

Good morning 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** – Sector Baltimore, 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 – 17 May 2016** – location and time **TBD**.
 - **Sector North Carolina (Coastal North Carolina) Area Committee Meeting – 5 April 2015** - 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**
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- **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** – TBD. Just held **1-3 March, 2016** in Gulfport.
 - **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**.
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- **NEW: National Hurricane Conference, March 21-24, 2016** in Orlando Florida. Go to <http://hurricanemeeting.com/> for more information.
 - **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 Maritime Security TTX – 16 March 2016** – 0900 – 1400 at Clarks landing Yacht Club, Delran, NJ. Contact: Robert Ward for more info (Robert.ward@uscg.mil or (215) 271-4908).
- **Sector Delaware Bay Area Committee / Marine Firefighting Seminar / TTX – 30 March 2016** – at 0900 to 1600 at the Exxon/Mobil Tech Center, 600 Billingsport Road, Paulsboro, NJ 08066. Contact Jerry Conrad for more info (Gerald.a.conrad@uscg.mil or 215-271-4824)
- **Cyber Security Seminar (Sector Del Bay) – 19 April 2016** – from 0800 – 1600 at Sector Delaware Bay, 1 Washington Ave., Philadelphia, PA. Contact: Glenna Tredinnick for more info (glenna.tredinnick@uscg.mil or (215) 271-4800 x4653).

Training / Education Opportunities / Online Opportunities

- **NEW:** Science-based Response to Bitumen Spills in Rivers Webinar: Featuring a presentation by Faith Fitzpatrick, USGS. **Tuesday, March 15th at 1:00 p.m. ET.** **Pre-registration is required for this event.** To register, please click [here](#) and register. Once your registration has been approved, you will receive a confirmation email with instructions for joining the Webinar.
- **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.icrom.org/international-course-on-first-aid-to-cultural-heritage-in-times-of-crisis/>
- **Sector Delaware Bay Mass Rescue Workshop – 9 June 2016** – location and time **TBD.** Contact Jerry Conrad for more info (Gerald.a.conrad@uscg.mil or 215-271-4824).

- **Sector Delaware Bay Military Outload Workshop – 20 July 2016** – location and time **TBD**. Contact: Robert Ward for more info (Robert.ward@uscg.mil or (215) 271-4908).
- **Sector Delaware Bay Coastal Inlet Workshop (surveys) – TBD**. Contact Jerry Conrad for more info (Gerald.a.conrad@uscg.mil or 215-271-4824).
- **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

Pennsylvania Cultural Resilience Network (PaCRN)

The goal of this network is to create a strong network and provide resources for effective emergency response and recovery for cultural institutions in Pennsylvania. Training, relationship-building, and Commonwealth-wide policy development are the primary focus of this two-year initiative. PaCRN is generously funded through an Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant. <http://ow.ly/YhilX> or go to <http://ccaha.org/PaCRN> for more information.

President OKs Disaster Declaration for Maryland Snowstorm

[Associated Press](#)

BALTIMORE — Emergency management officials say President Obama has approved Maryland’s request for a disaster declaration after January’s record-breaking snowstorm.

The Maryland Emergency Management Agency said in a news release that on Friday, Obama ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts for the storm.

Talen Energy's nuclear reactors restored to highest federal rating

By Kurt Bresswein, [Lehigh Valley Live](#)

Allentown-based Talen Energy Corp.'s two nuclear reactors in Pennsylvania were among 14 reactors nationwide with a 2015 performance that was below the highest level possible.

Talen's Susquehanna Units 1 and 2 reactors have resolved their issue, over an interpretation of federal regulations, and are among four of the 14 already restored to the highest-performing level, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Friday.

Norfolk to hold CERT training sessions

[ABC13](#)

NORFOLK, Va. (WVEC) -- Norfolk's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be holding training sessions for volunteers.

The program trains people to help themselves and others in the immediate aftermath of a disaster. Participants of the program also assist with disaster assessment and disaster special needs in their neighborhoods.

[Delaware County to form emergency response team](#)

By Robert Cairns, [Watershed Post](#)

Delaware County is looking to form a team of volunteers to supplement the emergency services provided by fire departments and emergency medical personnel.

Gary Ramsey, a law enforcement instructor at DCMO BOCES in Masonville, gave a presentation on Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) at the Feb. 24 meeting of the Delaware County Board of Supervisors. The county's emergency services director, Steve Hood, said he expects that a resolution to form a CERT will be on the agenda at the board's next meeting.

[Annapolis to receive grant for natural hazard mitigation](#)

[Eye on Annapolis](#)

Annapolis Mayor Michael Pantelides announces the city will receive a grant totaling \$106,612.50 to update the Annapolis Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and enhance the "Weather it Together" program. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant was presented to the city by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

[Living shorelines provide many benefits](#)

By Harrison Jackson, [Delmarva Now](#)

Maryland is a land of transitions, caught between the cold, northern states and the warmer southern states, it ranges from the Appalachian mountains in the west to the salt marshes of the east. While transitions of warm to cold or mountainous to flat are interesting, one area of transition is often overlooked: shorelines and coasts.

These areas mark the boundary between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and perform numerous functions. Maryland alone has more than 7,000 miles of shoreline along the Chesapeake and coastal bays with their winding, bending tributaries. This shoreline habitat is invaluable.

[USA: NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN DERAILS NEAR RIPLEY, NEW YORK; CARS LEAK ETHANOL March 2](#)

Local residents were evacuated from their homes after a train carrying hazardous materials derailed in western New York overnight, causing an unspecified amount of ethanol to leak. More than a dozen cars on the eastbound Norfolk Southern train from Ohio derailed Tuesday night near the town of Ripley. The railway company said the train's two crew members were unharmed and were able to determine that at least one car was leaking ethanol. NBC News [Read more](#)

News for U.S. and Canada

[EPA's chemical oversight a top priority for many in TSCA discussions](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has joined state attorneys general, trade groups and other organizations in drafting guidance for the House and Senate as they work to reconcile their measures for Toxic Substances Control Act reform. The EPA listed preferences for certain aspects of both bills but favored more provisions in the Senate version. In the absence of TSCA reform, public opinion of the US' ability to regulate chemicals has declined in recent years, driving states and retailers to implement their own measures, the American Chemistry Council notes. [Bloomberg BNA \(free content\)](#) (3/3)

[Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha Indians become the first official Climate Refugees](#)

By [Steve Detwiler, FPEM](#)

The Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw just received \$48 million to move off of their disappearing south Louisiana island. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced in January that it had awarded the tribe \$48 million to pay for a move, most likely farther north and inland, making them the first community of official climate refugees in the continental (lower 48) United States. The tribe wants to move as a group as they are rightfully concerned that a dispersal of their people would be the end of their tribe.

[Senate passes higher safety standards for pipelines](#)

The Detroit News

... improve ice cover response plans, and better protect against the devastating impacts an **oil spill** would have on our waterways and our way of life.”.

[Well control study finalized, questioned](#)

Houma Courier

Oil spills into the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010, about 50 miles southeast of Venice, as smoke rises from BP's **Deepwater Horizon** offshore oil rig.

[Committee approves Curbelo bill addressing liability in foreign oil spills](#)

Ripon Advance

The Foreign Spill Protection Act, H.R. 1684, would amend the **Oil Pollution** Act of 1990 (OPA) to ensure that foreign parties are held responsible for all ...

[USA: 'LIQUID FREEDOM' SAILS FROM TEXAS, TILTING POWER IN GLOBAL](#)

February 23 - The sea stretched toward the horizon last New Year's Eve as the Theo T, a red-and-white tug at her side, slipped quietly beneath the Corpus Christi Harbor Bridge in Texas. Few Americans knew she was sailing into history. Inside the Panamax oil tanker was a cargo that some on Capitol Hill had dubbed "Liquid American Freedom" — the first U.S. crude bound for overseas markets after Congress lifted the 40-year export ban. gCaptain [Read more](#)

[USA: AGING TANKS STUDY: 59% OF USTS IN EIGHT STATES ARE +20 YEARS OLD February 29](#)

It seems logical that aging USTs might leak, creating higher risks for state tank funds and private insurers, and ultimately, higher costs for tank owners/operators. However, data available from states is highly variable. Each state has implemented its own UST program and policies. In October 2014, at the request of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Tanks Subcommittee, the ASTSWMO Board of Directors formed a Workgroup to examine issues related to aging underground storage tanks (USTs) and the potential impacts to owners, operators, and State UST programs. The Workgroup's objective was to analyze whether aging UST infrastructure poses a higher risk of leaks. The study, published in October 2015, attempts to respond to these questions: STI + SPFA Tank Talk [Read more](#).

[Sea Grant Announces 50th Anniversary](#)

The National Sea Grant College and Program Act was signed into law in 1966

Thursday, March 03, 2016

By Brooke Carney, National Sea Grant Office

March 2016 marks the start of Sea Grant's 50th anniversary year. In honor of the 50th anniversary, Sea Grant is organizing a year of outreach efforts to highlight how Sea Grant has successfully been "putting science to work for America's coastal communities" for 50 years. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness about the successful approach Sea Grant programs throughout the country use to apply research and community engagement tactics in

order to bring about positive impacts to coastal communities in the areas of healthy coastal ecosystems, resilient communities and economies, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, and environmental literacy and workforce development.

Marine Debris Actively Being Removed from the Gulf Region

Volunteers with the Lake Pontchartrain Foundation and Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program removed hundreds of derelict crab traps from the coastal waters of Louisiana during blue crab season closures on February 13 and 20, 2016, respectively.

FEMA employees preparing for Pacific Northwest earthquake and tsunami.

[CBS News](#) (3/6, 3.97M) posted online coverage of yesterday's "CBS Sunday Morning" cover story, which reported that FEMA employees have "spent years preparing the federal response" to an earthquake and a tsunami in the Pacific Northwest. Quoted in the story was FEMA Region X Administrator Ken Murphy, who stated, "This is an event you send everything to, and scale back down if you don't need it." Video of the cover story accompanies the website coverage. The [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (3/5, 257K) reported that FEMA officials are getting ready for an upcoming megaquake and tsunami preparedness exercise. Murphy, said, "We're going to learn something at every level of government...that will help us figure out better ways to plan for this." The June preparedness exercise is called "Cascadia Rising," according to the News Tribune report, which first appeared in the [Seattle Times](#) (2/27, Doughton, 1.12M).

System may forecast tornadoes 2 to 3 weeks in advance

By Seth Borenstein, [The Virginian Pilot](#)

WASHINGTON (AP) — Researchers say they've come up with a way to predict the likelihood of tornadoes two or three weeks in advance — a step toward better warnings of storms that kill an average of 80 Americans each year. Victor Gensini, a meteorology professor at the College of DuPage outside Chicago, found a link between tornado activity in the United States and complicated atmospheric wave patterns that shift every 40 to 60 days. The pattern is dependable enough that last year he used it to predict overall tornado activity in the nation — and was right 10 out of 15 times.

DOE investigating possible oil spill in Columbia River

Newsradio KPQ -- 3/3/16

The state Department of Ecology continues to investigate what appears to be an oil spill along the western shoreline of the Columbia River.

OGC announces Oil Spill Response Common Operating Picture recommended practice

Directions Magazine – 3/2/16

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) announces that the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) through the Geomatics Committee and IPIECA (the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues) have issued, in cooperation with OGC and Resource Data, Inc., the [OGC IOGP/IPIECA Recommended Practice for a Common Operating Picture for Oil Spill Response](#).

B.C. government to introduce 'world-leading' oil spill response law

CBC.ca – 2/29/16

The B.C. government is set to introduce a new law requiring oil companies to have what it calls a "world-leading" response to oil spills on land — creating a path for industry to meet one of the province's five requirements for heavy oil pipelines.

International News

OGC ANNOUNCES OIL SPILL RESPONSE COMMON OPERATING PICTURE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

March 3

The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) announces that the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) through the Geomatics Committee and IPIECA (the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues) have issued, in cooperation with OGC and Resource Data, Inc., the OGC IOGP/IPIECA Recommended Practice for a Common Operating Picture for Oil Spill Response. This is the final report of the IOGP/IPIECA Joint Industry Project to produce a recommended practice for GIS/Mapping in support of Oil Spill Response and for the use of GIS technology and geospatial information in forming a Common Operating Picture (COP) for management of the response.

Rob Cox, Technical Director, IPIECA, explained, "The report lays the groundwork for coordinated activities by multiple stakeholders that need to come together quickly to respond to a spill. Having the report endorsed as an OGC Best Practice gives it the authority it needs to act as a focal point in support of that coordination. As stated in the report, "Responding to an oil spill requires access to and understanding of many types of information. Effective, coordinated operations for the response are based on a shared, common picture of the situation. Interoperability provides shared situational awareness of the crisis and the response activities. What is needed is a common picture of reality for different organizations that have different views of the spill so that they all can deal with it collectively. Directions Magazine Read more.

EMSA: ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR DECISION MAKING ON THE USE OF DISPERSANTS

EMSA organised a two-day training course for pollution response experts on 3-4 February to present the recently upgraded version of the Dispersant Usage Evaluation Tool- DUET. This software system provides support for decision-making on the use of dispersants when responding to an oil spill, as well as support for contingency planning. The system's three-dimensional numerical model makes it possible to simulate oil spills and the effect of the application of different dispersants. This enables a quantitative comparison of various response options and shows the different levels of effectiveness of the dispersants applied. Among DUET's new features is the ability to simulate a continuous oil release from a seabed blowout, the possibility of simulating and evaluating the effect of subsea dispersant application in addition to the existing surface oil releases. A reference oil database and a document section that includes a number of scientific and technical papers on dispersant usage as well as information on oil weathering and dispersant effectiveness is also part of DUET. The training session was attended by 18 pollution response experts from 15 coastal EU member states, EFTA/EEA coastal states and coastal EU candidate countries. For more information, visit <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/>.

EMSA: OIL SPILL & VESSEL DETECTION - ADDITIONAL SATELLITE SENSORS TO OFFER INCREASED COVERAGE AND IMPROVED SERVICE

The EMSA portfolio of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites and sensors has been expanded recently. In addition to RADARSAT-2, the Agency's portfolio now includes the European Space Agency (ESA) operated satellite Sentinel-1, launched under the EU's Copernicus programme, as well as Airbus's TerraSar-X / TanDEM-X constellation. Data from Sentinel-1 is already being used to provide EMSA's oil spill and vessel detection services (CleanSeaNet) in an economically efficient manner and to provide near real time services over all European waters. TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X will allow the acquisition of high resolution and wide-area radar images, delivering optimised revisit time, increased coverage and improved vessel detection capacity. Source: EMSA Newsletter March 2016.

NEW ZEALAND : MV RENA OWNER ALLOWED TO ABANDON WRECK

The owners of the MV Rena will be able to abandon what remains of the shipwreck on New Zealand's Astrolabe Reef but will need to pay for ongoing costs under a strict court order. The ruling was handed down Friday by panel of Commissioners following a five-week hearing that ended last October to determine whether Rena's owner, Diana Shipping, could abandon the remains of the wreck on the reef or if they should be cleaned up. In the ruling, the Commissioners granted consent to "dump" the remains of the Rena and "discharge" any harmful substances or contaminants from the remains provided the owners pay for the management of the wreck for the next 20 years through a NZ\$6.35 million cash bond set up by the owners and NZ\$5 million from insurer the Swedish Club.

GCaptain Read more

Rena decision shows need for greater protection for oceans

Scoop.co.nz (press release)

"The five day delay in getting oil off the Rena in the first place showed New Zealand needs much greater resources for **oil spill** clean-up, and a clearer ...

Russia's Rosneft reports large oil spill on Sakhalin island

Yahoo News

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Top Russian oil producer Rosneft said on Thursday that around 15 tonnes (110 barrels) of **oil spilled** off from an idled pipeline ...

Fears over Sakhalin oil spill amid contrary claims on size of disaster

The Siberian Times

He added: 'Volunteers informed us about over 300-tons **oil spill** about 700m away from residential area of Ekhabi village. According to our information, ...

UK: WORLD'S BIGGEST FLOATING SOLAR FARM POWERS UP OUTSIDE LONDON February 29

On a vast manmade lake on the outskirts of London, work is nearing completion on what will soon be Europe's largest floating solar power farm – and will briefly be the world's biggest. But few are likely to see the 23,000 solar panels on the Queen Elizabeth II reservoir at Walton-on-Thames, which is invisible to all but Heathrow passengers and a few flats in neighbouring estates. "This will be the biggest floating solar farm in the world for a time - others are under construction," said Angus Berry, energy manager for Thames Water, which owns the site. "We are leading the way, but we hope that others will follow, in the UK and abroad." The Guardian. [Read more.](#)

Featured Topic: Oil by Rail

OUR VIEW: Report again puts spotlight on rail safety

Kenosha News

In response to the increased volume of rail cars carrying **oil**, and after a couple of derailments that **spilled oil**, state Sen. Bob Wirch, D-Somers, ...

First oil flows from Alaska reserve set aside in '23

Associated Press – 3/3/16

Rising from the edgeless, wind-scoured, snow-covered tundra on Alaska's North Slope lies a million-pound drilling rig pulling the first commercial oil from a reserve set aside nearly a century ago.

2 ethanol tankers among 16 derailed train cars in western NY

Associated Press – 3/2/16

Crews worked Wednesday to clear the site of a 16-car Norfolk Southern freight train derailment that forced the evacuation of dozens of western New York homes after ethanol leaked from two tankers.

[Report says Lynchburg oil train derailment could have been prevented](#)

Richmond Times-Dispatch 3/2/16

The derailment of a train carrying highly volatile crude oil in downtown Lynchburg two years ago would not have occurred if CSX Transportation had time to carry out the recommendations of a working group on rail failure accepted two weeks before the accident, a federal safety agency has concluded.

[Trouble on the rails: The U.S. needs better oversight of crude oil cargo](#)

Pittsburgh Post Gazette – 3/1/16

An alarming report issued by the federal Transportation Department's inspector general concluded that regulators are failing to adequately safeguard the nation's freight rail shipments of crude oil and other hazardous cargo.

[NY inspectors find defects in rail line used by oil trains](#)

Bakken.com – 3/1/16

Rail inspectors report examining 215 crude oil tank cars, 190 miles of track and 26 switches, finding four critical defects and 16 others in the latest round of New York inspections.

Other News

[Why Organizations Forget What They Learn from Failures](#)

Harvard Business Review

The occurrence of a serious error — such as a shuttle explosion, a large-scale **oil spill**, or a safety-related product recall — triggers the learning cycle.

[Study: Utica Shale fracking hasn't affected groundwater](#)

Fracking has had no negative environmental impact on Utica Shale groundwater, say the results of a three-year study at the University of Cincinnati. "We haven't seen anything to show that wells have been contaminated by fracking," said lead researcher Amy Townsend-Small. The study results are not being released to the public, but Townsend-Small's presentation can be viewed on YouTube. [The Free Press Standard \(Carrollton, Ohio\)](#) (3/2)

[Lawmakers consider cutting W.Va. gas, coal severance tax](#)

West Virginia lawmakers are considering whether to cut the state's 5% severance tax rates on natural gas and coal companies. A bill before the state Senate would reduce the tax twice, to 4% in July 2017 and to 3% in July 2018. "We believe that it will create jobs and we believe it will put West Virginia at a more competitive advantage," according to Senate Majority Leader Mitch Carmichael. [The State Journal \(Charleston, W.Va.\)](#) (3/1)

Public Health News and Updates - ZIKA

The [Zika Virus Situation Report #4 for March 6](#) is now available at: <http://ow.ly/Z7iHo>

The hard copy of this report is available on our website

at: <https://sites.google.com/site/emergencymanagersweeklyreport/home>

[5 Things You Really Need to Know About Zika](#)

By [PHPR Communications](#) – CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Outbreaks of Zika have been reported in tropical Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and most recently in the Americas. Because the mosquitoes that spread Zika virus are found throughout the world, it is likely that outbreaks will continue to spread. Here are 5 things that you really need to know about the Zika virus.

<http://blogs.cdc.gov/publichealthmatters/2016/02/5-things-you-really-need-to-know-about-zika/>.

[CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response \(PHPR\)](#)

Brazilian experts investigate if 'common mosquito' is transmitting zika virus

Brazil would face an even greater struggle against zika if the common "culex" mosquito is passing on the virus

By Priscilla Moraes, Rio de Janeiro

5:13PM GMT 27 Jan 2016

[Brazil](#) could be facing a greater fight against the zika virus than previously feared as researchers investigate whether the common mosquito is transmitting the disease.

[Interim Guidelines for Prevention of Sexual Transmission of Zika Virus](#) — United States, 2016

Weekly / February 12, 2016 / 65(5);120–121

On February 5, 2016, this report was posted as an MMWR Early Release on the MMWR website

(<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>).

Alexandra M. Oster, MD¹; John T. Brooks, MD¹; Jo Ellen Stryker, PhD¹; Rachel E. Kachur, MPH²; Paul Mead, MD³; Nicki T. Pesik, MD⁴; Lyle R. Petersen, MD³ ([View author affiliations](#))

[View suggested citation](#)

Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus primarily transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes (1,2). Infection with Zika virus is asymptomatic in an estimated 80% of cases (2,3), and when Zika virus does cause illness, symptoms are generally mild and self-limited. Recent evidence suggests a possible association between maternal Zika virus infection and adverse fetal outcomes, such as congenital microcephaly (4,5), as well as a possible association with Guillain-Barré syndrome. Currently, no vaccine or medication exists to prevent or treat Zika virus infection. Persons residing in or traveling to areas of active Zika virus transmission should take steps to prevent Zika virus infection through prevention of mosquito bites (<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/>).

[Washington Post's Report: A Zika Breakthrough: Scientists Detail How Virus Can Attack Fetal Brain](#)

Ruth McClure in [CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response \(PHPR\)](#)

Deepwater Horizon Updates

[BP oil spill damage 'dramatically diminished,' scientists say](#)

NOLA 0 3/2/16

Damage to wetlands, insects and fish along Louisiana's coast from millions of gallons of oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico after the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster is finally on the downswing.

[These ancient shipwrecks hold a hidden message about climate change](#)

By [Chris Mooney](#) March 7 at 3:11 PM

Inventive [new research](#) has found a surprising way of investigating the relationship between hurricanes and climate change — by examining the history of Spanish shipwrecks in the Caribbean Sea during a planetary cool period in the late 17th and 18th century.