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minutes for questions and answers.

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CIT releases digital radiography training course schedule

Computerised Information Technology (CIT), the Milton Keynes-based manufacturer of advanced imaging, digital radiography, Enterprise computer and archiving systems, has published a timetable of its 2010 digital radiography training courses.

The schedule includes digital radiography training Levels I and II to ASNT, EN473, EN4179 and ISO9712 to be held in June, July and October, digital computed radiography interpretation training, Level III (June and

August) and radiographic film digitisation and archiving, Level I, which is held on demand.

A number of other useful courses are included in the programme, including flaw depth, material loss and profile digital radiography, corrosion and conditioning and radiograph mathematical modeller/NDT inspection planning.

There is also a series covering specific application areas of computed radiography, including casting inspection and aerospace. Each of these courses is a two-day

duration and minimum training and experience of digital radiography is required. Demand dictates when these courses are held.

To be eligible for all courses, candidates must be trained and experienced conventional radiographers and computer literate. All training is conducted in English and training terms and conditions apply.

For further information and to obtain a copy of the course timetable, email info@cituk.com and visit www.cituk-online.com, CIT's website.

The two biggest catastrophes that BP will have to deal with are the environment and also the fishing industry. The two go hand-in-hand, as the oil can negatively impact sea life. In addition, the disaster could extend all the way up the East Coast, as some of the oil is said to have got into the loop current, and therefore could go out to the Keys and possibly to the East Coast.

The BP oil spill clean-up and containment efforts are continuing around the clock. At least now we have some evidence that there are some positive improvements in clean-up efforts.

What do these three events have in common with non-destructive testing? Earthquakes and volcanoes are natural disasters. Oil spills and oil-rig explosions are man-made disasters.

Volcano prediction is a well-advanced scientific process. Safety decisions about the effects of volcanic ash on jet airplane engines is largely based on the following incident.

British Airways Flight 9 was a scheduled British Airways flight from London Heathrow to Auckland, with stops in Bombay, Madras, Kuala Lumpur, Perth and Melbourne. On 24 June 1982, the aircraft flew into a cloud of volcanic ash thrown up by the eruption of Mount Galunggung, resulting in the failure of all four engines. The reason for the failure was not immediately apparent to the crew or ground control. The aircraft was able to glide far enough to exit the ash cloud and all engines were restarted (although one failed again soon after), allowing the aircraft to land safely.

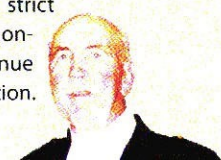
Sir Richard Branson triggered a furious row with aviation officials after branding the latest volcanic ash airport closures as "beyond a joke". He lashed out after huge swathes of British airspace were shut down, causing misery for millions.

"All the test flights by aircraft and engine manufacturers have shown no evidence airlines could not continue to fly completely safely. Over a thousand flights took off from France in similar conditions without any problems or showing any levels of ash concentration."

British Airways also waded in, describing it as "overly restrictive" and "not justified". They said that airlines should decide if it was safe to fly in ash spewing from Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano: "British Airways has operated for years in areas of volcanic activity and we believe airlines are best placed to take a final decision. Safety will always be our priority."

There is a huge opportunity for the scientific community to resolve this issue. At what height do concentrations of dust affect engines? What concentration of dust is dangerous? How can you design a dust filter to avoid the problem?

Earthquake prediction is much less reliable or indeed existent. A one-minute earthquake warning is considered possible within the next few years. Much good that will do you in a Haiti-style earthquake! Seismic construction is an entirely different matter. California has introduced strict seismic requirements which cover materials, design, construction and non-destructive testing. Counties with a history of corruption and bribery will continue to wink at the use of under-strength materials, sloppy design and poor construction. The tools are available; ignoring them is a cynical disregard for human life. Then there are man-made disasters like the explosion, fire and subsequent oil



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To find out more, contact the Membership Secretary at The British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing