



06-02

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

February 8, 2002

- ◆ Thanks to all our members who have submitted their comments on the revised OSRO guidelines and their potential ramifications, and on the suggestion for the web-based calendar to be posted on the SCAA web site. ***We encourage all our OSRO members and plan holders to submit their comments on the OSRO guidelines, as they will be very helpful to us during our discussions with the Coast Guard. WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS NOW, SINCE THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE TO US TO PROMOTE REASONABLE CHANGE TO THE OSRO GUIDELINES IS RELATIVELY SMALL. Comments can be e-mailed to [mikes@scaa-spill.org](mailto:mikes@scaa-spill.org), or faxed to 1-313-849-1623.***
- ◆ President Bush submitted his fiscal year 2003 budget to Congress this week. The budget calls for \$48 billion in new military spending and \$38 billion to bolster Homeland Defense. Of particular interest, the budget nearly doubles current spending on homeland defense, and proposes spending \$3.5 billion in 2003 to enhance the homeland security response capabilities of the nation's first responders. Of that, \$105 million will be used to support state and local governments in preparing comprehensive plans to prepare for and respond to a terrorist attack; some \$2 billion is allocated for state and local first responder agencies to purchase a wide range of equipment needed to respond to a terrorist attack, including PPE, detection systems, and communications gear; about \$1.1 billion will be used to train firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians to respond and operate in a chemical or biological environment; and some \$245 million earmarked for the support of a coordinated, regular exercise program to improve response capabilities, practice mutual aid, and assess operational improvements and deficiencies. It's also interesting to note that the budget also includes a \$21 million request to create a new water pollution prevention and cleanup program within the U.S. EPA. (Sources: *Homeland Defense Journal*, *Water and WasteWater Products*) ***The Bush administration's budget, in particular the funding earmarked for WMD and Homeland Defense, underscores the importance of SCAA's efforts to include the private sector in these initiatives; to ensure that the private sector response community is viewed by federal, state, and local government as "local first responders", and to ensure the private sector is afforded the legal protection (i.e., some form of responder immunity) commensurate with the risks associated with performing this type work. WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN OUR EFFORTS!***
- ◆ The BioDefense Mobilization Conference will be held on April 9-11, 2002 at the Westin Hotel in Seattle, Washington. Topics of discussion will include responder experiences and training, biological agents and detectors, funding sources and strategies, assessing preparedness, and

more. Additional information on the event can be found on line at [www.bio-defense.org](http://www.bio-defense.org), or by calling 1-800-275-9198. You can also send e-mail to [biodefense@csnwseattle.com](mailto:biodefense@csnwseattle.com).

- ◆ This week, Vice Admiral Thomas Collins was nominated by President Bush to be the 22<sup>nd</sup> Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. VADM Collins is currently the Coast Guard's Vice Commandant. Once confirmed by the Senate, he will replace Admiral James Loy as the agency head at a formal change of command ceremony in Washington, DC. The event is being planned for May 30, 2002. (Sources: *Maritime Items* and *DOT Press Release*)
- ◆ ***This underscores the importance of safety training . . .*** The chief officer of the S.S. "Trinity" has been indicted for causing the death of a crewmember during a tank cleaning operation through

negligence, misconduct, and inattention to duty. The chief officer allegedly ordered a crewmember to enter a cargo tank even though he knew the tank contained dangerous levels of combustible gas (the previous cargo in the tank was MTBE). It was the chief officer's responsibility to ensure that tank cleaning operations were conducted in a safe and proper manner, and that no crewman be allowed to enter a cargo tank unless the ship's precautions and procedures for closed space entry were complied with fully (i.e., no crewman allowed to enter the tank unless the tank atmosphere was thoroughly tested and a zero reading for combustible gas was obtained). If convicted, the defendant could face up to 10 years in prison and up to a \$250,000 criminal fine. (Sources: *Dept. of Justice Press Release and Maritime Items*)

- ◆ The Occupational Health and Safety Administration ("OSHA") recently announced that they plan on conducting some 36,400 inspections in fiscal year 2002, a 2% increase over the number of inspections conducted the previous fiscal year. Federal enforcement in OSHA's FY 2002 budget received the largest budget increase – 7% - and is not at \$161 million. (Source: *SafetyNews*).
- ◆ **Speaking of OSHA . . .** While the nation's overall workplace injury and illness rate has declined for eight straight years (per the Bureau of Labor Statistics), the rate of the most serious injuries and illnesses (i.e., those resulting in time away from work or restricted work activities – a.k.a. lost workday cases) did not change between 1999 and 2000. Since 1973, the nation's lost-workday injury and illness rate has only declined by 12%. Industry safety officials have stated that increased workloads and overtime are primary contributors of lost-workday cases. They believe employers are demanding more work over longer hours, which potentially compromises safety and could result in serious injuries. (Source: *SafetyNews*)
- ◆ Sorbent Products Company ("SPC") recently announced the availability of the "Spill Kaddie", a mobile and compact emergency kit used for fast spill response or maintenance mess prevention in plant/factory settings. The unit is 18" x 17" x 39", weighs 42 pounds, and contains one roll (200) of 7½" x 9" pads; five 3" x 4' socs; eight 9" x 9" pillows; one pair of goggles; one pair of nitrile gloves; five 6.0 mil plastic bags; and one Emergency Response Handbook. For more information on this product or any other offered by SPC, contact Cheryl Blicharz at e-mail [blicharz@blicharz.com](mailto:blicharz@blicharz.com), phone 1-800-333-7672, facsimile 1-732-302-0969, or write SPC at 645 Howard Avenue, Somerset, New Jersey, 08873. Their web site can be found at [www.sorbentproducts.com](http://www.sorbentproducts.com).
- ◆ The U.S. Department of Commerce will conduct a catalog exhibition May 13 - June 21, 2002. The "Growth Industries USA 2002" catalog exhibition promises to put businesses in touch with potential buyers from Latin America. For \$450, companies will get targeted promotion at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Caracas, Venezuela; Lima, Peru; Santiago, Chile; Panama City, Panama; and La Paz, Bolivia. For an additional \$150, targeted promotion will be provided in Campina Grande, Cuiaba, Goiania, Fortaleza, Recife, and Sao Jose dos Campas, Brazil. For more information, contact Louis Quay at 1-202-482-3973, or send him e-mail to [louis.quay@mail.doc.gov](mailto:louis.quay@mail.doc.gov). Participation in this event must be confirmed by February 22, 2002.
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** In his book, "The Synergy Myth and Other Ailments of Business Today", former ITT executive Harold Geneen says that managers should not nurture workers or try to make the workplace a more caring environment. Instead, he suggests that managers focus on inspiring workers and help them strive to get raises, bonuses, and other perks for working hard and showing initiative. Managers should try and make the people around them successful. It's much better to hold employees to high standards for their own good instead of holding their hands. (Source: *Positive Leadership*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "It's not what you've got, but how you use what you've got that really counts." - Anonymous