



SPILL CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
A Worldwide Environmental Management Association



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- ◆ We'd like to extend our thanks to all who participated in this weeks' 26th Annual Inland Spills Conference in Columbus, Ohio. As in years past, the event was well attended, and the programming was outstanding. During the conference breakfast on October 1, Dave Usher and Capt. Dave Westerholm discussed the changes that September 11 brought about in emergency response, along with an overview of the state of the industry in general. During his presentation, Mr. Usher recognized that the government would be tasked with the initial response to a terrorist incident, but asked the government representatives in attendance to remember the private sector response community when work arises. He stated that as an industry, both the public and private sectors have done very well to prevent and minimize pollution incidents. He also highlighted the fact that the number and volume of spills occurring in the U.S. has dropped dramatically over the past several years, and the private sector response community is now at a critical juncture – without financial support from the government and industry plan holders through increased spill drills, deployment exercises, and training, both for oil spills and the ever developing area of WMD response, this crucial *National Asset* will diminish and with it, the capability of this country to respond quickly and efficiently when the need arises. ***We'd also like to again convey our thanks to the Ohio EPA for their past sponsorship of the event, and we look forward to their continued support in the years ahead. Also, special thanks to Marc Shaye for all of his efforts to help make this event a success!***
- ◆ This week, crews are continuing clean up efforts on a mystery spill that was discovered on September 30 near the old Charleston (South Carolina) Navy Base. Current estimates place the spill at about 1,000 gallons, and testing has proven the spilled material to be No. 6 oil. The Coast Guard has secured \$250,000 from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund - and could ask for more in the future – to fund the response. Two private sector response organizations are working the spill. The source of the spill, which has spread about a mile out to sea from the Cooper River, has yet to be identified. (Source: *thestate.com*)
- ◆ Last month, the Senate approved an amendment to the Homeland Security Bill (H.R. 5005/S. 2452) creating an independent commission to investigate the failure of the government to anticipate the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. The commission would have the ability to subpoena witnesses and pursue an agenda covering intelligence, aviation, law enforcement, and immigration agencies. It would report to the President and to Congress, and would be selected by House and Senate majority and minority leaders. No members of the commission can be current office holders. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ◆ According to a new report released by the Federation of America Scientists ("FAS"), emergency response personnel lack the training to deal with weapons of mass destruction. The report calls for a coordinated interagency approach that makes use of new information technology. The FAS contend that federal planners are not taking advantage of new technologies for first responders

because federal expertise and funding are divided between FEMA, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Defense. The report suggests that a coordinated interagency plan is needed to build training systems, and that it should – among other things – encourage uniform standards in training skills for first responders. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*) **Editor's Note: It's interesting to note that this article highlights one of the things SCAA has been putting forward for the past year – federal planners need to take**

advantage of the resources that are available to assist with preparing for and responding to events involving weapons of mass destruction. This includes the professionally trained and equipped resources available from the private sector. SCAA will continue to promote the availability of private sector resources to federal planners wherever it's possible and practical, and we will look forward to receiving continued support from our members.

- ◆ Mare Forum Houston 2002, a global forum on the Maritime Transportation of Energy, will take place on November 18-19, 2002 at the Renaissance Hotel in Houston, Texas. The theme of the event is "Identifying the Priority Policy Issues". Response-related topics, among many others, will be discussed at the event. For more information, visit the conference web site at www.mareforum.com, or call the Mare Forum at +31-10-2057455, facsimile +31-10-2055655, e-mail info@mareforum.com.
- ◆ This week, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York issued a press release stating that the U.S. had filed a complaint against a building owner and management company to recover monies spent in responding to and cleaning up an oil spill in Sheepshead Bay in 1999. The complaint alleges that heating oil leaked from an underground storage tank in the building, and that a sump pump transferred the oil into the storm sewer line. Some 2,300 gallons of heating oil was ultimately discharged into the Bay as a result of this incident, and clean up costs exceeded \$295,000. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") recently issued its revised final regulations for assessment of natural resources damages pursuant to OPA '90. The revised regulations become effective on October 31, 2002. For more information, please see the October 1, 2002 edition of the *Federal Register*, which can be found on the World Wide Web: http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/the_federal_register/the_federal_register.html. As you may recall, the regulations governing natural resource damage assessments had to be revised pursuant to a 1997 federal court order. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") recently released its Homeland Security Strategic Plan. Among other things, the plan provides that the EPA will be an active participant in national and homeland security efforts relating to transportation. The EPA will work to enhance emergency preparedness for transportation incidents involving radiation, and will work with the Customs Service to help prevent the importation of unwanted radioactive materials and to better control the import and export of toxic and hazardous materials. A complete copy of the EPA's Homeland Security Strategic plan can be found on-line at www.epa.gov/epahome/downloads/epa_homeland_security_strategic_plan.pdf. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Here are five steps managers can use to deal with employee absenteeism in a fair and agreeable way: (1.) **Educate** all employees by explaining in detail the company's policy on absenteeism. (2.) **Monitor** attendance using a special notebook or file that is only used to record daily employee attendance records. (3.) **Counsel** problem employees, and meet with them in private to discuss what you have observed and what you expect. (4.) **Follow up** with employees if the behavior occurs again, and conduct another meeting to find out why. (5.) **Take corrective action** if the employee's behavior continues. With each of the steps outlined above, be sure to document everything thoroughly. (Source: *The Motivational Manager*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Philosophy is perfectly right in saying that life must be understood backward. But then one forgets the other clause – that it must be lived forward." – Sören Kierkegaard (1813-1855), *Journals and Papers [1843]*, Vol. 1