

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**Form 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): May 27, 2011**

**Kirby Corporation**

*(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)*

**Nevada**

*(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)*

**1-7615**

*(Commission File Number)*

**74-1884980**

*(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)*

**55 Waugh Drive, Suite 1000**

**Houston, Texas**

*(Address of principal executive offices)*

**77007**

*(Zip Code)*

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code:**

**(713) 435-1000**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On May 27, 2011, the Board of Directors of Kirby Corporation (“Kirby”) increased the size of the Board from 9 to 10 members and filled the newly created vacancy by electing Richard J. Alario to serve as a Class I director until the Annual Meeting of Stockholders in 2014. Mr. Alario is Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Key Energy Services, Inc., an oilfield service company based in Houston, Texas and listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Mr. Alario will receive the standard compensation for directors under Kirby’s Nonemployee Director Compensation Program, including an automatic grant, on the date of his election as a director, of an option to purchase 10,000 shares of Kirby common stock. The option vests immediately and has a term of ten years and an exercise price equal to the fair market value of Kirby common stock on the date of grant.

#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

KIRBY CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

By: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ David W. Grzebinski  
David W. Grzebinski  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: June 1, 2011

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