



04-03

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- ♦ ***There's a sucker born every minute . . . but not us!*** This week, Dave Usher received a call from a gentleman in London promoting a new publication – the name was something like “Hydro-Oil” – and soliciting advertising from spill response companies in the U.S. The gentleman said that SCAA and API, among others, were sponsoring the publication. Naturally, Dave told him that he was president of SCAA and that he knew nothing about the publication. Needless to say, the gentleman said “thank you” and immediately hung up, but we wanted to make our membership aware of this scam!
- ♦ ***Please send in your registration forms for SCAA's Annual Meeting – taking place at the Luxor in Las Vegas from February 24-26 – as soon as possible!*** Registration forms are available on SCAA's web site (www.scaa-spill.org) in the Meetings & Events section, or by calling Marc Shaye or Glenda Overton at 313.962.8255. ***Also, if you haven't already returned your membership application and/or membership dues, please do so as soon as possible. If you need a membership application, please call us at 313.849.2649, or send e-mail to mikes@scaa-spill.org. Thank you for your support!***
- ♦ ***No surprise . . .*** The U.S. Senate voted unanimously to confirm Tom Ridge as the first Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, which is being formally launched today (January 24). Various agencies, including the Coast Guard, Customs Service, and Transportation Security Administration, will be transferred to the new department on March 1. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ♦ Environmental monitors throughout the nation are being adapted to detect bioterrorism in an attempt to aid in the early detection of smallpox, anthrax, or other deadly germs that may be released into the air. The system is being initiated by the Department of Homeland Security, which will retrofit some 3,000 existing air pollution monitors with new filters to detect the biological agents. The cost? \$1 million to upgrade each monitoring system, and an additional \$1 million per city, per year to run the system and analyze samples that are collected. (Source: *MSNBC*)
- ♦ German chemical giant Bayer AG, Belgium-based Solutia (the chemical division of Monsanto), and the Japanese chemical company Kaneka have been ordered to pay a total of \$7.5 million by the Environment Department of Oslo, Norway, which says the three companies are responsible for PCB's contaminating Oslo's fjord. While the companies were put on notice last

September, the letters that were sent to each company in this regard just became public this month. The fine will cover about half of the estimated cost of restoration work to the fjord on which Oslo harbor is located. Various analyses suggested that a main source of PCB pollution is ship paints, and chemical fingerprints identified the companies and products responsible. (Source: *Environment News Service*)

- ◆ The Justice Department, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and state of Illinois announced this week that a settlement had been reached with the bankrupt Laclede Steel Company that will result in the cleanup, sale, and partial reopening of the company's former

steel mill located in Alton, Illinois. As a part of the deal, Laclede will sell the mill to Alton Steel for \$1 million, and the funds will be placed into a trust to be used by Alton Steel to perform cleanup activities at the site. Laclede will place \$100,000 in a special Superfund account for later use in cleaning up the site if necessary. For its part, Alton Steel has committed to reopening the facility and bringing it back into compliance with environmental laws, regulations, and permits. (Source: *Environment News Service*)

- ◆ The Fire Department of New York (“FDNY”) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service have created a program in incident command management that is designed to help New York City fire fighters respond to terrorist incidents and natural disasters. Through the agreement, personnel from FDNY would train to use the incident command team structure to respond to complex and long duration incidents within the city of New York. In addition, the city of New York will have the option of making the FDNY fire fighters that are trained in incident command techniques available for mobilization to combat wildfires and other incidents nationwide. FDNY training is scheduled to begin in February, and will result in the formation of a 60-plus person incident management team ready for mobilization. (Source: *Homeland Defense Journal*)
- ◆ EuroPort 2003 – the 31st International Maritime Exhibition and the 13th International Inland Shipping Exhibition – will take place November 18-22, 2003 in Amsterdam. In 2001, the event boasted 27,576 visitors from 74 countries. For more information on the event, including exhibition and sponsorship opportunities, visit their web site at www.europort2003.com or contact Amsterdam RAI at +31.20.549.1212, facsimile +31.20.646.4469, e-mail mail@rai.nl.
- ◆ Senator Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) recently introduced the Comprehensive Homeland Security Act of 2003 (S.6). Among other things, the bill would authorize additional personnel for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Customs Service, and the Bureau of Border Security of the Department of Homeland Security. It would also authorize technological improvements for these agencies. The bill would also attempt to enhance chemical security by encouraging the employment of inherently safer technologies in the transport of chemicals. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ As other major insurers have done over the past several months, Traveler’s Property Casualty recently announced that it would take a \$1.3 billion after-tax charge to boost reserves for mounting asbestos-related claims against corporate clients. The move will leave Traveler’s with a 2002 net loss of \$27 million, which effectively erases the \$766 million in earnings the company posted through the first 9 months of the year. At the same time, Traveler’s stated that the reserves should be adequate to address all the asbestos claims, and anticipates record earnings of \$1.7-\$1.8 billion in the coming year. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Given today’s economy, changes in corporate climate and culture are an inevitable part of business survival. Often times, it is easier to get employees to buy into change if they understand that they won’t be working harder – just smarter. This particularly holds true during downsizing, when workers can resent the changes they perceive will load more work on them. If you can demonstrate how the change will lead to efficiency, employees will be more likely to embrace it. The sooner they embrace it, the sooner it’ll have a positive effect on your business. (Source: *Quality Manager’s Alert*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** “I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.” – Proverbial Saying