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- ◆ Last week, President Bush formalized the Department of Homeland Security by signing the legislation that had been approved by the House and Senate creating the new agency. As expected, he also nominated Tom Ridge to be the Department's first leader. (Source: *MSNBC News*) ***As you know, SCAA – primarily through the efforts of Dan Sheehan and Dave Usher – have been lobbying Washington to include the private sector in homeland security and response initiatives for some time. We are extremely happy to report that the bill creating the Department of Homeland Security contains definitive provisions showing a preference for private sector resources during emergency response efforts. More specifically, section 508 “Use of National Private Sector Networks in Emergency Response” reads as follows: “To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall use national private sector networks and infrastructure for emergency response to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive disasters, and other major disasters.” Moreover, section 509, entitled “Use of Commercially Available Technology, Goods, and Services” reads in part “It is the sense of Congress that . . . in order to further the policy of the United States to avoid competing commercially with the private sector, the Secretary should rely on commercial sources to supply the goods and services needed by the Department.” Neither the House or Senate version of the original bill contained this type of language, and it is a significant victory for SCAA and its membership that this language – which was proposed by SCAA – was included in the final bill. While this opens the door to additional business opportunities for our membership and the private sector response community, there is still a lot of work to be done in ensuring that the new Department and the various agencies comprising it are aware of what the private sector has to offer in terms of response resources. These efforts are only made possible through the on-going support of SCAA’s membership. If you haven’t done so already, please complete and return your membership applications and dues payment. Now, as much as ever, we need your support!***
- ◆ In the wake of the “Prestige” disaster off the coast of Spain, the governments of France and Spain have agreed to keep “unsafe” ships carrying dangerous cargoes away from their coastlines. The measure would allow a country to inspect tankers that are carrying toxic materials in a country's exclusive economic zone, which extends 200 miles offshore, and expel any vessels of questionable seaworthiness. (Source: *USA Today*) ***For the latest on the oil spill clean up efforts in Spain, visit the “Media” section of SCAA’s web site – www.scaa-spill.org.***

- ◆ A jury in Oregon has found the owners and operators of the “New Carissa” negligent for allowing it to run aground in 1999, and awarded the state of Oregon \$25 million to remove the last of the wreckage from a public beach. While disappointed with the verdict, the ships owners have yet to decide whether they’ll file an appeal. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*)
- ◆ A first announcement and call for papers has been issued for the Second International Conference on Oil Spills, Oil Pollution, and Remediation taking place September 16-18, 2003 in Istanbul, Turkey. The deadline for submission of abstracts is February 7, 2003. For more

information on this event, visit the conference web site at www.medosc.org, or send e-mail to medosc@medosc.org. If you are interested in exhibiting at the conference, information can be gained by visiting the web site of the Conference Secretariat OASIS at www.oasis.com.tr.

- ◆ A total of \$3 million dollars will be paid by nineteen polluters to compensate the state of New Jersey and East Hanover Township for contaminating the local drinking water supply. The contaminated ground water was discovered in East Hanover Township in the 1980's. The settlement agreement has the responsible parties paying the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection more than \$2 million, of which \$1 million is for natural resource damages and more than \$1 million for costs incurred by the state in preventing public exposure to the contaminants. East Hanover Township will also receive \$1 million for the costs it incurred to address the ground water contamination. (Source: *Environment News Service*)
- ◆ Congress recently approved legislation aimed at improving the safety and security of pipelines and to provide grants to improve the work of first responders in the event of an emergency. The House passed the conference report for the Pipeline Infrastructure Protection to Enhance Security and Safety Act (H.R. 3609), which authorizes \$100 million for research and development to improve pipe quality, materials inspection, security, information control, and improve excavation and repair technologies. The legislation would also provide grants to emergency responders to improve their preparation for emergencies and their coordination of accident responses. (Source: *Emergency Preparedness News*)
- ◆ A research team from Purdue University and the University of British Columbia has identified one of the key stumbling blocks that prevents microorganisms from decomposing PCB's, and may now be able to "teach" bacteria to consume PCB's as a food source. While PCB's are no longer manufactured in the U.S., their persistence makes them a global problem. The National Institutes of Health and Canada's National Science and Research Council fund this promising research. (Source: *Environment News Service*)
- ◆ The Czech Republic – which has proposed training Kuwaiti troops in defending against a chemical weapons attack – is now poised to help Saudi Arabia create its own chemical warfare unit. In a separate development, specialists from the U.S., Germany, the Czech Republic, and Kuwait participated in a joint military operation simulating an attack involving weapons of mass destruction on a densely populated area. The maneuvers included monitoring for radiation, biological and chemical agents, as well as decontaminating people and equipment. (Source: *Homeland Security & Defense*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** If you are looking to hire some "great" employees, you might try this approach. Seek out the great employees who already work for you, and interview them. Find out what makes these employees tick, and what qualities they have in common with one another. Then look to hire people with those same qualities. (Source: *The Motivational Manager*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** "Speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact – it is silence which isolates." – Thomas Mann (1875-1955), *The Magic Mountain* [1924], ch. 1