

Good afternoon everyone -

Here is the news for Region 3 (and beyond) for this week. *PLEASE NOTE: None of this is verified or fact checked. If you have a problem with any of this information, please reply to the whole group and state your reasoning; hopefully prompting an entertaining discussion. If you have better or more accurate information, please let me know and I will update the group.*

Also, PLEASE let me know if there is other information to be passed to the group – this includes meetings, workshops, training opportunities etc. Feel free to share this email with others.

As always, if you want the inbox deluge to end, just drop me an email stating that.

Debbie

Upcoming Meeting & Conference Schedule

- **Sector Maryland - NCR Area Committee Meeting - 24 May 2016** – location and time **TBD**. *Next meeting September 13, 2016.*
- **Sector Delaware Bay (Philadelphia) Area Committee Meeting (Joint AC & AMSCM) – 20 April 2016** at the Tri-State Bird Rescue 170 Possum Hollow Rd. Newark, DE 19711. *Next meetings are July 20, 2016 and October 19, 2016.*
- **Sector Hampton Roads (Virginia) Area Committee Meeting – 15 May 2016** – location and time **TBD**.
- **Sector North Carolina (Coastal North Carolina) Area Committee Meeting** – date and location **TBD**
- **Sector Buffalo (Lake Erie) Area Committee Meeting – April 2016** - date and location **TBD**
- **Marine Safety Unit Huntington Tri-state Response Workshop** – date and location **TBD**
- **Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh (Port of Pittsburgh) Three Rivers Pollution Response Council Meeting** – date and location **TBD**
- **Sector New York Area Committee Meeting** – date and location **TBD**

- **RRT1 Meeting – 4-5 May 2016** 625 North Road (Route 117), Groton, CT 06340. Registration for this event is managed through the Trainex website at: <https://trainex.org/classdetails.cfm?courseid=1664&classid=7283>.
- **RRT2 Meeting – 13-15 April 2016** in at the Historic Thayer Hotel, located on the grounds of the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY.
- **CRRT Meeting – 14-16 June 2016** – St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands
- **RRT3 Meeting – 3-5 May, 2016** in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware – location to be announced **TBD**.
- **RRT4 Meeting – 1-3 March, 2016** in Gulfport, MS – Please use the following Adobe Connect link for our event starting on March 1, 2016: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/rrt4-march2016/> Remember you can participate writing questions in the Adobe Connect chat box and those will be delivered to the speaker as soon as possible. You can also use the conference line below to participate: Conference number: **866-299-3188**; Code: **4045628754#**
- **RRT5 Meeting – Spring 2016 in Wisconsin** - date and location to be announced **TBD**
- **RRT6 Meeting – 17-19 May, 2016** at the EPA Region 6 Training Center, 166550 Westgrove Rd., Addison, Texas
- **2015 NRT-RRT Co-Chairs Meeting – 2016** – date and location **TBD**.

- **2016 New Jersey Emergency Preparedness Conference, May 2-4, 2016**; Tropicana Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, New Jersey. Register at <http://www.njepa.org/current-conference/>.

- **American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Emergency! Preparing for Disasters and Confronting the Unexpected in Conservation Conference, May 13-17, 2016;** <http://www.conservation-us.org/annual-meeting#.Vbtzi2dOUdU>.
- **HAZMAT 2016 – International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference** will be held June 16-19, 2016 in Baltimore, MD. For more information: [Get all the details on the Registration & Hotel page.](#)
- **Clean Gulf 2016 – Inland Offshore Coastal Solutions for Spill Preparedness and Response, November 1-3, 2016, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, FL. Call for Abstracts:** Prospective speakers and poster presenters are invited to submit a 200-300 word abstract(s) at http://www.cleangulf.org/call_for_presentations/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3206235&hq_l=3&hq_v=ff722ab6d9/ for consideration by the program committee by **Monday March 14, 2016.**

Exercise Opportunities

- **Sector Delaware Bay Area Committee / Marine Firefighting Seminar / TTX – 30 March 2016** – location and time **TBD.**
- **Cyber Security Seminar (Sector Del Bay) – 19 April 2016** – location and time **TBD.**
- **Sector Delaware Bay Area Maritime Security TTX – 20 May 2016** – location and time **TBD.**
- **Sector Delaware Bay Mass Rescue Workshop – 9 June 2016** – location and time **TBD.**
- **Sector Delaware Bay Military Outload Workshop – 20 July 2016** – location and time **TBD.**
- **Sector MD & Potomac Area Committee PREP Seminar – 14 September 2016** – location and time **TBD.**
- **Sector Delaware Bay Coastal Inlet Workshop (surveys) – TBD.**

Training / Education Opportunities / Online Opportunities

- **Science of Oil Spills (SOS) class now taking applications for March 28-April 1, 2016, Mobile, AL** in Mobile, AL. Classes will begin on Monday afternoon at 1:00, and will conclude on Friday, at lunch.
- **SCAT Class March 29-31, 2016, Tuckerton, NJ** - NOAA's Emergency Response Division (ERD) will be hosting the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) class March 29-31, 2016. This class will provide methods for conducting shoreline assessments. Contact Frank Csulak at: frank.csulak@noaa.gov for more information.
- **SCAT Class April 19-21, 2016, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Chincoteague Island, Virginia** - NOAA's Emergency Response Division (ERD) will be hosting a Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) class April 19-21, 2016. This class will provide methods for conducting shoreline assessments. Contact Dave Pugh at: David.E.Pugh1@uscg.mil for more information.
- **American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, Emergency! Preparing for Disasters and Confronting the Unexpected in Conservation Conference, May 13-17, 2016** – For more information: <http://www.conservation-us.org/annual-meeting#.Vbtzi2dOUdU>.
- **Science of Oil Spills (SOS) class now taking applications for May 16-20, 2016, Ann Arbor, MI.** Applications for the Ann Arbor, MI class will be accepted through **Friday, March 11, 2016**, and notification to applicants regarding their application status will occur no later than Friday, March 25, 2016.
- **First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis, May-June 2016** – For more information: <http://www.iccrom.org/international-course-on-first-aid-to-cultural-heritage-in-times-of-crisis/>
- **Online - Crude by Rail: Web-based Training (<http://www.aar.com/CBR.html>).** The Association of American Railroads—in cooperation with the seven major railroads, BNSF, CN, CP, CSX, KCS, NS, and UP—is now offering “Crude by Rail Web-based Training.” The program is available at no charge to emergency responders and gives them the basic knowledge to respond to incidents involving crude by rail (CBR). The web-based training is available whenever participants are ready. Instructors teach this program in a

simple format and provide the foundational information needed to make basic protective decisions in the event of a local incident. For more information: <http://emupdate.tumblr.com/post/139071568280>.

- **Online** - FEMA Region III Webinar Series: Introduction to Regional Grants Programs –Assistance to Firefighter Grants, Preparedness Grants and Unified Hazard Mitigation Grants Program; **2 March, 2016**; Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM; Location: **1-800-320-4330** PIN: 319946#
- **Introduction to Observing Oil from Helicopters and Plans – Online** - <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/training-and-education/training/workshops/aerial-observation-training.html>
- **FEMA Independent Study – Online** – <http://training.fema.gov/is/>.
- **NJ Office of Emergency Management (NJ OEM) Training – Online** - – <http://www.state.nj.us/njoem/programs/training-schedule.html>
- **Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) Training– Online** - – http://dema.delaware.gov/services/calendar/Trng_Cal.shtml
- **Philadelphia OEM Monthly Training Calendar – Online** - Contact Derek Ziegler, Derek.ziegler@phila.gov or 215-683-3254 to get on a calendar email distribution list. The calendar provides information on training & exercise opportunities organized by the Philadelphia OEM & some of their partners.

Region 3 News

[Planners lengthen Atlantic Coast Pipeline to change national forest route](#)

Federal agencies' objections have led developers to reroute the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline through two national forests in Virginia and West Virginia, though the new path would add 30 miles to the pipeline's total length. The agencies expressed concern over 10 miles of the pipeline that would pass through ecologically sensitive areas of the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests. [Charleston Gazette-Mail \(W.Va.\)](#) (2/12)

[Professor finds Pa.'s smaller oil, gas companies easier on the environment](#)

Smaller, independent oil and natural gas producers in Pennsylvania have a lighter impact on the environment, according to a Susquehanna University professor who gauged companies' output against their environmental violation citations. John Pendley, an accounting professor, examined data from the state Department of Environmental Protection between 2006 and June 2013. Pendley theorized that larger producers such as Shell and ExxonMobil find it easier to focus on environmental protection for large, offshore operations and instead pay fines for violations at smaller projects in the state. [The State Journal \(Charleston, W.Va.\)](#) (2/15)

[Source of Potomac River Oil Sheen; Impact on Wildlife](#)

Alexandrianews.org

As reported previously, there was a mineral **oil spill** at a Dominion substation on Jan. 24. Dominion said afterwards, "We conducted an exhaustive ...

Inspectors find safety violations at Salem nuclear plant

By Jeff Mordock, [Delaware Online](#)

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission found five safety violations at the Salem/Hope Creek nuclear facility along the Delaware River, according to reports.

In a report issued for the Salem Nuclear Generating Station Units 1 and 2, the NRC found four violations, characterized as having "very low safety significance." ...

[13500 Gallons of Mineral Oil Flow into Potomac](#)

Arlington Connection

Dominion Power transformer station at 18th and South Fern Street in Arlington was responsible for a January 24 **spillage** of about 13,500 gallons of ...

News for U.S. and Canada

Earthquake rattles Oklahoma, several other states.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (2/14, story 6, 2:00, Glor, 5.08M) broadcast, “The third most powerful earthquake in Oklahoma’s recorded history” was felt in that state’s northern region, and in several other US states, this past weekend. Some people believe hydraulic fracturing-related work may be causing increased seismic activity in Oklahoma, according to the CBS report, which added that there is a “plan to reduce the number of injection wells” in the state. Running similar coverage of this story, the [AP](#) (2/13, Miller) reported that according to the US Geological Survey, a 5.1 magnitude earthquake was felt in Oklahoma and in seven other states on Saturday.

The Comet That Battered Jupiter, and Shook Congress

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/s19-the-comet-that-battered-jupiter-and-shook-congress/>

NOAA launches unprecedented effort to discover how El Niño affects weather

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2016/020516-noaa-launches-unprecedented-effort-to-discover-how-el-nino-affects-weather.html>

Does a Weakening El Niño Mean a More Dangerous 2016 Atlantic Hurricane Season?

<https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/hurricane-season-2016-after-strong-el-nino>

Integrating ESRI Story Map into Situation Reporting

<https://emweeklryrpt.wordpress.com/2016/02/07/integrating-esri-story-map-into-situation-reporting/>

APNewsBreak: New Mexico to sue EPA over mine spill

FOX13 Memphis

APNewsBreak: New Mexico to sue EPA over mine spill to call it the worst environmental disaster since the 2010 BP **oil spill** in the Gulf of Mexico.

First research links California quakes to oil operations

FOX13 Memphis

3 oil-producing state. ... methane emissions, leading some to call it the worst environmental disaster since the 2010 BP **oil spill** in the Gulf of Mexico.

International News

Twenty years after the Sea Empress disaster wildlife populations have now recovered

WalesOnline

The most enduring image of any **oil spill** is probably the sight of blackened seabirds washed up dead or dying on polluted beaches. Those images ...

20 Years Ago: The Sea Empress Grounding

The Maritime Executive

A further 69,300 tons of heavy fuel oil was lost during the **salvage operation**. The vessel was eventually refloated and taken into port on February 21.

CSCL Indian Ocean Refloated on Spring Tide

Maritime Executive – 2/9/16

German authorities with the Havariekommando (Central Command for Maritime Emergencies) have announced the successful refloat of the stranded container ship *CSCL Indian Ocean*. The attempt began on a spring tide, high relative to recent levels, and with the assistance of 12 tugs with combined bollard pull of over 1,000 tons, she was towed out into the Elbe River's fairway once more.

The refloat began shortly after 0200 hours local time. Her aft section was free by 0206, and by 0220 she was out of the mud. Initial tests found no damage to her steering gear, and authorities said that she was “fully functional.” Tugs from SMIT Salvage, Fairmount and Kotug Offshore participated in the refloat. “We took advantage of each other's expertise and fleet. That was the purpose of the joint salvage contract,” said a spokesman for the firms. In addition to tugs based in Hamburg, the 200-ton bollard pull AHTs *Union Manta* and *Fairmount Expedition* sailed from Dutch ports to join the effort.

Earlier, two Boskalis dredgers removed 65,000 cubic meters of sediment adjacent to the vessel to facilitate her refloat, and lightering vessels removed some 6,000 tons of fuel oil to reduce her draft. Since she went aground on February 3, a total of 26 ships and aircraft worked to monitor and free her, said the Havariekommando. Once refloated, the *Indian Ocean* was escorted to Hamburg, arriving at 0615 hours. As of 1900 hours she was moored at Waltershofer Hafen, according to her AIS data. No pollution has been observed near the *Indian Ocean* since the grounding, authorities say. German maritime officials are still investigating the cause of the incident.

How is Fukushima's cleanup going five years after its meltdown? Not so well.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/five-years-after-nuclear-meltdown-no-one-knows-what-to-do-with-fukushima/2016/02/10/a9682194-c9dc-11e5-b9ab-26591104bb19_story.html

Featured Topic: Oil by Rail

New Study: Philly's Minority Communities at Greatest Risk from Oil Trains

[PennEnvironment](#)

[Philadelphia, PA] A new report today released by ForestEthics, ACTION United and PennEnvironment reveals that Philadelphia's communities of color and low-income communities face disproportionate threats from oil train explosions and pollution when compared with white and higher-income communities. Oil train explosions in the last few years have caused devastating harm, like the 2015 oil train explosion that rocked West Virginia, and the fatal July 2013 Lac Megantic oil train disaster. ...

The train derailment that gushed oil into a Quebec river has spawned a freaky fish

Vice 2/11/16

Two-and-a-half years after a train carrying millions of gallons of crude oil derailed and exploded in the small Quebec town of Lac-Mégantic, scientists are finding deformities in the fish living in nearby rivers.

[31 train cars derail, spill soda ash near American Falls](#)

ABC Local 8 News – 2/10/16

According to the Director of Public Affairs of Union Pacific Nathan Anderson, the railway should be cleared by noon Thursday. Cleaning crews have been working since 7a.m. Wednesday morning until the next day, cleaning and clearing away remaining soda ash and derailed train cars.

Other News

[Are intertidal soft sediment assemblages affected by repeated oil spill events?](#)

ScienceDirect

Oil spills are among the main sources of anthropogenic disturbances in marine environments (Gong et al., 2014 and Tansel, 2014). Despite a ...

[Organizations Call for Ban of Heavy Fuel Oil in Arctic Waters](#)

KNOM.org – 2/12/16

A group of nongovernmental organizations recently sent a letter to the state department calling for a ban on heavy fuel oil, or HFO, in Arctic waters.

[Sempra Plugs Gas Leak as Cost Estimate Rises to \\$250 Million](#)

Bloomberg – 2/11/16

Sempra Energy temporarily plugged a leak near Los Angeles on Thursday from a broken well that had been spewing natural gas for months and is now estimated to cost the utility owner at least \$250 million excluding potential fines.

[Drones that fix pipeline leaks win international acclaim](#)

Imperial Collage London – 2/11/16

The Imperial 'Buildrone' team took first place in the United Arab Emirates' Drones for Good Award for their aerial robot that could 'print' material to seal leaks in pipes. The Imperial team took first place, with a total of more than 1000 entries from across the globe.

[Search for El Faro VDR On Again](#)

Maritime Executive – 2/11/16

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board has announced the launch of a second expedition to search the *El Faro* wreck site with the aim of finding the vessel's voyage data recorder (VDR)

[Establishment of Dispersant Preauthorization Area in Alaska](#)

Federal Register – 2/9/16

On behalf of the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) announces establishment of a more inclusive, comprehensive, and conservative dispersant use policy that includes a preauthorization area and an enhanced protocol for use of chemical dispersant during responses to spills of crude oil in certain waters offshore of Alaska.

Deepwater Horizon Updates

[Trial of Deepwater Horizon Rig Supervisor Begins](#)

MSN.com

Federal prosecutors and lawyers for a **Deepwater Horizon** rig supervisor are ready to tell jurors what they expect to prove. 65-year-old Robert Kaluza ...