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- ◆ The National Pollution Funds Center will hold its 2002 Funds Use Seminar in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 23/24, 2002. The venue is the Marriott Salt Lake City Downtown Hotel. Seminar and hotel registration information is available on the NPFC Web site: www.uscg.mil/hq/npfc/npfc.htm. Attendees will learn how to use financial management, cost documentation, and Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund access tools; how to submit incident documentation; how to file state and OSRO removal cost claims; how to file natural resource damage claims, and much more. Presentations at concurrent sessions will be directed to CG FOSCs; EPA FOSCs; States/OSROs/RPs; and will also cover Natural Resource Damage Initiate and NRD claims. For additional information, contact Jan Vorhees, NPFC Outreach Coordinator at (202) 493-6719 or jvorhees@ballston.uscg.mil.
- ◆ As you know, the Coast Guard issued its NRPM for Salvage and Fire Fighting, which is intended to stimulate the further development of salvage and fire fighting resources in the U.S. Moreover, it sets forth response time requirements for such resources. While we have talked about this NPRM in past editions of the newsletter, it's interesting to note that the Coast Guard does not plan on instituting a classification system for salvage and fire fighting providers – as it did with oil spill responders – and that the agency is estimating it will cost about \$491 million for compliance with the new requirements between now and the year 2030. Of that, some \$450 million would be incurred by private sector salvage and fire fighting companies to acquire the resources to meet the requirements. (Source: *AWO Letter* and *MaritimeToday.com*)
- ◆ Despite tougher action against polluters by various governments in the region of the Baltic Sea, ships continue to illegally discharge oil there. During a recent meeting of HELCOM SEA (the Helsinki Commission's sea-based pollution group), it was reported that the quantity of oil illegally dumped last year was 100 times greater than the combined volume of accidental spillages during 2000 and 2001. Increased aerial surveillance and quick action against polluters have decreased the number of discharges in some regions, but in other areas, the problem is increasing. While officials at HELCOM SEA believe the situation will worsen as ship traffic increases in the region, they are confident that an increase in comprehensive aerial and satellite surveillance will help curb these illegal discharges. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ The 12th World Conference on Disaster Management will take place in Toronto, Ontario, Canada from July 7-10, 2002 at the International Plaza Hotel. The conference will be attended

by professionals in the emergency response, emergency management, emergency health care, business continuity planning, risk management, security, and information technology sectors. For more information on this event, including registration and exhibition opportunities, visit the conference web site at www.wcdm.org, or send e-mail to Glenn Brigaldino at Brigaldino.5542@rogers.com.

- ◆ Two former employees of OMI Corp., a Connecticut-based tanker operator, recently pled guilty to attempting to cover up the illegal dumping of thousands of gallons of waste oil and sludge into the ocean. While the U.S. District Attorney's office in Newark, New Jersey, is thought to be continuing its investigation, the government has yet to state whether OMI itself is also under

investigation. The two former employees will be sentenced in the case on September 16, 2002, and have been released on \$100,000 bonds. They were also allowed to return to the homes in India pending that date. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)

- ◆ **Some OSHA stats . . .** Back injuries continue to account for a large amount of lost time in the workplace. In 2000, there were 411,000 back injuries reported, which equates to 1,126 *per day*. Of these, about 256,000 of the back injuries resulted from overexertion in lifting. Typical back injuries result in an average of six days away from work. The most non-productive work injuries involve carpal tunnel syndrome, and these cases typically result in an average of 27 days away from work. The price paid in premiums for worker's compensation insurance is a big reason that many injured employees are brought back to work on restricted duty. The average number of restricted duty cases totaled about 1,000,000 annually for the past three years. (Source: *1SafetyNews*)
- ◆ The House Appropriations Committee recently passed an emergency supplemental anti-terrorism package that would provide more funding for homeland security than President Bush's budget request. Of the \$29.4 billion fiscal year 2002 emergency supplemental budget, \$5.8 billion will fund a variety of homeland security initiatives. It includes \$3.85 billion for the Transportation Security Administration, \$210 million for the Coast Guard, \$378 million for the Army Corps of Engineers and Department of Energy, \$194 million for the Department of Justice, and \$63 million for the Treasury Department. President Bush is expected to sign the bill if it reaches his desk. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*) ***Although we haven't had much to report on regarding our activities of late, SCAA continues to promote the use of private sector response resources in homeland defense and homeland security initiatives when and where appropriate. We anticipate increasing our efforts in this regard in the coming months.***
- ◆ The Department of Justice recently announced a settlement agreement wherein three energy companies agreed to pay \$3 million to the U.S. and the State of California for civil penalties and restoration of natural resources damaged by an oil spill from an offshore pipeline along the coast of Southern California. The spill of some 6,800 gallons of oil occurred in September of 1997, and impacted nearly 17 miles of coastline. The energy companies involved in the settlement were Torch Energy Company, Nuevo Energy Company, and Black Hawk Oil & Gas Company. (Source: *DOJ Press Release* and *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ Late last week, officials were investigating a fuel spill that occurred in a Russian port north of Japan that came from a Japanese ship that sunk in the area nearly 20 years ago. Divers have been dispatched to the port – an area that experiences frequent earthquakes and other seismic activity - to examine the spill from the sunken *Takeo Maru*, and intend to weld shut any holes on the wreck that are producing leakage. The fuel spill resulted in an oil slick measuring some 700 yards long and 50 yards wide. (Source: *AP*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Downsizing (or “rightsizing”, as it's also been called), is not an unusual thing in today's economy. If your company has to downsize, set up an ongoing “employment agency”. Buy some resume writing books and software that the “downsized” employees can use; dedicate a computer terminal and phone for their use; and allow employees to meet to critique each other's resumes and cover letters. In short, make it known that you care about the employees you are letting go. (Source: *Positive Leadership*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** “The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind him in other men the conviction and the will to carry on . . . The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully.” – Walter Lippmann (1889-1974), *Roosevelt Has Gone [April 14, 1945]*