

Good Friday afternoon everyone -

Here is the news for Region 3 (and beyond) for this week. It's been a busy news week indeed.

*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

## Region 3 News

### VDEM Sponsored Incident Command System (ICS) Courses & Training Calendar

Apr 13, 2016 04:58 pm | Anonymous

The courses below are local ICS classes taught by VDEM authorized instructors for their agencies or... [VDEM Sponsored Incident Command System \(ICS\) Courses & Training Calendar](#).

### [Pa. agency seeks commission approval for gas drilling rules rejected by legislature](#)

An independent commission may approve proposed surface regulations for natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania even though the state's General Assembly has rejected them. John Quigley, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, expressed confidence that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission will approve the rules. "These regulations have been written with an unprecedented amount of public participation. The final regulation package is the result of all public input provided, as well as the department's experience with both conventional and unconventional oil and gas activities," he said.

[SNL Financial \(free content\)](#) (4/13)

### Delaware Beaches Will Be Narrower This Summer Due To Storms

[Associated Press](#)

REHOBOTH, Del. (AP) – Delaware beachgoers can expect narrower beaches this summer due to storms and high tides.

The News Journal reports (<http://delonline.us/1S6Bbep>) two nor'easters have affected Delaware beaches – one in early October, and a second hit in January with near-hurricane force winds, record-setting high tides and waves as tall as two-story buildings.

In a normal 3-year maintenance cycle, Delaware beaches receive an infusion of 360,000 cubic yards of sand a year. Army Corps spokesman Stephen Rochette says this year, an estimated 704,000 cubic yards is needed. He says it's unknown when sand pumping could start or whether there will be enough money to replace the additional sand lost. Last month, Sen. Tom Carper asked corps officials if they could use money left over from Hurricane Sandy projects to help with coastal storm damage.

## News for U.S. and Canada

### Sinking Atlantic Coastline Meets Rapidly Rising Seas

By John Upton, [Scientific American](#)

The 5,000 North Carolinians who call Hyde County home live in a region several hundred miles long where coastal residents are coping with severe changes that few other Americans have yet to endure.

Geological changes along the East Coast are causing land to sink along the seaboard. That's exacerbating the flood-inducing effects of sea level rise, which has been occurring faster in the western Atlantic Ocean than elsewhere in recent years.

## [El Niño Is Ending, Suggesting An Average Hurricane Season Is Ahead](#)

[Baltimore Sun](#)

Meteorologists expect the El Niño climate pattern that has been influencing weather around the globe for the past year to end by summer – and that could bring an uptick in hurricane activity.

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center in College Park said Thursday it expects a transition from El Niño to La Niña in the second half of the year. While El Niño is known to suppress hurricane activity, La Niña can do the opposite.

## [New federal offshore rules issued, chem board says more needed](#)

[The Associated Press](#) (4/14)

Offshore oil and natural gas drilling faces tighter rules on blowout preventers issued Thursday by the Interior Department, but another federal agency said even more regulation is needed to make the industry safe. An American Petroleum Institute spokesman said the organization is still reviewing the impact of Interior's final rules. The US Chemical Safety Board this week recommended tighter standards that include more involvement for offshore workers in safety decisions.

## [U.S. offshore oil and gas industry under microscope](#)

[UPI.com](#)

Almost six years to the day after the disaster at the **Deepwater Horizon** rig in the Gulf of Mexico, the government said it was enacting a number of ...

## [Chemical Safety Board to Hold April 20 Business Meeting in Washington, D.C.](#)

Washington, DC, April 15, 2016, - The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) will hold [a public business meeting](#) on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. The Board will discuss the status of open investigations; an update on audits from the Office of the Inspector General; financial and organizational updates; a review of the agency's action plan; and a calendared notation item related to recommendations from the 2002 study on Improving Reactive Hazard Management. The meeting will be held at the CSB's offices located at 1750 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 910, Washington, DC, 20009 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

## [New USCG Equipment Rule for Vessels Carrying Oil](#)

[MarineLink](#)

The U.S. Coast Guard has finalized an interim rule that requires vessels carrying **oil** in bulk as cargo to carry discharge removal equipment, install **spill** ...

## [Overnight Energy: Obama issues sweeping offshore drilling rule](#)

[The Hill](#)

NEW OFFSHORE STANDARDS MADE FINAL: The Obama administration rolled out a package of new offshore drilling rules Thursday meant to ...

## [Stricter offshore drilling rules upset industry; 'bad news for Louisiana,' Sen. David Vitter says](#)

The New Orleans Advocate

The federal government has set up a security zone around the wreckage site of the **Deepwater Horizon** drilling rig, which lies on the sea floor about 50 ...

### **South Dakota: Keystone Pipeline Spill Nearly 100 Times Bigger Than Originally Estimated**

<http://snip.ly/1hcvy> The fossil fuel company said the “potential volume” of the spill in Freeman, discovered by a passerby on Saturday, was about 18,600 gallons, or 400 barrels. That estimate comes just days after TransCanada initially claimed the spi...

### **Oil response training keeps fishermen prepared for a spill**

KTVA.com - Alaska News and Weather

It was a busy day on Resurrection Bay as fishermen took a break from their daily catch to practice techniques to respond to an **oil spill**. “We have two ...

### **EPA, Other Agencies Seek More Careful Review of Oil Pipeline**

ABC News

He questioned the corps' draft assessment conclusion that says there is minimal risk of an **oil spill** to water resources, noting the pipeline crosses the ...

### **EPA required to hide identities of chemical plants that violate safety protocols**

The Environmental Protection Agency is required to conceal the identity of chemical plants that may be in violation of safety regulations under the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program. The EPA can share information with other government agencies, but not the public -- even after the facilities are cleared from the CFATS program. Observers question whether this policy actually protects national security, and they note it prevents the EPA and public from recognizing plants that become compliant.

### **USCG - 2016 NPREP Guidelines**

*Bryant Maritime Newsletter – 4/7/17*

The USCG Office of Marine Environmental Response (CG-MER) issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin announcing release of the 2016 National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) Guidelines.

### **FEMA SEEKS COMMENTS ON THE REFRESHED NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

April 8, 2016

Today, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the refreshed National Incident Management System (NIMS) for a 30-day National Engagement Period. National engagement provides an opportunity for interested parties to comment on the draft of the refreshed NIMS, so that it reflects the collective expertise and experience of the whole community. **The National Engagement Period will conclude at 5:00 pm EDT May 9, 2016.**

To review the draft of the refreshed NIMS and for additional webinar information, visit:

<https://www.fema.gov/national-incident-management-system/national-engagement>. To provide comments on the draft, complete the feedback form and submit it to [FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NIMS@fema.dhs.gov).

### **Scientists Study Microbes on Gulf of Mexico Shipwrecks**

Archaeology

According to an article in Live Science, they said that an estimated 30 percent of the **oil** from the **spill** was deposited in the deep sea, where there are ...

### **The US Chemical Safety Board (CSB) recently released the final report of their investigation into the catastrophic explosion involving ammonium nitrate fertilizer in West, TX,**

On April 17, 2013 during a fire at a fertilizer storage and distribution centre, a town was devastated when about 30 tons of fertilizer grade ammonium nitrate (FGAN), from a stored total of 40-60 tons, exploded. Read more: <http://www.csb.gov/csb-board-approves-the-west-fertilizer-company-report-and-recommendations-with-a-unanimous-vote/>

### **OSHA Extending Comment Period on Guidance for Determining Potential Health Hazards of Chemicals**

OSHA is extending to May 2 the comment period for its draft Guidance on Data Evaluation for Weight of Evidence Determination. The agency published the draft on February 16 and received requests to extend the comment period, to allow stakeholders more time to review this highly technical guidance and respond constructively to the questions posed. For more information and to review the draft guidelines and provide comment, [visit OSHA's Guidance on Data Evaluation for Weight of Evidence Determination webpage](#). Comments may also be posted [directly](#), using Docket OSHA-2016-004.

## **International News**

### **[Scientists: Greenland Ice Sheet's Melting Freakishly Early](#)**

*R&D – 4/13/16*

Greenland's massive ice sheet this week started melting freakishly early thanks to a weather system that brought unseasonably warm temperatures and rain, scientists say.

### **[IMO Readies Guide on Spill Response in Ice](#)**

*The Maritime Executive*

**oil spill** Hylje Finnish **oil spill** response vessel using an over-the- side brush bucket on a hydraulic arm to recover oily bilge pumped illegally into the ...

## **Featured Topic: Oil by Rail**

### **[Vegetable oils stay in Washington's rail safety rule](#)**

*Capital Press – 4/13/16*

Washington Department of Ecology has affirmed it plans to put new rules on rail tankers carrying vegetable oils, though they will not be as strict as those for crude oil tankers.

### **[Human error blamed in train derailment, ethanol spill on Mississippi River](#)**

*Journal Sentinel - 4/10/16*

Human error caused a train derailment in November that sent more than 20,000 gallons of ethanol into the Mississippi River in Wisconsin, according to a BNSF Railway report.

## [Washington state solicits input on crude-by-rail rules, coal facility](#)

Progressive Rail Roading

In the event of an **oil spill**, the department would share the information with ... planning requirements for railroads that transport crude or refined oil.

## Other News

### [How Cleveland and Philadelphia Are Gearing Up for the Conventions](#)

By Jennifer Hansler, [ABC News](#)

The Republican and Democratic National Conventions are less than four months away, and it's not just the candidates who are getting ready.

Both host cities are sprucing up their streets and stepping up their security in advance of the nominating conventions. But the prospect of hosting tens of thousands of delegates, elected officials, media, volunteers and curious visitors is no small undertaking.

### [Solar Storm Researchers Prepare for the 'Big One' with New Urgency](#)

The specter of a geomagnetic solar storm with the ferocity to disrupt communications satellites, knock out GPS systems, shut down air travel and quench lights, computers and telephones in millions of homes for days, months or even years has yet to grip the public as a panic-inducing possibility.

But it is a scenario that space scientists, global insurance corporations and government agencies from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to NASA to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) take seriously, calling it a "low probability but high-impact event" that merits a substantial push on several fronts: research, forecasting and mitigation strategy. Read more:

<http://www.njit.edu/features/sceneandheard/space-weather-initiative.php>.

### [New Mexico drilling regulators present spill allegations](#)

Midland Reporter-Telegram

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico oil field regulators are providing evidence that a Texas-based driller **spilled** oily salt water repeatedly at ...

### [Measuring What People Lose When Oil Spills Harm Nature](#)

NOAA Newsletter— April 2016

After an oil spill, NOAA studies the impacts to animals and plants, but we also measure the direct impacts to people's use of nature, including fishing, boating, and birding. Find out how our economists measure these impacts and calculate the dollars needed to make up for them. [Read more.](#)

### [In the Empty Arctic, How to Get the Job Done? With A Drone.](#)

National Geographic — 4/14/16

It's hard to say what the 2,000-pound bull [Steller sea lion](#) hauled out on a rocky shore in the far western Aleutians thought about the strange object hovering 150 feet above him. An odd bird? The world's largest mosquito?

### [South Dakota Oil Spill Reveals Major Pipeline Problems](#)

Time — 4/14/16

States with tar sands pipelines are dealing with lousy leak-detection systems, toxic and difficult-to-clean spills and pitiful tax revenues

## **Tar Balls Wash Up Along Newport Beach Coastline**

*Patch.com – 4/14/16*

Globs of tar are washing up on Orange County beaches this week. Authorities attribute the petroleum globs from natural sources as there have been no oil spills reported in the area.

## **How Might Oil Spills Affect Baleen Whales?**

*NOAA Newsletter – April 2016*

Several days of unseasonably warm weather in late September had Gary Shigenaka starting to wonder how much longer he and his colleagues would be welcome at [Ohmsett](#), a national oil spill research facility in New Jersey.

## **Last fall's massive Icy Bay landslide launched a megatsunami**

*Alaska Dispatch News– 4/9/14*

A landslide last fall caused a giant wave not seen in Alaska since a storied 1958 event in Lituya Bay.

## **This week in the Arctic: Is the Arctic ready for this massive cruise ship?**

*Anchorage Daily News – 4/8/16*

As the planned sailing of the 1,000-passenger cruise ship Crystal Serenity through the Northwest Passage draws closer, coverage of the voyage has increased -- with a focus on whether the infrastructure currently in place could handle a disaster, should one befall the ship.

## **Public Health Updates**

### **Task Force Prepares Zika Action Plan**

By Katie Demeria, [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#)

With mosquito season looming, state officials are on high alert to respond to new cases of the Zika virus and prepare Virginia for a rapid response to a potential outbreak.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe called for the creation of a Zika Task Force in February, and on Thursday the group met to discuss the ongoing creation of a Zika Action Plan for the commonwealth.

So far, 11 Virginians have been infected with Zika, which is spread through mosquitoes and sexual activity. All those cases were related to the patients' travels outside the United States. There have not yet been any cases of a Virginia resident contracting Zika from a local mosquito.

### **Health Officials Split Over Advice On Pregnancy In Zika Areas**

By Donald G. McNeil, [New York Times](#)

As the Zika virus bears down on the United States, federal health officials are divided over a politically and ethically charged question: Should they advise American women to delay pregnancy in areas where the virus is circulating? Some infectious disease experts are arguing that avoiding conception is the only sure way to prevent the births of deformed babies, according to outside researchers who serve on various advisory panels.

### **CDC Identifies First Male-To-Male Transmission Of Zika Virus**

By Kimberly Leonard, [US News & World Report](#)

Health officials on Thursday announced they have documented the first case of the mosquito-borne Zika virus being transmitted from one man to another man during sex.

The public health division in Dallas reported that a man who traveled to Venezuela, where Zika is spreading, returned to the U.S. after contracting the virus and spread it to his male partner of more than 10 years. The findings suggest that health officials are likely to update their recommendations to all men who may have been exposed to Zika to use condoms during sex.

### **Zika Virus Confirmed As Cause Of Rare Microcephaly Birth Defect, CDC Says**

By Gillian Mahoney And Julie Barzilay, [ABC News](#)

The Zika virus has been confirmed to cause a rare birth defect called microcephaly and other severe problems of the brain, according to a new report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health officials across the globe have suspected for months a link between the virus and the birth defect, characterized by an abnormally small head and brain. Officials said today the evidence is overwhelming that exposure to virus in utero causes the birth defect.

### **From The Lancet: Zika Virus Associated Deaths In Colombia**

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099%2816%2930006-8/fulltext#.VwhSNAT2gWY.linkedin>

### **From The New York Times: In A Remote Ugandan Lab, Encounters With The Zika Virus And Mosquitoes Decades Ago**

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

**Rival scientists are now working together to sequence the genome of the mosquito that carries Zika:** [b-gat.es/22oBENI](http://b-gat.es/22oBENI) via [@nytimes](#)

### **New NIOSH Web Resources on Zika**

NIOSH recently released an updated [mosquito-borne](#) disease topic page that includes information for workers and employees on the risk of such diseases, including [Zika](#).

## **Deepwater Horizon Updates**

### **The U.S. Chemical Safety Board's Investigation into the Macondo Disaster Finds Offshore Risk Management and Regulatory Oversight still Inadequate in Gulf of Mexico**

Washington, DC, April 13, 2016 - Offshore regulatory changes made thus far do not do enough to place the onus on industry to reduce risk, nor do they sufficiently empower the regulator to proactively oversee industry's efforts to prevent another disaster like the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion and oil spill at the Macondo well in the Gulf of Mexico, an independent investigation by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) warns.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the Executive Summary

[CLICK HERE](#) to view Volume 3

[CLICK HERE](#) to view Volume 4

## [Six Years after BP Oil Spill Began, Gulf Residents Gather to Address Human Health Conditions](#)

...

eNews Park Forest

On April 20th, 5:00–8:00 PM Central time, residents of six states along the Gulf Coast will gather for the sixth anniversary of the BP **Oil Spill** and ...

## [New Oceana Report Highlights Long-Term Impacts of Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster](#)

Oceana

WASHINGTON – Today, Oceana released a new report titled “Time for Action: Six Years After **Deepwater Horizon**” that highlights the long-term ...

## [Six years after BP spill, U.S. sets new offshore oil safety rules](#)

*Grand Forks Herald* – 4/14/16

The Obama administration on Thursday unveiled new oil well control rules to prevent the kind of blowout that happened six years ago on a BP Plc <BP.L> rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

## [Baby dolphin deaths linked to oil spill](#)

*Boston NPR* - 4/13/16

The explosion of the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig and the consequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico occurred six years ago, but researchers continue to tally its consequences.

## [Study Links Infant Dolphin Deaths to GoM Spill](#)

The Maritime Executive

"As part of an investigation into the potential impact of the . . . **oil spill**, health assessments conducted during August 2011 on live [mature] dolphins ...

## [\\$20.8 billion settlement marks end of government litigation against BP](#)

*Louisiana Record* – 4/9/16

BP will pay a \$20.8 billion settlement for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico after a federal judge gave final approval on April 4. “The approval of this agreement will open a final, hopeful chapter in the six-year story of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy,” said Attorney General Loretta Lynch in a public statement.

## [Jellyfish become unintended victims of oil spill mitigation](#)

FIU News

On the left is an unstressed moon jellyfish (immature stage) exposed to water-only control. On the right is a severely stressed moon jellyfish (immature ...

## [Diving deep, student examines crustacean life after an oil spill](#)

FIU News

Laura Timm is taking a closer look at what life is like for nine species of crustaceans six years after the Deepwater Horizon **oil spill** in the Gulf of Mexico ...