



**09-02**

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**March 1, 2002**

- ♦ ***If you haven't made your reservations at the Palms Casino Resort (1-866-942-7770 or 1-702-942-7777) for SCAA's Annual Meeting, you are running out of time! The hotel is holding the room block through March 4, and has reduced the conference rate from \$109/night to \$89/night for the time frame March 24-27.*** Be advised you will be unable to reserve a room for March 23, as they are booked to capacity on that date. Also, be sure to return your registration forms for attending SCAA's Annual Meeting to Marc Shaye at your earliest convenience. Marc's fax number is 1-313-962-2937, and e-mail [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org). Copies of the registration form are available on SCAA's web site ([www.scaa-spill.org](http://www.scaa-spill.org)). Alternatively, we can provide them to you if you don't have immediate access to the web.
- ♦ ***Speaking of the Annual Meeting . . .*** The preliminary program has been developed, and promises to be very timely and informative. SCAA's Board of Directors will meet at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 24, followed by a dinner for the board members. The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, March 25 with registration and breakfast. The program starts at 9:00 a.m. with a discussion of association business (e.g., Dalton Scholarship, membership, annual dues, web site, *Spill Briefs*, etc.), followed by an update by the Coast Guard on their recent activities. An overview on the activities of the Partnership Action Team, the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee, and Spills Advisory Group will be provided, followed by a panel discussion on OSRO issues. After lunch, an overview of activities performed by SCAA members at the World Trade Center will be provided, followed by a discussion of SCAA's WMD Initiative. The final presentation of the day will be about OHMSETT, and later in the evening, SCAA will host the Stanfield Award Dinner. Breakfast will commence at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26, followed by a discussion on business/industry perspectives. Thereafter, membership incentives for manufacturers will be discussed, along with a discussion on membership name. A presentation will then be made on a fire response that occurred in the Baltimore Tunnel, followed by a Board of Directors report. The meeting will be adjourned after new/old business issues are wrapped up. A golf outing has been planned for the afternoon for those interested, and a luncheon has been planned for non-golfers. Any questions on the program should be directed to Marc Shaye at 1-313-962-8255, e-mail [marcs@scaa-spill.org](mailto:marcs@scaa-spill.org).
- ♦ SCAA-member Clean Harbors, Inc. announced this week that it will buy Safety-Kleen Corp.'s Chemical Services Division for \$46.3 million and will assume some \$265 million in liabilities. As you know, Safety-Kleen filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in June 2000. Under the agreement, all Chemical Services Division employees will be offered a job with Clean Harbors.

The acquisition, which must be approved by a judge handling Safety-Kleen's bankruptcy, could be finalized later this year. (Source: *AP*)

- ◆ This week, the General Accounting Office released its testimony before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, Committee on Financial Services, titled "Terrorism Insurance: Rising Uninsured Exposure to Attacks Heightens Potential Economic Vulnerabilities". The report highlights the belief of the insurance industry that terrorism is not an insurable risk at this time, and discusses the fact that insurers and reinsurers are essentially withdrawing themselves from the market. The testimony provides a good overview on the state of the insurance market in the U.S., terrorism exclusions in liability policies, and alludes to the increases in commercial insurance premiums that some of us have already experienced since the events of September 11. The entire

GAO testimony is available for download at [www.gao.gov/new.items/do2472t.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/new.items/do2472t.pdf). (Sources: *Maritime Items* and GAO Testimony)

- ◆ **In related news . . .** (A.) The German insurance industry has developed a new proposal arranging coverage for terrorism-related losses. Instead of an insurance pool, the proposal discusses a specialized insurer in the legal form of a joint stock company that would provide up to \$2.6 billion to cover claims for losses associated with acts of terrorism. The government would carry any claims above the \$2.6 billion. (Source: *Lloyd's List*) (B.) An article appeared in the *New York Times* this week highlighting the comments of American International Group's CEO Maurice Greenberg, who is urging the federal government to get out of the business of providing terrorism coverage for U.S. airlines for damage on the ground. The government currently supports a subsidized insurance program for the airlines, and Greenberg says "We, as taxpayers, don't want to compete with our own government for business that the commercial sector can underwrite." The issue now at hand is that the coverage afforded by private insurers is much more expensive, and the airlines are now considering forming their own cooperative insurance company.
- ◆ Sorbent Products Company ("SPC") recently announced the introduction of a new *TrackMat*. The product was originally developed for use between railroad tracks, but is now widely used in many industries where a high absorbency barrier is required. Its unique, 3-ply construction includes an oil only polypropylene core surrounded by a new, non-slip impenetrable barrier film that prevents sorbed liquids from escaping, and a UV resistant coverstock. Best of all, SPC was able to improve production methods, and the cost of the *TrackMat* has dropped some 30%. More information on this product or any other produced by SPC can be found on-line at [www.sorbentproducts.com](http://www.sorbentproducts.com), or by calling Cheryl Blicharz at 800-333-7672, e-mail [cblicharz@sorbentproducts.com](mailto:cblicharz@sorbentproducts.com).
- ◆ The National Governors Association ("NGA") will provide tailored assistance to eight states and territories to improve their homeland security and bio-terrorism plans. A faculty of experts (which will be comprised of some combination of state homeland security official, adjutant general, state emergency management director, public health director, and local emergency management, health and law enforcement officials) will be provided by the NGA's Center for Best Practices to Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, West Virginia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands beginning this spring. The states/territories will be provided with help in assessing their overall capability to respond to terrorism, including (among other things) the development of exercises and drills to test public health emergency preparedness and response. To be selected for inclusion in this effort, the governors of the selected states had to show a willingness to devote time and resources to interacting with local officials, academia, the private sector, and other experts. Funding for the effort is through the Centers for Disease Control, FEMA, and the Department of Justice. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness Newsletter*) ***Editor's Note: It's gratifying to see consideration given to private sector involvement in the effort.***
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** If you really want to hear what people are saying, make sure that you are not a (1.) **Mind reader** – you won't hear much if you're wondering what the person is really thinking or feeling. (2.) **Rehearser** – you'll tune out the speaker if you are trying to prepare your response before they are finished talking. (3.) **Filterer** – also known as a selective listener, hearing only what you want to hear. (4.) **Dreamer** – drifting off during a conversation. (5.) **Identifier** – if you are referring everything you hear to your own experience, you probably didn't really hear what was said. (6.) **Derailer** – changing the subject too fast tells others that you're not interested in what they have to say. (7.) **Sparrer** – you hear what was said, but quickly belittle or discount it. (8.) **Placater** – agreeing with everything you hear just to be nice or avoid conflict doesn't mean you're a good listener. (Source: *Communication Briefings*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "In life courtesy and self-possession, and in the arts style, are the sensible impressions of the free mind, for both arise out of a deliberate shaping of all things and from never being swept away, whatever the emotion, into confusion or dullness." – William Butler Yeats (1865-1939), *Essays and Introductions [1961]. Poetry and the Tradition*