

## SPILL BRIEFS

07-03

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- ♦ **President's Note:** To reflect for a moment, I recall when I was a young boy in grade school that a police safety officer once gave us this advice: "Stop, look, and listen before you cross the street. Use your eyes, use your ears, and then use your feet." At this time of uncertainty, I would hope that a simple statement like that could help us along our way in solving the problems of our times, now and in the future. – *Dave Usher*
- ♦ **If you are planning on attending SCAA's Annual Meeting 2003 in Las Vegas, please return your registration forms to Marc Shaye as soon as possible!** With regard to the program, we have speakers from the USCG (Capt's. Westerholm and Hartley), US EPA (Nick Nichols from the Oil Program), the National Nuclear Security Administration (Michelle Miller and D. Ricketts), the Phoenix Fire Dept. (Don Abbott), the National Pollution Funds Center (Ed Blackadar) and the Transportation Security Administration (Mark Johnson, Deputy Asst. Administrator). The full day meeting begins at 7:00am with breakfast and includes lunch as well as dinner. More information can be found on our web site – [www.scaa-spill.org](http://www.scaa-spill.org) - or by calling Marc Shaye or Glenda Overton at 313.962.8255. **We hope to see you there!**
- ♦ **Attention contractors!** This week, we sent out a one-page survey to contractors across the country to update the information we have regarding the private sector capability to respond to Weapons of Mass Destruction ("WMD") and related nuclear/biological/chemical incidents. **We ask that you complete and return the survey information as soon as possible.** If you did not receive a survey and would like one, please contact Mike Snyder at 313.849.2333 or via e-mail at [mikes@scaa-spill.org](mailto:mikes@scaa-spill.org).
- ♦ The Clean Caribbean Cooperative ("CCC") announced this week that LTCDR Jim Elliott of the U.S. Coast Guard would be joining the co-op for a two-month temporary assignment as part of the U.S. Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Protection Industry Training Program. LTCDR Elliott initiated the arrangement between the Coast Guard and the CCC to gain additional oil spill response experience and an appreciation of the response industry before moving on to his next assignment as Executive Officer of the Gulf Strike Team in Mobile, Alabama. ***Editor's Note: This type of training has happened before in years' past – in Detroit, for example, the Marine Safety Office would often call MPC to ask if their petty officers could work with them to gain oil spill experience when things were slow. However, we'd also like to see the opposite happen – that is, private sector personnel being allowed to work/train with the Coast Guard, EPA, or others, particularly with regard to WMD response.***
- ♦ The fiscal 2004 defense budget requested by President Bush is \$379.9 billion – an amount that is some \$15.3 billion more than the fiscal 2003 defense budget – to fund the ongoing war on terrorism while continuing to transform the armed forces to meet future threats. That breaks down to spending about \$42 million per hour for defense activities. The President's fiscal 2004 budget request for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security includes a \$6 billion bio-terrorism initiative called Project BioShield. It is a 10-year program aimed at speeding the development of new vaccine treatments for biological and chemical weapons and other dangerous pathogens. For the most part, the BioShield Concept has received favorable support, although caution has been advised to ensure that the project does not detract from other programs. (Sources: *Emergency Preparedness News* and *Homeland Defense Journal*)

- ◆ Late last month, the General Accounting Office (“GAO”) issued a series of reports titled “Major Management Challenges and Program Risks” covering many federal departments, including the Department of Transportation (“DOT”) and the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”). If you’d like to review the reports for the DOT and DHS, they can be found on line at [www.gao.gov/pas/2003/d03102.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/pas/2003/d03102.pdf) (“DHS”), and [www.gao.gov/pas/2003/d03108.pdf](http://www.gao.gov/pas/2003/d03108.pdf) (“DOT”). (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ Cleanup efforts continued this week at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge after an underground corroded pipeline fitting released as much as 100,000 gallons of fuel into a fuel farm area. Latest reports indicate that no fuel has escaped into the marine environment. The spilled fuel seems to be floating atop the water table, some eight feet below the ground. Two pits have been excavated from which fuel is being pumped. From there, the fuel is being pumped to an empty tank to allow sand to settle out, then into an empty fuel farm tank for storage until a barge can be arranged to transport it from the refuge. Midway Atoll is located about 1,250 miles west-northwest of Honolulu, Hawaii. (Source: *Environment News Service*)
- ◆ Following is a quick “who’s who” at the Department of Homeland Security: *Secretary* – Tom Ridge; *Deputy Secretary* – Gordon England; *Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security* – Asa Hutchinson; *Undersecretary for Science and Technology* – Dr. Charles E. McQueary; *Undersecretary for Management* – Janet Hale; *Undersecretary of Emergency Preparedness and Response* – Michael Brown; *Special Assistant to the Secretary for the Private Sector* – Alfonso Martinez-Fonts Jr. (Source: *Homeland Defense Journal*)
- ◆ European Commission insider Willem de Ruiter has been appointed by Brussels to be the first head of its new European Maritime Safety Agency (“EMSA”). He is currently head of the maritime safety unit within the commission’s energy and transport directorate. The EMSA will play a key role in ensuring the uniform and effective application of European legislation on maritime safety and protection of the marine environment. (Source: *Lloyd’s List*)
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Following are some tips that may help you remain a successful and inspiring manager: (1.) **Talk with your employees, not at them** – talking at your employees will make them feel like you are talking down to them. (2.) **Don’t exaggerate situations or behavior** – using words like “always”, “everyone”, “never” and “all the time” may make employees feel they are being attacked, which affects self-esteem. (3.) **Talk about behavior rather than attitude** – talking about attitudes rather than behavior is another attack on the employee’s self esteem, and it is much easier to modify behavior than attitude. (4.) **Don’t assume the employee knows the problem and solution** – this can only hurt an employee’s performance. (5.) **Always follow up** – if you don’t follow up on directions or performance, you will find yourself reacting to unpleasant surprises. (6.) **Always reward improved behavior** – if you don’t reward positive changes in behavior, you won’t gain permanent behavior changes. (Source: *The Manager’s Role as Coach, Ch. 2*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)