



16463

10 February 1999

Subj: CONTROLLED BURN DECISION

1. The FCSC, RP, and Salvor have determined that the M/V NEW CARISSA is a constructive total loss. They also concur that there is a strong possibility that the vessel will break up in an impending storm tonight and that this would result in a release of almost all oil product aboard. Weather forecasts indicate a powerful storm is descending on the North Bend, Oregon area this evening. Lightering by sea or shore based equipment is not practical or safe due to the sea conditions and vessel movement. Removal of the vessel by towing would in all probability result in a total release of oil aboard due to hull failure.
2. The undersigned concur that the last best chance to prevent a near total release of oil into the sea and onto the shore is to attempt a controlled burn aboard the stricken vessel today. Although this effort may not be fully successful, it is worth attempting given the lack of other viable alternatives and impending break up of the vessel.


CAPT. MICHAEL J. HALL, USCG-FCSC
LT. J. M. WALLACE, RPSC
State On Scene Coordinator 00 EQ