

Southern Towing Company

Newsletter

March 2011

NPDES Inspections

The Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) inspections are required weekly. Both the boat and barge inspections can be completed on the same form. Be sure to fax a copy of the completed form to the office and keep the original on the boat. If you have any questions contact Mike Slack.

Coast Guard Enforcement

EPA is the enforcement agency for the NPDES. Usually we do not see EPA representatives on our vessels. In an effort to eliminate redundancy, the Coast Guard and EPA have agreed that the Coast Guard will verify compliance with the EPA requirements whenever they board any boats. So, it is important to complete the inspections and maintain the records of those inspections for a period of three years. The inspection records need to be available during any Coast Guard boarding. It is also important that all crewmembers have had training in the Best Management Practices.

Random Drug Testing

Coast Guard regulations require us to conduct post-accident and random drug tests during the year. In 2010 those tests resulted in five positive tests; one captain, one ammonia tankerman and three deckhands. As required by regulation we reported the two individuals with a license or merchant mariner's document to the Coast Guard. All five were terminated from Southern Towing Company's employment.

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is the responsibility of the boat and barge crews. If you see

any liquid on deck or around an engine clean it up. If you have a bucket of used oil, dispose of it properly; don't leave it on deck. If you are transferring oil from the boat to a barge, a fuel flat or within the boat pay attention. When handling oil that is your only duty. Do not try to do other things at the same time.

Health Insurance

If you have a "Lifestyle Event Change" that affects your health insurance, you have 30 days to notify Southern Towing Company. If you don't notify us within 30 days you will not be able to make a change until the plan's next open enrollment period. Open enrollment is held every August. Lifestyle changes include marriage, divorce, birth or adoption of a child, loss or gain of other coverage, loss of eligibility of a dependent, or changing from part time to full time. If you have any questions contact Paula.

HAZMAT Training

Congratulations to Bill Stegbauer, Larry Tilley, Tony Condy, Lee Courville, Roy Victory, Phil Payton, Dave Gallaher, Mike Slack, Frank Hollomon, Chris Hughes, Mitchell Meek, and Tommy McCoin for recently completing an 8 hour refresher course in hazardous waste operations and response.

5-2-1-0

For a healthier lifestyle try **5** fruits and/or veggies a day, limit TV, video games, computer time, etc. to **2** hours a day, exercise **1** hour a day and drink **0** sugary drinks like soda and sports drinks.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Larry Scott, Daniel Salley and Eric Raborn for recently receiving the Coast Guard Meritorious

Public Service Award. While serving on the M/V Capt. Sam Yount they assisted the M/V Marie Henderick who had lost power. The current was pushing her tow of 35 barges toward the Dupont Dock in Memphis. According to Dupont personnel, "Had the Capt. Sam Yount not acted so quickly and with such precision the M/V Marie Henderick would have struck our dock." Well Done and congratulations!

Food Safety

- Watch for expiration dates, particularly on perishable goods,
- Order only quantities that you'll use before the next order is filled,
- Watch for proper color, texture and overall appearance of foods,
- Don't accept food items in damaged containers.

After receiving groceries, check for signs of spoilage or tampering. Keep frozen items frozen and refrigerated items refrigerated. If in doubt, throw it out.

Service Awards

Congratulations to Kurt Haas, Lonnie King, Billy Ridgell, Chris Buchanan, Tim Hudgins and Tony Pixley for completing 5 years of service, to Mike Ingram and Phillip Lambert for completing 10 years of service, to and Kevin Carrone for completing 15 years of service, and to Captain Dickie Sides for completing 40 years of service with Southern Towing Company.

Don't Leave Home Without It

Don't leave home without your TWIC card. You will be sent home without pay. It is your responsibility to bring your TWIC card with you to work. They are required on out tows. If you have a Merchant Mariner's Credential (license or MMD) you must have those too.

Keep Bilges Clean

Now that our boats are becoming Coast Guard inspected it is more important than ever to keep our bilges clean. The Coast Guard will expect to find bilges free of oil, trash and any other debris. If your bilges are dirty, start cleaning them out today.

USCG Bridging Program

The Coast Guard has begun to inspect our boats under a "Bridging Program". The purpose is to prepare our crews and boats for the pending inspection program. They are determining if we are in compliance with existing regulations. Once we successfully complete the inspection process they are issuing a decal to place in the wheelhouse window. To date the M/V Frank T. Stegbauer, M/V Arne Christiansen, M/V Scott Stegbauer, M/V David Stegbauer, M/V Kevin Conway, and the M/V Dennis Collins have been issued stickers. Phil Payton is spearheading this process for Southern Towing Company.

Security Test

During each Coast Guard inspection of our boats under the Bridging Program

the Coast Guard has been conducting a security test of the crew. They sometimes conduct a drill and ask crewmembers questions to be sure we know and follow the security regulations. Be sure to have your TWIC card, know the VSO, know the CSO, know the MARSEC Level, and know your responsibilities. If you don't know any of these items talk to your boat Captain.



USCG Light List

2011 Light List Volume IV Gulf of Mexico has been distributed to the boats. If you did not receive one, contact Mike Slack.

Fire Drills

"The master or person in charge of a vessel must ensure that each crewmember participates in drills and receives instruction at least once each month." (46 CFR 27.209(a)) This is the regulation that requires monthly fire drills. The responsibility is that of the master or person in charge. It is not the responsibility of the vessel owner. During Coast Guard inspections of our boats they are asking for evidence of fire drills. They will be requiring a drill to be conducted as part of the inspection process. If you have a fire on board you need to be trained to extinguish it quickly. If there is not evidence of fire drills after a crew change as well as once a month or if the crew is not trained the Coast Guard will hold the master responsible. It's your license. It's your job. It's for your safety. Hold fire drills and train crewmembers.