



**13-02**

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**April 5, 2002**

- ◆ The Exhibitor's Brochure for the 26th Annual Inland Spills Conference & Exhibits has been issued. The event will take place September 30 – October 2, 2002 at the Columbus Marriott North, 6500 Doubletree Avenue, Columbus, Ohio, 43229. This year, new sponsorships are being added that will draw in more participation from the private sector. These sponsors include the Ohio Manufacturer's Association, the Ohio Environmental Services Association, and the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council. These additional sponsors would work well to make the exhibits a wider outreach for marketing efforts. For further information on this event, visit SCAA's web site at [www.scaa-spill.org](http://www.scaa-spill.org), or call Marc Shaye at 1-313-962-8255.
- ◆ On the second day of the last weeks' Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, an impromptu panel discussion between QI's and the meeting attendees was initiated. QI's on the panel included Bob Meyers (Robert J. Meyers & Associates), Eddie Travers and Kevin Mabin (Edward F. Travers & Associates, Inc.), Nelson Fetgatter (OOPS), and Tom Neumann (Meredith Management Group) - all SCAA members. The essence of the panel discussion was proper documentation – it is imperative for contractors to get everything documented to ensure the QI's and Spill Management Teams can provide support regarding the contractors efforts to receive prompt payment. As we all know, late or inaccurate documentation results in many problems, not the least of which is prompt payment. This open discussion was well received by the meeting attendees, and we urge our members to maintain more contact with the QI's with any questions they may have regarding documentation procedures before and during an incident. ***Editor's Note: These are the kinds of values that SCAA provides for its members – first hand contact with the parties involved in managing a response effort.***
- ◆ According to a recent report funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, many emergency responders do not believe they are adequately prepared to respond to a major terrorist attack. The report recommends a need for research, training, and other approaches to help protect emergency responders from conventional or biological attacks. The report also urges groups to identify ways to provide useful safety and health information to responders at incident sites, and to explore more effective site management techniques. The report, entitled "Protecting Emergency Responders: Lessons Learned from Terrorist Attacks", can be accessed on line at [www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl) (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ◆ ***Does OSHA have a role in Homeland Security?*** While there is a wide array of agencies involved in protecting the U.S. from terrorist attacks and their aftermath, OSHA's role in the

scheme of things is sketchy at best. There's no money behind OSHA's role in Homeland Security, and no funds have been earmarked for this in OSHA's fiscal 2003 budget. In contrast, the EPA received more than \$124 million for homeland security issues. At this point, it appears that OSHA may take a role in evacuation planning, and otherwise react to what other agencies need. (Source: *SafetyNews*)

- ◆ The U.S. Department of Justice is proposing a consent decree against Kuroshima Shipping, S.A. and Unique Trading Co., Ltd. (former owners of the M/V "Kuroshima") for natural resource damages that resulted from the discharge of oil from the grounded vessel in the area of Unalaska Island, Alaska, in November 1997. The proposed decree provides that the defendants shall pay

\$644,017 to the natural resource trustees for the conduct of the restoration plan and place another \$9,000 in the registry of the court. It also requires the defendants to reimburse the natural resources trustees \$66,158.09 for damage assessment costs. In exchange for these payments, the U.S. and the State of Alaska covenant not to sue the defendants for natural resource damages arising from the “Kuroshima” spill. Comments on the proposed consent decree and settlement are due by April 27, 2002. (Sources: *Maritime Items* and *Federal Register*)

- ◆ A Call for Presentations has been issued for the Brownfields 2002 Conference that is taking place November 13-15, 2002 at the Charlotte Convention Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Presentation summaries are due by May 15, and they can be submitted on line at [www.brownfields2002.org](http://www.brownfields2002.org). More information can be obtained by visiting the aforementioned web site, or by calling the Engineer’s Society of Western Pennsylvania at 1-412-261-0710 ext. 32.
- ◆ **No big surprise . . .** The National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) issued a press release this week warning that operator fatigue remains a primary cause of serious transportation accidents throughout the U.S. The NTSB is highlighting its on going concern in this regard to raise public consciousness during National Sleep Awareness Week (April 1-7). Their analysis of marine vessel casualties cite fatigue as a cause in 16% of accidents. Highway crashes cause the most transportation-related fatalities. Of these crashes, more than 100,000 of them involve “drowsy driving”, resulting in 1,500 fatalities each year. (Source: *Maritime Items* and *NTSB Press Release*)
- ◆ To illustrate the importance of training in today’s work environment, one need only look at a recent decision by a federal appellate court. In the case, the court upheld an award of liquidated damages against an employer that had been sued for age discrimination by an applicant. The court ruled that a reasonable jury could find that the employer’s failure to provide age discrimination training to its managers constituted “reckless indifference”. (Source: *Michigan Employment Law Letter*)
- ◆ The U.S. Government spends some \$87 billion each year on contracts for services. This amounts to 43% of total government purchasing, the largest category of federal acquisitions. The Services Acquisition Reform Act (“SARA”) was introduced into Congress by Rep. Tom Davis (R-Virginia), who is chair of the House Subcommittee on Technology and Procurement Policy. The Act proposes to address challenges in service contracts - such as insufficient competition, an inadequately skilled federal workforce, and confusing or rigid regulations – by further streamlining the acquisition process and removing barriers to procurement innovations. (Source: *Homeland Defense Journal*)
- ◆ The State Department announced this week that it will enhance security measures regarding U.S. passports that will make them harder to forge or alter. One of the changes will include the use of computer-processed digital photos that are actually embedded in the paper. The new passports will be issued to new applicants beginning Monday, April 8, and will be used to replace existing passports as they expire. (Source: *USA Today*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** A recent study showed that people under a lot of stress – such as a new job, divorce, family crisis, etc. – who also come into contact with many different groups of people, increase their chances of getting sick. Stressful events can weaken the immune system, and a wide social circle exposes you to more viruses. (Source: *Health Connection*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** “A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.” – Alexander Pope (1688-1744), *Thoughts on Various Subjects; published in Swift’s Miscellanies* [1727]