into serious legal problems, even if they are truthful. Following are some tips to help keep references from coming back to haunt your company: (1.) Take the requestor’s name, company, and phone number, and then consult with your H.R. department before giving out any information. This will ensure you can formulate a careful response, and give you time to check the legitimacy of the request. (2.) Have the employee’s personnel file in front of you when answering a reference request. Any information you provide should be verifiable and supported by the proper documentation. (3.) Don’t volunteer any information – only provide answers to the questions that are asked. (4.) Ask for a reference request in writing, and see if you can respond in writing. (5.) Keep up-to-date on your company’s reference policies, and follow them to the letter. (Source: *Manager’s Legal Bulletin*)
- ◆ *Quote of the Week*: “The most important factor is individual recognition – more important than salaries, bonuses or promotions. Most people, whether they’re engineers, business managers, or machine operators, want to be creative. They want to identify with the success of their profession and their organization. They want to

**contribute to giving society more comfort, better health, more excitement. And their greatest reward is receiving acknowledgement that they did contribute to making something meaningful happen.” – Paul Cook, CEO, Raytheon Corporation**