



**05-02**

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

**February 1, 2002**

- ◆ ***Note from the President . . .*** Since the events of September 11, Homeland Security and Defense initiatives have remained in the forefront of executive and legislative agendas. A significant amount of funding is being earmarked for these purposes all across the country, and SCAA continues to work toward the inclusion of the private sector response community in these efforts with the hope of generating business opportunities for our members - particularly those that have supported our activities in this regard. You will recall that we sent all our members in good standing a Special Edition of the newsletter discussing WMD issues, SCAA's action plan for WMD, and a sample letter that members could use as a template to send a message to their Congressional representatives highlighting the need to include the private sector response community in homeland defense initiatives. We have consistently urged our members to help themselves create business opportunities by writing to their Congressional representatives on this issue. I'd like to thank Mark Miller and Lynn Garner for sending letters, and for providing us with a copy for our records. ***I would again urge those of you that haven't written letters to do so immediately!*** You can get the names and addresses of your Congressional representatives online (<http://www.senate.gov> and <http://www.house.gov>) if you don't have them already. Please send us a copy of the letters you send out so we can keep our files updated (mail them to 8631 W. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, MI 48209-2691). If you need a copy of the sample letter SCAA developed, contact us (phone 1-313-849-2649, e-mail [info@scaa-spill.org](mailto:info@scaa-spill.org)) and we'll send one along. – **Dave Usher**
- ◆ We are considering adding a "Calendar" section to the SCAA web site. The overall objective of the Calendar would be to provide visitors with a snapshot view of upcoming meetings and events by month. It is our hope that this will help us and our members schedule meetings/conferences with minimal conflicts. Is this something you'd be interested in? More importantly, is it something you'd be interested in contributing to? The Calendar would only be as good as the information we receive, and we would count on receiving information from our members and readers to keep the Calendar accurate and current. Please give us your feedback via e-mail to [mikes@scaa-spill.org](mailto:mikes@scaa-spill.org) or [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org). Alternatively, you can send us a fax to 1-313-849-1623, or call us at 1-313-849-2649.
- ◆ The latest version and potential ramifications of the revised OSRO classification guidelines remains an issue to our members, as is evidenced by calls and e-mail we've received on the issue. SCAA is in contact with the Coast Guard on the issue, and has initiated discussions on behalf of the industry. We would like to obtain some additional feedback from our OSRO

members for use in these on-going discussions. (1.) Did you submit comments to the draft OSRO guidelines during the applicable comment period? If so, were your comments accounted for in the final document that was issued? (2.) How will the new OSRO classification guidelines affect your OSRO rating? (3.) Will you need to purchase additional equipment/materials to meet the M and/or W1 classification ratings in your area? If so, do you plan on purchasing said resources? (4.) If the OSRO guidelines remain as is, will you continue to participate in this voluntary classification program? **Please give us your feedback via e-mail ASAP to [mikes@scaa-spill.org](mailto:mikes@scaa-spill.org) or [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org). Alternatively, you can send us a fax to 1-313-849-1623, or call us at 1-313-849-2649.**

- ◆ Keep up to date on activities of the leading non-profit association representing the interests of the emergency and remedial oil and hazardous materials response industry through SCAA's web site [www.scaa-spill.org](http://www.scaa-spill.org). SCAA's annual meeting will be held in Las Vegas, March 24-26 and will focus on activities by its members in aiding the cleanup effort at ground zero, the world Trade Center site in NYC, since September 11, 2001. Representatives from the United States Coast Guard will participate to discuss the latest OSRO guidelines. Any questions, contact Marc K. Shaye at 313-962-8255 or via e mail to [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org)
- ◆ This week, the U.S. Coast Guard named Ms. Frances Fragos-Thompson as its Director of Intelligence. She will lead the agency's Intelligence Directorate, the Intelligence Coordination Center, and will act as the program manager for the Coast Guard's national intelligence effort. Prior to joining the Coast Guard, Ms. Fragos-Thompson spent 13 years with the Department of Justice, most recently serving as the Counsel for Intelligence Policy reporting directly to the Attorney General. (Source: *USDOT Press Release*)
- ◆ Murphy Oil USA, Inc. will reportedly pay a \$5.5 million fine and spend \$12.5 million to cut sulfur dioxide emissions from a plant in Wisconsin under a proposed settlement that was recently announced by federal and state authorities. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin must now approve the settlement. Murphy Oil found liable for violations of emissions limits and breaches of water permits, oil spill containment, and waste handling requirements. (Source: *Reuters*)
- ◆ As you know, the 3<sup>rd</sup> R&D Forum on High Density Oil Spill Response will take place March 11-13, 2002 in Brest, France. Additional conferences/exhibitions taking place at this time include: Maritime Safety and Environmental Protection – Evolution and Perspectives (conference, March 11-12); Erika Technical Lessons (conference, March 13-16); and Interspill 2002 Exhibition and Demonstrations (March 11-15). Additional information on these events can be found on-line at [www.cub-brest.fr/saferseas](http://www.cub-brest.fr/saferseas)
- ◆ The American Medical Association ("AMA") has advised the public to visit their family physicians and the AMA web site ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)) for up-to-date information on biological and chemical terrorism. The AMA would like to educate patients, physicians, and emergency responders on how to respond to biological and chemical attacks. Among the AMA's messages are why medicines (especially antibiotics) should not be stockpiled, and why an influenza shot is just for the flu. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness Newsletter*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** To avoid being surprised by constructive discharge claims after an employee leaves your company, take these steps before they resign: (1.) Remind employees of the company grievance policy so they have an avenue of airing conflicts or complaints. (2.) Use exit interviews and informal employee surveys to keep abreast of what's making employees unhappy, or keeping them satisfied in their jobs. (3.) Implement and enforce diversity initiatives to help reduce bias and harassment. (4.) Use performance appraisal systems and disciplinary policies to keep employees informed of any management action toward them, or against them. (Source: *Manager's Legal Bulletin*) (*Note: A constructive discharge occurs when an employee's working conditions are so intolerable that a reasonable person would feel compelled to resign.*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "The voice of protest, of warning, of appeal is never more needed than when the clamor of fife and drum, echoed by the press and too often by the pulpit, is bidding all men fall in and keep step and obey in silence the tyrannous word of command. Then, more than ever, it is the duty of the good citizen not to be silent." - Charles Eliot Norton (1827-1908), *True Patriotism [1898]*