



EARTHQUAKE!



By Carl Childs
Division Chief,
Marine
Environmental
Protection Division

And now for something completely different . . .

The Coast Guard has earned the respect of the American public with our exemplary response to hurricanes, floods, terrorist attacks, and oil spills. Next up – earthquakes!

The next Spills of National Significance (SONS) drill is scheduled to take place in June 2007 and will exercise the response to a series of major earthquakes in the New Madrid Seismic Zone centered in south eastern Missouri. The quakes will lead to numerous HAZMAT releases along the Mississippi River system and a major oil spill in the Great Lakes. In addition to oil and hazmat response plans, the exercise will test earthquake response plans in the area.

quakes in 1811 and 1812 centered in southeastern Missouri. Because of substantial differences in the underlying geology, earthquakes in this region can transmit their destructive energy much farther than earthquakes in California. The 1811-12 quakes were felt as far away as Charleston, SC and Washington, DC. Should a quake occur in this area again, the consequences will be devastating.

The SONS program is mandated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA90) and requires that we respond to a release of >100,000 gal and affecting 2+ states or crossing an international boarder. The pipeline breaks, hazmat releases and

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water supply issues that would result from a quake in this region would dramatically eclipse those requirements.

In addition to addressing USCG and EPA exercise requirements under OPA90, this exercise will test FEMA's Catastrophic Planning Initiative. The first 72 hours of the drill will be done in continuous clock movement to test logistics and contracting capabilities with the primary objective of testing response plans and agreements. Following the first 3 days, there will be a 3-day table top exercise focusing on long term consequence management. Hazmat response, communications, transportation and evacuation are among the major capabilities that will be exercised in the drill.

The drill will be conducted across 10 states and multiple federal agencies will participate. The primary federal participants will be USCG, FEMA and EPA. Although many others may be involved – NOAA, DHS, CDC, ATSDR, HHS, HUD, USPS, USGS, GSA, DOT, USACOE, OSHA, Veterans Affairs, National Guard, Army, Navy, Air Force, NORTHCOM, the American Petroleum Institute, several private response companies, and a couple of universities.

The Auxiliary is increasingly recognized as a critical element of Coast Guard surge capacity and will be called upon to assist with this drill and exercise our ability to deploy needed assets in a timely and efficient manner. SONS represents a terrific opportunity for us to further develop our deployment mechanisms. Auxiliarists may be tasked to support the Incident Command System in any number of ways including: helping to set up the

Command post, manning check-in desks and associated resources functions, controlling access and escorting visitors, assisting logistics with food and supplies, providing communications for response workers, assisting pollution investigators and responders, transporting responders and backfill of active duty positions vacated for direct response.

Be on the look out for more information on SONS over the next several months.

WEBLINKS OF INTEREST

Link to the "M" Department:
<http://auxmdept.org/links.htm>

Link to the Safety Lines Library:
http://www.auxmdept.org/main_safety_lines_news.htm

**Assistance Needed
National Maritime Center
Ballston Commons, Alexandria, VA**

The M Department has received a request for assistance in recruiting a qualified and committed Auxiliarist to provide assistance to the National Maritime Center Reorganization Team as described in the following announcement.

**Assistance needed
National Maritime Center
Ballston Commons, Arlington, VA**

The National Maritime Center is in the process of reorganizing, centralizing, and relocating to Martinsburg, WV. In conjunction, each of 17 Regional Examination Centers will be reorganized. The Implementation Team charged with executing this plan recognizes the need for a very systematic and logical project plan to manage the myriad tasks. The tasks include:

- personnel actions to move people within the Coast Guard military and civilian personnel system,
- financial actions to amend budgets to account for reorganization,
- contracting issues for shifting operations,
- logistics issues involved with outfitting two temporary buildings, and
- construction and outfitting of a new building.

The NMC is in the process of hiring a project manager but that project manager will not be available until at least late in the summer of 2006. The first temporary space will be occupied August 1, 2006. Some people from New Orleans and some contractors will occupy that temporary space in Martinsburg.

The second phase will also involve temporary space expected November 1, 2006. The new building to house the NMC will be contracted for August 1, 2006 with construction to be completed by August 2007.

Needless to say this is a complex operation that needs experienced personnel to monitor the capture the project plan.

Searching for experience project manager to assist the National Maritime Center in managing the project plan.

Work location: Washington, DC area although remote work is possible after a time

Contact: Mike Rosecrans mrosecrans@comdt.uscg.mil

This is a unique opportunity for the Auxiliary to make an important and long-lasting contribution in support of the Coast Guard. You can make a difference.



Master Chief Linda Reid takes a novel approach to her views on Ocean Literacy. She will be retiring soon and Chief Michelle Birchfield (mbirchfield@comdt.uscg.mil) will be taking over administration of the Sea Partners program.

Sea Partners Campaign

By Master Chief Linda Reid

WHAT IS OCEAN LITERACY?

Strange as it seems, many U.S. Citizens have never seen an ocean and have no idea of how the world's oceans affect their daily lives. Most states in the U.S. do not provide or even offer Earth Science (including ocean studies) as a high school graduation requirement.

Are Americans illiterate when it comes to understanding the ocean? And what exactly does that mean for the future of our country and the world?

A consortium of organizations concerned about this issue – including

“Saving the Sea from People and People from the Sea”

the National Geographic Society, NOAA, the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) and the National Marine Educators Association – have developed a definition of ocean literacy:

Ocean literacy is an understanding of the ocean's influence on you ~ and your influence on the ocean.

This group believes there are seven essential principles and fundamental concepts that people must understand about the ocean:

1. The Earth has one big ocean with many features.
2. The ocean and life in the ocean shape the features of Earth.
3. The ocean is a major influence on weather and climate.
4. The ocean makes Earth habitable.
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably linked.
7. The ocean is largely unexplored.

NOAA together with other federal partners and the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy recently sponsored a Conference on Ocean Literacy featuring such distinguished speakers as Dr. Sylvia Earle, Jean-Michel Cousteau,

Sen. Thad Cochran and Dr. Bob Ballard (via satellite link from his current exploration in the Aegean Sea).

Many speakers pointed out the urgency of getting more students interested in science as a career by giving them a memorable hands-on experience in their youth that piques their interest in the ocean and ocean issues.

Many of the speaker presentations are available at this website for further study:

<http://www.nmsfocean.org/chow2006/col.html#1> .



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