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- ◆ It is with a heavy heart that we report on the sudden passing of Jim Makris this week. As many of you know, Jim spent most of his career working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and was most recently the Director of the Chemical Emergency Prevention and Preparedness Office. Over the years, Jim was always a strong supporter of the private sector response community, and remained very accessible to our Association. His leadership and his friendship will be sorely missed. ***We extend our sincere condolences to all of Jim's family and friends.***
- ◆ This week, the U.S. Coast Guard and National Response Team hosted a Special Teams Capability Workshop in Alexandria, Virginia. The workshop took place August 20-22, and SCAA was invited to make a brief presentation to the group – which included representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, FBI, FEMA, NOAA, OSHA, USACE, OHS, SUPSALV, CDC, and DOE – to discuss the capabilities of the private sector response community as they relate to WMD response. Dave Usher and Dan Sheehan were asked to attend the workshop on behalf of SCAA, and were very encouraged by the response and interest that was shown by the attendees. ***Editor's Note: Our efforts in this arena are beginning to show, as was evidenced at this meeting. We will look to our members (and potential members!) for continued support of our efforts in this regard.***
- ◆ The Department of Justice announced last week that the state of New York will receive \$8.42 million and the state of Kentucky \$2.22 million to enhance their respective abilities to respond to terrorist acts. The grants were awarded under the FY2001 State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Program, and will be used to purchase specialized equipment for emergency response agencies, including law enforcement personnel, fire and emergency medical services and hazardous materials response units. (Source: *U.S. Newswire*)
- ◆ This week, the organizers of the Clean Gulf 2002 conference announced two co-located meetings for the event, which takes place November 5-7, 2002 in Galveston, Texas. The Partnership of the Gulf of Mexico Program will be presenting the 3rd Annual Gulf Guardian Awards during a Plenary Session & Ceremony on November 6 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. In addition, the U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, Research and Special Programs Administration, and the Minerals Management Service will host a public meeting on the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program ("PREP") on November 7 from 8:30 a.m. –

11:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to advise the public of the availability of the revised PREP Guidelines, to respond to questions from the audience regarding implementation of the guidelines, and to discuss the government and industry-led area exercise schedule for 2003-2005. The Coast Guard will also host the Gulf Region Information and Outreach Session on the OSRO program on November 7 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. At the meeting, recent changes in the OSRO Classification Program will be discussed. (Source: *Business Wire*)

- ♦ ***From oranges to popcorn . . .*** This week, seventeen ships and crews from six nations participated in an oil spill response exercise off the coast of Latvia. Instead of oil, some ten cubic meters of popcorn was used to simulate 800 tons of crude oil in the exercise, which was

aimed at testing oil spill response skills with new equipment and vessels. The ability to respond efficiently to oil spills in the Baltic is expected to become more difficult as maritime traffic is expected to increase over the next few years, with oil transportation expected to rise by some 40%. (Source: *Environmental News Service*)

- ◆ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) issued a press release this week asking for assistance in its creation of a new Strategic Plan. As a part of this, NOAA will host a series of strategy and performance dialogues (stakeholder sessions) with stakeholders from industry, non-profit organizations, academia, state and local governments, and others. The sessions will be aimed at soliciting feedback on four key questions: (1.) What is “success” (i.e., what outcomes should NOAA seek to achieve)? (2.) What strategies should be pursued? (3.) What programs have the biggest impact and how should performance be measured? (4.) What is the constituent’s role in implementing the strategies and measuring success? For more information on this initiative and the meeting dates and locations, visit <http://www.osp.noaa.gov>.
- ◆ The 2002 Summit – “New Challenges . . . A New Tomorrow” – will take place October 7-10, 2002 at the Crystal Mountain Resort in Thompsonville, Michigan. The event is aimed at attracting emergency managers, emergency responders, medical personnel, and private industry. For more information on this event, call 1-517-322-1190, or send e-mail to galbreathw@michigan.gov.
- ◆ The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federal Limited (“ITOPF”) has issued its 2002 *Review*. The time period covered by the *Review* is from February 2001 through February 20, 2002. During that time, the ITOPF responded to 13 pollution events. Most of these spills involved relatively small quantities of oil, with the largest being 2,700 tonnes of heavy fuel oil. For more information, call ITOPF at +44-20-7621-1255, send them e-mail at central@itopf.com, or visit their web site at www.itopf.com.
- ◆ ***Its bark is worse than its bite?*** According to an analysis released by the AFL-CIO, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (“OSHA”) – with its current staffing and inspection levels - would need 109 years to inspect each workplace under its jurisdiction *one time*. They also note that serious violations of the Occupational Health and Safety Act carry an average penalty of only \$861 (\$960 for federal OSHA, \$771 for state OSHA). Serious violations are defined as those that pose a substantial probability of serious physical harm or death to workers. (Source: *1SafetyNews*)
- ◆ ***Work/Life/Health:*** To make sure you are managing your time effectively, be sure not to fall prey to these five major time wasters: (1.) **Spreading yourself too thin** by trying to do too many things at once. Set priorities for each day, and get the most important things done first. (2.) **Being afraid to delegate**. Remember that it’s probably not necessary for you to do *everything* yourself. (3.) **Not wanting to say “no”** to requests. If you say “yes” to everything, you’ll get in over your head. Decide what you must do, and want to do, then say no to the rest. (4.) **Being tied to the phone**. Have others screen your calls or use an answering machine when you don’t want to be disturbed. (5.) **Procrastinating**. Get the unpleasant chores done first if they’re important, and divide large tasks into smaller ones. (Source: *Communication Briefings*)
- ◆ ***Quote of the Week:*** “The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith.” – Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945)