

Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 629 Newsy Stuff

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August 11 2010

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AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE, AUGUST 4 2010. CORONER CRITICISES SALESMAN AFTER COUPLE DIE IN BOAT EXPLOSION

kate jones



Debris is carried away after the boat explosion at Pier 35, Port Melbourne.

A Coroner has criticised a boat salesman for selling a dodgy boat that exploded and killed an elderly couple. Scott O'Hare, director of Aussie Boat Sales, was aware of engine difficulties in the 1946 leisure vessel before selling it to the couple's son Anthony Elliott, coroner Peter White said in his findings. Mr Elliott had just refuelled the boat at Pier 35 at the south wharf marina in Port Melbourne before starting it and unwittingly causing an explosion. The blast, on May 3, 2008, instantly killed his parents, Alexander, 84, and Jenifer, 82. In releasing his findings today, Mr White said vapours from the fuel had set off the deadly explosion. He found Mr O'Hare knowingly sold the boat to Anthony Elliott with dirty fuel in the tank, poor ventilation and a dodgy engine. "Mr O'Hare denied both Mr Elliott and Ms Groen the opportunity to make an informed decision, which contributed to the tragedy," Mr White said. Mr O'Hare, who was labelled an unreliable witness, sold the vintage timber Halvorsen to Mr Elliott just days before the deadly blast for \$28,000. The coroner said Mr O'Hare had told the previous owner Janette Daphne Grant that he had sold the boat for \$18,000. Mr White recommended new legislation that would see all boats older than 15 years old be audited for safety. He said Marine Safety Victoria and Victoria Police's marine division relied heavily on public education campaigns, but it was clear both authorities were understaffed and underresourced. State Roads and Ports Minister Tim Pallas said later that the government was in the process of rewriting the Marine Safety Act, which would tighten the rules for vessels on the water. The legislation is expected to be tabled in parliament in coming weeks, but Mr Pallas would not elaborate on the detail. "I think I do owe the courtesy both to my cabinet colleagues and to the parliament to have those matters before them first, but I can confirm that we will be doing more in this space," he said. "We are very conscious of the circumstances surrounding the tragic fatalities. It's driven us to revise the marine Safety Act and we will be taking action in this area." Outside court, a tight-lipped Mr O'Hare said he was disappointed with the coroner's findings. Asked if he could have done anything to prevent the fatality, Mr O'Hare responded, "No".

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/coroner-criticises-salesman-after-couple-die-in-boat-explosion/story-e6frf7kx-1225901581147>

BERMUDA, PEMBROKE, AUGUST 4 2010. OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP COULD TAKE DAYS – BELCO

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.royalgazette.com/rg/Article/article.jsp?articleId=7da81a730030047§ionId=60>



A bluebird box stands in the middle of an oil puddle that covers almost half of a garden located next to BELCO in Pembroke after heavy rains flooded electricity providers waste oil tank and the contents overflowed onto the property.

It's expected to take days to remove the 7,200-gallon slick that spewed into a man's garden after heavy rains brought on a giant spill at nearby BELCO. Staff at the electricity company are now working to remove the giant mix of oil and water that landed in the Pembroke property after days of downpours caused the overflow of a tank containing waste oil. Yesterday morning two days after Saturday's spill the stench of oil remained in the air. White absorbent pads similar to the inside of a diaper, remained floating atop the garden to sop up the mess. Despite that, the homeowner said he was pleased with BELCO's response to the spill, which had covered the majority of his lawn. Under BELCO's instruction, four truckloads of the mixture totalling 1,800 gallons each were pumped out of the garden on Sunday. "The morning we discovered the spill we contacted BELCO and they responded by sending an engineer over. He apologised for BELCO and he gave me an assessment of what has happened and he's planned the clean-up," said the man, who did not want to be named. "I was impressed because they did have an idea of what to do. Even on the [Cup Match holiday] weekend, they were able to mobilise a team of guys and the truck." He continued: "They sucked up a lot of the liquid. There's still remaining liquid and [the diaper-like items] are absorbing devices designed to suck up the oil." The man said BELCO is expected to return to his house to remove the pads and do more cleaning. "I was pleased to see that they were looking to take steps to restore what has been damaged in terms of the soil and the grass that's been contaminated. It has to be removed and redone. They're stepping up to the plate." BELCO notified media of the spill at its Serpentine Road plant in a press release on Sunday, saying emergency measures were quickly put into place. The company said the recovered spillage was around 70

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percent liquid and 30 percent oil. A spokesman said yesterday: "BELCO continues work to clean up and make repairs, after an oil and water spill that occurred at the company's Oily Water Treatment Plant on Saturday, 31 July, after several days of heavy rain. "Clean-up work is also ongoing at a neighbour's property. This includes temporarily relocating several banana trees and cane plants, so that grass and soil can be removed, then replaced. "Representatives of BELCO's Environment Business Centre and the Ministry of Environment have met to review the spill and agree [on the] next steps. BELCO will continue to work closely with the Ministry throughout the clean-up and remediation process."

<http://www.royalgazette.com/rg/Article/article.jsp?articleId=7da81a730030047§ionId=60>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, AUGUST 14 2010. EMOTIONAL STRESS OF OIL SPILL

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.klfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=12916019>



The effects of the oil spill is not only taking a toll on our environment and marine life, the stress is taking a toll on the mental health of some Louisiana residents. Over the years the residents of the Gulf coast have demonstrated incredible resilience. Individuals, families and communities impacted by the Gulf oil spill are taking extra steps to adjust and adapt to the financial and personal stress of the situation. The Department of Health and Human Services is working to provide assistance to those who need it. "We have 50 counselors in the field and with proper info, we'll come see you at your home or place of business" says Dr. Tony Speier. They are also providing a 24 hour telephone counseling line and are working to get a grant to provide additional funding to local mental health agencies. "We have a pretty good proposal as the Governor has emphasized that reduces the bureaucracy involved

and delivers money directly to the local organizations involved who deliver the services directly" says Dr. Speier. Mental health specialists say to be aware of your own feelings as well as those around you. If you see sudden changes in mood or behavior, talk to the individual and encourage them to seek professional help if necessary. They also advise parents to keep in mind that their children may be feeling frightened and encourage them to keep open lines of communication with their kids. Counselors also say that a lot of people are coming in with anxiety over what might happen if a hurricane forms and hits the slick. But experts say its not to worry, a hurricane may actually help speed up the dispersion process.

<http://www.klfy.com/Global/story.asp?S=12916019>

SOUTH AFRICA, AUGUST 4 2010. SHELL AFRICA ASSETS SOLD



A group of European oil companies led by Swiss-based Vitol Group and Elios have taken over Royal Dutch Shell's interests in sub-Saharan Africa, including Uganda. The deal is estimated at between US\$1.2billion and \$1.5billion. It covers the retail, commercial fuels, bitumen and chemical businesses. The new operators will continue using the Shell brand in the 21- country African market. Shell will remain a minority shareholder. Shell put on market part of its Africa operations as part of a wider effort to reduce its global refining and marketing exposure. The takeover brings to an end a bidding rivalry among oil companies that include Oilibya, Morocco Oils, Tamoil and Engen Petroleum that were contesting for the ownership of Shell's lucrative business. Shell was a market leader on the Ugandan market after acquiring Agip and BP until growing competition from local and Asian firms changed that. Shell Uganda Managing

Director Ivan Kyayonka, confirmed the news but declined to give details pending official communication from Shell Africa headquarters. The sale comes at a time when court had ordered Shell Uganda Limited to deposit security of not less than Shs 35bn before the company can divest its operations in the country. The deposit is for due performance of a court decree obtained by Mercator Enterprises Limited which has had a long standing legal battle with the oil giant.

<http://www.independent.co.ug/index.php/business/business-briefs/55-business-briefs/3300-shell-africa-assets-sold->

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, AUGUST 4 2010. FARMERS, GREENS MARCH ON QLD PARLIAMENT >> GOVT' FLAGS BAN ON USE OF BTEX CHEMICALS

Farmers and environmentalists are gathering outside Queensland parliament concerned about the expansion of the mining industry. The protest comes as the Queensland government flagged a ban on the use of BTEX chemicals in coal seam gas extraction. BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes) is a group of chemicals found mainly in petroleum products.

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An underground coal gasification pilot plant at Kingaroy, 210km northwest of Brisbane, was shut down in July after traces of the cancer-causing chemicals benzene and toluene were found in nearby bores. Mines Minister Stephen Robertson told state parliament today the ban was being imposed for the protection of the community and the environment. "It is our commitment to legislate to ban them from ever being used in Queensland," he said. Protesters want the government to review the gas industry, which they fear is going ahead at expense of food production, water security, endangered species and the climate.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/farmers-greens-march-on-qld-parliament-20100804-11aug.html>

USA, MI, DETROIT, AUGUST 4 2010. ENBRIDGE OFFERS TO BUY 200 HOMES NEAR MICHIGAN OIL SPILL

tina lam



Crews clean up oil captured by booms placed in the Kalamazoo River near Talmadge Creek in Michigan.

The company that spilled oil into the Kalamazoo River near Marshall said today it is offering to buy as many as 200 homes of people who might have been affected by the accident. For those whose homes were already listed for sale pre-spill, Enbridge Energy Partners will pay the full list price. For homeowners who want to sell but whose homes weren't listed, the company will buy them for their appraised value before the spill. Enbridge CEO Patrick Daniel said the move was a first for Enbridge, which operates pipelines in the U.S. and Canada, and a way to show confidence that its cleanup will be thorough. "This is the result of feedback I've gotten over the

last eight days," he said. "Some people feel their homes are diminished in value. We believe if we buy them, we will not lose money." Daniel said he has no idea how many homeowners might take the company up on the offer. It covers 61 homes in a voluntary evacuation zone around the spill where benzene levels were high after the spill that health officials asked residents to leave, as well as homes within 200 feet of the Kalamazoo River as far as 30 miles downstream from the spill. Benzene levels have dropped in the past few days, health officials said Monday, but the evacuation zone is still in place. It was not mandatory and only about a dozen homeowners relocated. At least one couple in the evacuation zone already had listed their home for sale. The company said it has no idea how many others were already for sale.

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- [Feds: Enbridge aware of potential issue day before leak reported](#)
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Complete Coverage

- [Michigan oil spill](#)

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100803/NEWS06/100803064/Enbridge-offers-to-buy-200-homes-near-Michigan-oil-spill>

SOUTH AFRICA, AUGUST 4 2010. LIBYA BIDS US\$2 BILLION FOR SHELL ASSETS IN 21 AFRICAN COUNTRIES



The Libyan company, Oil Libya Holding Company is making a US\$2 billion offer to purchase some of the downstream businesses of Shell in Africa, official sources informed in Tripoli, the Libyan capital. The offer, announced by the legal adviser of the Anglo-Dutch oil company in Tunisia, Faical Werfelli, is for 21 African countries and excludes Shell in South Africa. Shell, which will soon announce the name of the successful buyer, had a turnover of US\$357 billion in 2007 and stands as the biggest European oil company with a turnover increasing by 29% over all the past years. Oil Libya Holding Company, formerly called Tamoil, is under the supervision of Libya Africa Portfolio (LAP), whose capital is US\$800 million. It includes Libya Arab Africa Investment Company (LAAICO), Libya Africa Financial Company (LAFICO), Afriqiya airline and the Sahelo-Saharan Bank for Industry and Trade (BSIC). The Libyan oil distribution company operates in 20 African countries including Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Chad, Tunisia, Uganda and Mauritius. In addition, the company supplies aviation fuel at 28 airports in Tunisia, Morocco, Cameroon, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Mali, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Sudan. Oil Libya has 1,250 fuel retail stations that employ 2,800 people in African countries, selling 4 billion litres of oil each

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year. In 2012 Oil Libya plans to set up 3,000 fuel retail stations with several factories, outlets, as well as participate in oil exploration in Libya, Chad, Sudan and Benin. The Libyan company, which has expressed the wish to be in more Africa countries, in February 2008, bought Mobil Maroc, a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil, which holds 10% of the Moroccan market for the distribution of fuel. It has also invested in oil exploration in Morocco by buying about 65% of the US investment fund, Colony Capital. It has set up a Moroccan-Libyan company called Tamoil Sakia, which intends to invest about US\$100 to US \$150 million in oil exploration in Laayoune in Western Sahara, as well as in the supply and distribution of oil products in the region. The company plans to invest US\$6 billion in Egypt to set up a new oil refinery and 500 fuel retail stations. Libya Oil Holdings Limited is also in Gabon through its subsidiary, Libya Oil Gabon S.A. with all Mobil Oil fuel retail stations in the capital, Libreville, being replaced by Oilibya. The Libyan authorities in 2008 set up Oil Libya Holding Company with to extend its activities to the continent and South America.

<http://www.petroplaza.com/news/industry/MiZlbiY5OTkwJiYx>

USA, N.C, FAYETTEVILLE, AUGUST 4 2010. FAULTY PUMP CAUSES DIESEL SPILL IN FAYETTEVILLE CREEK

A faulty fuel pump caused hundreds of gallons of diesel to spill into a Fayetteville creek on Monday evening. Ron Lewis, battalion commander for the Fayetteville Fire Department, said about 500 gallons of low-grade diesel spilled from the city's bus terminal refueling center at 455 Grove St. and into Cross Creek. Crews on Tuesday put a absorbent boom into the creek to prevent drainage into the Cape Fear River. Lewis said the fuel has been contained and only a small amount made it into the river.

http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/8080650/

USA, N.J, EDGEWATER, AUGUST 4 2010. EPA EXPLAINS TOXIC CLEANUP PLAN >> POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS — PCBS — WERE FOUND ON THE PROPERTY IN SOME OF THE 61 ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANKS & 10 UNDERGROUND TANKS.

merry firschein

The federal Environmental Protection Agency intends to cap the contamination at the Quanta Resources site on River Road by capturing toxic chemicals in the soil and groundwater into solid blocks, agency representatives told residents Tuesday night. The agency will leave alone a neighboring property, 115 River Road, which also sits atop contaminated soil, for now and has the option to revisit that decision in the future, said John Prince, the EPA's section chief for New Jersey remediation. That adjacent commercial building contains about 50 or 60 small businesses, including a day-care center. The agency is acting now because tests have found cancer risks or non-cancer hazards, such as neurological damage, "exceeding EPA's acceptance levels for at least one" group of people who live or work in the area, Prince said. "This is a better remedy for the site than some of the other alternatives," Prince told the crowd. About 50 people came to the EPA's two-hour meeting Tuesday night at the American Legion post to hear a plan by the federal agency to cap contamination at the facility. Federal officials presented a feasibility study on the alternatives for taking care of the toxic chemicals found in the soil and groundwater there. Prince presented six alternatives, including several options that suggested excavation of the contamination or demolishing 115 River Road, but only went into detail on the one that the EPA likes best. About a dozen residents asked questions and voiced their opinions after the presentation. Many were not happy. "I'm highly, highly disappointed," said resident Jill Kleinman, chairwoman of the Quanta Community Advisory Group of Edgewater. Not doing anything about the contamination under 115 River Road is "just pushing it off" for the future, she said. The agency will hold two informal question-and-answer sessions on the proposal today from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. The site is filled with coal tar residue — in oily liquid and solid waste forms — arsenic and other toxic chemicals. The groundwater also is contaminated. The EPA, [in a 70-page report](#), has decided to cap the contaminated 5.5-acre site by solidifying the coal tar, arsenic and other potential carcinogens into underground blocks. Under the proposed plan, the agency also would install a filter to make sure contaminated groundwater doesn't reach the Hudson River. The agency also would install a vapor mitigation system and basement seal at 115 River Road. Cleanup could take as long as three years at an estimated cost of \$72.2 million, the report states. The public can send written comments about the plan to the EPA through Sept. 20. The federal agency will consult with the state Department of Environmental Protection before choosing a remedy, the plan states. The agency hopes to choose a remedy option no later than October, Prince said. Coal tar, along with paving and roofing materials, were made at the site beginning in the late 1800s. The site was once part of a larger 15-acre parcel owned by Honeywell, then called Allied Chemical Co., which held a waste-oil recycling facility. Allied operated a tar processing plant at the site for about 40 years before Quanta bought the land for an oil recycling facility in the mid-1970s. The state shut down the Quanta site in 1981 after polychlorinated biphenyls — PCBs — were found on the property in some of the 61 aboveground storage tanks and 10 underground tanks. The EPA conducted an initial

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cleanup of the site in the 1980s, removing more than 9 million gallons of waste. The site was added to the federal Superfund National Priority List in 2002. The last meeting held for Edgewater residents was in August 2008. EDGEWATER — The federal Environmental Protection Agency intends to cap the contamination at the Quanta Resources site on River Road by capturing toxic chemicals in the soil and groundwater into solid blocks, agency representatives told residents Tuesday night. The agency will leave alone a neighboring property, 115 River Road, which also sits atop contaminated soil, for now and has the option to revisit that decision in the future, said John Prince, the EPA's section chief for New Jersey remediation. That adjacent commercial building contains about 50 or 60 small businesses, including a day-care center. The agency is acting now because tests have found cancer risks or non-cancer hazards, such as neurological damage, "exceeding EPA's acceptance levels for at least one" group of people who live or work in the area, Prince said. "This is a better remedy for the site than some of the other alternatives," Prince told the crowd. About 50 people came to the EPA's two-hour meeting Tuesday night at the American Legion post to hear a plan by the federal agency to cap contamination at the facility. Federal officials presented a feasibility study on the alternatives for taking care of the toxic chemicals found in the soil and groundwater there. Prince presented six alternatives, including several options that suggested excavation of the contamination or demolishing 115 River Road, but only went into detail on the one that the EPA likes best. About a dozen residents asked questions and voiced their opinions after the presentation. Many were not happy. "I'm highly, highly disappointed," said resident Jill Kleinman, chairwoman of the Quanta Community Advisory Group of Edgewater. Not doing anything about the contamination under 115 River Road is "just pushing it off" for the future, she said. The agency will hold two informal question-and-answer sessions on the proposal today from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. The site is filled with coal tar residue — in oily liquid and solid waste forms — arsenic and other toxic chemicals. The groundwater also is contaminated. The EPA, [in a 70-page report](#), has decided to cap the contaminated 5.5-acre site by solidifying the coal tar, arsenic and other potential carcinogens into underground blocks. Under the proposed plan, the agency also would install a filter to make sure contaminated groundwater doesn't reach the Hudson River. The agency also would install a vapor mitigation system and basement seal at 115 River Road. Cleanup could take as long as three years at an estimated cost of \$72.2 million, the report states. The public can send written comments about the plan to the EPA through Sept. 20. The federal agency will consult with the state Department of Environmental Protection before choosing a remedy, the plan states. The agency hopes to choose a remedy option no later than October, Prince said. Coal tar, along with paving and roofing materials, were made at the site beginning in the late 1800s. The site was once part of a larger 15-acre parcel owned by Honeywell, then called Allied Chemical Co., which held a waste-oil recycling facility. Allied operated a tar processing plant at the site for about 40 years before Quanta bought the land for an oil recycling facility in the mid-1970s. The state shut down the Quanta site in 1981 after polychlorinated biphenyls — PCBs — were found on the property in some of the 61 aboveground storage tanks and 10 underground tanks. The EPA conducted an initial cleanup of the site in the 1980s, removing more than 9 million gallons of waste. The site was added to the federal Superfund National Priority List in 2002. The last meeting held for Edgewater residents was in August 2008.

http://www.northjersey.com/news/99918894_EPA_explains_toxic_cleanup_plan_.html

USA, N.C, FAYETTEVILLE, AUGUST 4 2010. Bus fuel spills 760 gallons of kerosene into creek

A kerosene spill at the city bus terminal Monday night forced firefighters to build a dike where Cross Creek empties into the Cape Fear River. Battalion Commander Calvin Bishop with the Fayetteville Fire Department said city hazmat crews responded to reports of a fuel spill at 455 Grove St. just before 9:30 p.m. As of 11:30 p.m., Bishop said more than 760 gallons of kerosene had spilled from a malfunctioning fuel pump at the Fayetteville Area System of Transit's refueling terminal. Kerosene is used to fuel some of the newer buses in the fleet, Bishop said. The first hazmat units on scene reported seeing the spill flowing directly into the city's storm water system through a drain behind the facility near Lamon Street. A stream of kerosene 150 feet long and 30 feet wide, according to hazmat officials, was flowing from the fuel pump into the storm drain. Grove View Terrace, a large public housing community, neighbors the FAST depot. Bishop said no evacuations were necessary and it was unknown what the environmental impact of the spill would be. "Fuel has drained back down to the Cross Creek cemeteries and into Cross Creek," Bishop said. "But with the steep banks and the dark it's difficult to see just how much fuel has went into the creek." By 11 p.m., Bishop called in boats so crews could start putting in boom and a dike at the mouth of the creek to prevent any fuel drainage into the Cape Fear River. About 18 firefighters, 10 of them on the hazmat team, were still on scene trying to contain the spill as of press deadline. A city contractor was also called in to help construct the dike where the creek drains into the river. Bishop said he wouldn't know until daylight the full extent of the spill because the areas where the storm water system drained into Cross Creek were so remote.

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/08/03/1018648?sac=Home>

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USA, PA, CUMBERLAND CO, LOWER ALLEN TWP, AUGUST 5 2010. WRONGFUL-DEATH SUIT TARGETS TOYOTA, BP

robyn sidersky

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• **Watch the Video** http://www.fox43.com/news/wpmt-gas-station-fire-lawsuit_0_6228489.story

• **Watch the Video** http://www.fox43.com/news/wpmt-amnews-lawsuit-gas-pump-death_0_5873336.story

• **Slideshow** <http://www.wgal.com/slideshow/news/22750739/detail.html>



David Byers, of Camp Hill, died from inhaling superheated gases from a flash fire in March.

For five months, Lori Rector hasn't been able to pump gas without having a panic attack. On March 5, her nephew, L. David Byers, 19, was killed in a rare accident at a gas station in Lower Allen Twp. when gasoline fumes ignited. Byers was killed when he inhaled superheated gases from the flash fire, Cumberland County Coroner Todd Eckenrode said. A static-electricity discharge sparked the flames, a state police fire marshal said. Byers' mother, Lisa Rickenbach, filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against BP Oil Co., Toyota Motor Corp. and others in Philadelphia, and sought to obtain a copy of video taken by a security camera. The gas station was open at the time of the accident -- 2:45 a.m. -- but there were no attendants on duty. "People know it could happen. You just don't think about it. You think about getting hit by a car. You think about drunk drivers. You don't think you're going to die pumping gas," Rector said. Stewart Eisenberg, one of Rickenbach's attorneys, explained why so many defendants are listed in the lawsuit. Byers drove a 2009 Toyota Yaris. The attorneys claim that Toyota failed to adequately design seats that would minimize the amount of static charge when someone exits the vehicle. Toyota declined to comment because the litigation is pending, but a spokesman said accidents such as this happen with other cars, too. Also listed are the owner of the gas station and BP, the franchise owner, and the manufacturer of the equipment at the gas station. Rickenbach's suit claims that BP and the owners of the gas station did not properly design or maintain the station and did not manage it in a safe manner. After the accident, the station was inspected by the state's Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety and found to be in violation of at least 20 flammable and combustible-liquids regulations. The station reopened after correcting the violations. Rickenbach's attorneys said they believe the most serious violation was that there was no attendant on duty. The attorneys said that's one of the reasons getting the surveillance tape is crucial. The tape could hold potential answers to many questions, Eisenberg said. Only the owner of the station, police and the coroner have seen the tape.

<http://www.pennlive.com/news/patriotnews/index.ssf?/base/news/1280889606189450.xml&coll=1>

USA, IA, CEDAR RAPIDS, AUGUST 5 2010. CHEMICAL LEAKING FROM WRECKED TANKER, NO THREAT EXPECTED

jeff raasch

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Semi-Tips-on-I-380-Overpass-HazMat-on-Scene-99930944.html>



HAZMAT crews work on overturned tanker truck in Cedar Rapids.

Chemicals inside a tanker truck shifted during a turn, causing an accident that shut down an interstate overpass for more than eight hours Wednesday. Sodium hydroxide started to drip out of the tanker after the semi-trailer truck flipped onto its side on the east side of the Interstate 380 interchange at Wright Brothers Boulevard around 5:40 a.m. Officials said it did not appear to pose an environmental threat. "It's really a slow drip from what we believe is a ventilation line," Fire Department spokesman Greg Buelow said. The northbound I-380 off ramp and the overpass between Sixth Street and Kirkwood Boulevard SW remained closed at 2 p.m. Everyone except the hazardous materials crew was being kept back at least 150 feet. The tanker, driven by Joe Short, 39, of Colona, Ill., was carrying about 50,000 pounds of sodium hydroxide from Muscatine to Red Star Yeast in Cedar Rapids, authorities said. Short started experiencing pain after the accident and was taken to Mercy Medical Center. The truck is owned by K.A. Steel Chemicals of LeMont, Ill. Sodium hydroxide, also known as caustic soda or lye, can irritate the eyes, skin and mucous membranes, Buelow said. By mid-morning, hazardous materials technicians were cutting a hole in the tanker so they could begin pumping the chemical into another tanker truck. Buelow said the original valve was compromised in the wreck. Police determined Short took the exit off I-380 and was attempting to turn left onto Wright Brothers Boulevard when the tanker tipped over. Officers cited him for failure to maintain control. A similar accident happened Tuesday afternoon on the ramp to northbound I-380 from

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eastbound Highway 30. Police said the load shifted the trailer hauled by John St. John, 66, of Cedar Rapids, causing the rig to tip onto its side. St. John suffered minor injuries and was taken to Mercy Medical Center, police said. He was not charged.

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Semi-Tips-on-I-380-Overpass-HazMat-on-Scene-99930944.html>

USA, ID, NAMPA, AUGUST 5 2010. 15-YEAR-OLD DRIVES INTO NAMPA GAS STATION

•Watch the Video <http://www.ktvb.com/home/15-year-old-drives-into-Nampa-gas-station-99814654.html>

•Watch the Video <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/offbeat/99889904.html>

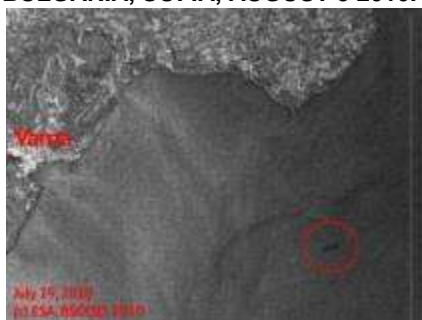


Nampa Police say a 15-year-old girl, without a driver's license or a learner's permit, lost control of the car she was driving and drove through a gas station window in Nampa Monday night. The accident happened around 7:45 p.m. at the Chevron on the corner of East Greenhurst Road and Southside Boulevard. Police say the teenage driver had a male acquaintance in his early 20s in the car with her at the time of the crash. It is unclear whose car it is, but we are told it belonged to another acquaintance who did not give the girl permission to drive it. The driver suffered minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital. Police say she is charged with failure to purchase a driver's license and inattentive driving. Five people sitting inside the store were hurt; four were treated on the scene and one woman was taken to the hospital. Another man arrived at Mercy Medical Center a while later

complaining of injuries. Authorities estimate the crash caused \$25,000 in damages to the store. Police say alcohol was not a factor in the crash.

<http://www.ktvb.com/home/15-year-old-drives-into-Nampa-gas-station-99814654.html>

BULGARIA, SOFIA, AUGUST 5 2010. OIL SPILLS DETECTED OFF BULGARIAN BLACK SEA COAST - REPORT



One of the four major oil slicks in the Black Sea coast is close to Bulgaria's Varna. Several oil slicks have been detected in the Black Sea off the coast of Bulgaria and Romania via satellite monitoring by the BlackSea-online.com project. "Significant oil spills were identified in Bulgarian and Romanian shelf waters, in particular near cities of Varna and Constanta," states the report of the non-commercial monitoring organization. The total area of the oil slicks is reported to be more than ten square kilometers. The distance from them to the Bulgarian and Romanian coasts is about 30 km. According to the experts of the environmental project, the pollution has the character of marine spills but its precise origin is unclear. The spill are dated to July 19, 2010. The satellite images show four major oil slicks, three of which are up north and closer to the Romanian Black Sea coast, and only one of which is near Varna.

The BlackSea-online.com project includes information from a couple of other projects

such as "Space Monitoring of Oil Pollution of the Black Sea", "Monitoring of Ground Deformations on the Black Sea Coast." The partners in the these projects include the European Space Agency, the Russian Oil&Gas Forum, Oil, Gas & Stock Market, Rosgeofonds Marine Branch, GIS Consult Group, Geomarketing Research Center, Russian Oil, State Scientific Centre Yuzhmorgeologiya.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=118831

IRAN, TEHRAN, AUGUST 5 2010. PETCHEM PLANT EXPLOSION KILLS FIVE

Around five people died on Wednesday in an explosion at an Iranian petrochemical plant, Iranian media reported. "Due to the explosion at the Pardis petrochemical plant some five people died and two others were injured," Iranian state television's website said. It quoted a senior manager of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone as saying the explosion occurred at 14.30 local time leading to a fire that was swiftly extinguished by fire-fighters. Semi-official Mehr news agency said the second phase of the Pardis petrochemical complex, which produces urea and ammonia, was inaugurated last week in the presence of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Sanctions from the United Nations Security Council, the United States and the European Union that aim at putting further pressure on Tehran over its nuclear programme have strained Iran's economy, which is heavily dependent on oil and gas revenues. Iran is the world's fifth-largest oil producer and also sits on the world's second largest natural gas reserves.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFMOS44580020100804>

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USA, CA, MARTINEZ, AUGUST 5 200. TESORO REPORTS MARTINEZ REFINERY PIPELINE LEAK

erwin seba

Tesoro Corp reported a leak in a pipeline at its 166,000 bpd San Francisco Bay-area refinery in Martinez, California, on Wednesday, according to a notice filed with California pollution regulators. "A pipeline developed a hole, causing this release," the company stated in a report to the California Emergency Management Agency. About 100 barrels of water and petroleum were spilled on the ground of the refinery.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFWEN841220100804>

USA, NY, LONG ISLAND, AUGUST 5 2010. BP, CHEVRON UNITS AMONG COMPANIES SETTling N.Y. GASOLINE ADDITIVE CASES

thom weidlich

[BP](#), [Chevron](#), and [Royal Dutch Shell](#) units were among dozens of energy companies that agreed to pay \$42 million to settle claims brought by communities on New York's Long Island alleging contamination of water with a gasoline additive. The companies and the plaintiffs, including water districts and the towns of Southampton, East Hampton and Huntington, filed notice today of their motion to dismiss the lawsuits. The suits, part of larger litigation over methyl tertiary butyl ether, were brought by 23 Long Island districts, said [Marc Bern](#), a lawyer for the plaintiffs, who said the pact's financial terms were confidential. The total amount was \$42 million, according to a person familiar with the settlement. "Everybody has signed onto the settlement and we're just waiting for the payments to be made," Bern, of Napoli Bern Ripka LLP in New York, said in a phone interview. "We'll be sending the districts their individual settlements in the next two weeks or so." More than 70 lawsuits filed by water providers and state and local governments were consolidated before U.S. District Judge [Shira Scheindlin](#) in Manhattan for pretrial information-gathering, according to an energy industry [website](#). In October, a federal jury in New York ordered [Exxon Mobil](#) to pay \$104.7 million in damages after finding the company liable for poisoning New York City water wells with the additive. [Bill Tanner](#), a spokesman for Shell, didn't have an immediate comment. Sean Comey, a spokesman for Chevron, and [Daren Beaudou](#), a spokesman for BP, didn't immediately return calls for comment.

Future Contamination

Some of the Long Island cases were filed as far back as 2003. Most of the litigation was over threatened future contamination, Bern said. "There's very little current contamination." Additives such as MTBE are chemical compounds that raise the oxygen content of gasoline to make it burn more cleanly and efficiently. The U.S. Congress amended the Clean Air Act in 1990 to require companies to add an oxygenate to gasoline to reduce air pollution. MTBE renders water undrinkable and can cause nausea and other maladies, the plaintiffs have argued. In the Exxon Mobil trial, New York City argued that the company could have used ethanol as an oxygenate and instead opted to use MTBE to save money. New York State banned the use of MTBE starting in 2004, as have dozens of other states. Exxon Mobil has asked Scheindlin to overrule the jury, order a new trial or reduce the damages award. The case is In Re: Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether ("MTBE") Products Liability Litigation, 00-cv-1898, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-04/bp-chevron-units-among-companies-settling-n-y-gasoline-additive-cases.html>

USA, CA, BENICIA, AUGUST 5 2010. ACID LEAK AT VALERO REFINERY INJURES TWO

Two contractors suffered minor injuries after a leak of sulfuric acid at the Valero Refinery on Tuesday, Public Affairs Manager Sue Fisher Jones said. The leak occurred within the utilities, or process block, area of the refinery and was contained on site, she said. An exact time of the leak was not immediately available as was the exact nature of the injuries. "The leak was contained locally, and there were no off-site impacts, and all is operationally normal now," Fisher Jones said. An investigation will be conducted to determine the exact cause, a process which may take a few days, she said. One injured worker left the site in his own vehicle to go to a private doctor, and the other worker was taken by ambulance to a hospital for evaluation and will be returning to work, Fisher Jones said.

http://www.mercurynews.com/portal/breaking-news/ci_15676937?_loopback=1

USA, FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION (FMCSA), AUGUST 5 2010. CARGO TANK DRIVER ROLLOVER PREVENTION VIDEO

 **Watch OR Download the Video** <http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/outreach/cargo-tank-video.aspx>

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), in association with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and industry partners, created this tool as a training aid for commercial drivers of cargo tank motor vehicles transporting hazardous materials. This training video covers the four approaches to reducing cargo tank truck

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rollovers: vehicle design and performance, load effects, highway factors and driver factors. The main focus however, is on the driver, since statistically; drivers are ten times more likely to be the cause of the rollover than any of the other factors. With this video, we hope to improve and enhance the consciousness of cargo tank motor vehicle drivers and the hazardous materials industry about common driving errors and to provide valuable driving information. Fleet safety managers are encouraged to use this video to supplement their driver training programs, as this information offers preventive measures that cargo tank motor vehicle drivers can take to help avoid a rollover crash. The interviews, ideas, and suggestions on this video were created at the request of the cargo tank motor vehicle industry. The video clips show examples of driver errors that we hope will serve to motivate cargo tank motor vehicle drivers to become safer drivers and thereby avoid dangerous driving situations.

<http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/about/outreach/cargo-tank-video.aspx>

CANADA, ALBERTA, AIRDRIE, AUGUST 5 2010. CREWS CLEANING UP AFTER DERAILMENT

bill kaufmann



Officials say there were no indications of toxic leaks after a train derailed near Airdrie on Tuesday.

Clean-up at the site where 30 train cars derailed in Airdrie may take a few days and any major leak of toxic chemicals has been avoided so far, but there's a chance a minor spill may happen. Kevin Hrysak, a Canadian Pacific Railway spokesman, said there's no definite timeline when emergency crews and industry experts would finish the job of cleaning up the wreckage and transferring eight tankers of anhydrous ammonia to different containers, "They're actually doing everything safely," he said. Thirty cars – some carrying ammonia – went off the

track Tuesday morning, about 1.5 km north of Airdrie. Emergency crews and experts remain on scene Wednesday, as they continue monitoring the air quality in the area. Officials said there has been no release of anhydrous ammonia as crews began transferring the chemical from the derailed cars into tanker trucks Wednesday morning. Flaring is expected to occur during clean up, which officials say is a normal procedure. A metallurgist has assessed and determined the rail cars carrying the chemical are stable, but there's a potential for a small leakage during off loading process. Hrysak said the process is highly controlled and everything is moving along safely. Cargo deliveries to CP customers in southern Alberta have not been significantly affected but there may be minor delays, but nothing substantial, he said. CP has another route that connects Alberta to Saskatchewan through Wetaskiwin and Saskatoon, and deliveries between Edmonton and Red Deer have not been affected. As soon as the wreckage is cleared up, CP will restore the railway.

<http://www.calgarysun.com/news/alberta/2010/08/04/14924281.html>

USA, PHA, BUCKS CO, PLUMSTEAD, AUGUST 5 2010. RESIDENT: HIGH BENZENE LEVELS IN POND AT FIRE SITE

amanda cregan

Worried that their well water might have been tainted by toxins following a Plumstead industrial building fire, residents went before township officials seeking answers Tuesday night. Instead, Plumstead supervisors were the ones getting information. Bill Collins, of Stump Road, and his attorney came armed with a report Tuesday from the state's Department of Environmental Protection that revealed high benzene levels were discovered in the pond at the warehouse site, located on the 5000 block of Stump Road. Samples were taken from the pond by the DEP on Friday. Benzene was measured at 138.8 parts per billion, said Collins' attorney Thomas Donnelly. An average level is about 5 parts per billion, he estimated. A component of solvents and degreasers, benzene can cause leukemia and other blood cancers and blood disorders, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is colorless, has a sweet odor and is highly flammable. It can be inhaled, ingested and absorbed through the skin. At least four Plumstead homes have tainted water in their private wells and neighbors are scared about what might be lurking in their own well water. "We've been out of our house since that (fire) happened. Mainly because of the smoke," Collins told the Plumstead supervisors and about 30 worried residents. "What we're concerned about now, like everybody else, is with the water." Bottled water is already being provided to residents along Ann Drive by the warehouse property owner. But DEP officials and representatives from the Bucks County Department of Health were at the scene again on Tuesday collecting samples from more neighboring homes, said Collins and Donnelly. Several residents have asked DEP to test their own private wells for chemicals, and the agency is working to map out how far a potential contamination might have spread, they said. "They said their (DEP) labs would be working around the clock on this project," said Collins. "We're hoping that within the next couple of days we'll have the testing done and we'll have some kind of preliminary analysis," said Collins, whose property backs up to the industrial building site. Township officials are working to put together a public meeting

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to update residents on the water issue that would include DEP staff, Rep. Marguerite Quinn and Sen. Chuck McIlhinney. A date has not yet been set, but the township plans to post the meeting date, time and place, along with any pertinent information regarding the water issue, on its website at www.plumstead.org. "As far as the township, it's not under our control," said Supervisor Stacey Mulholland, regarding the water testing. "DEP is running the show." She encouraged residents to regularly test their private well water regardless of a crisis situation. "Let's not wait for an emergency or a front page story; wells should be tested regularly." As the days tick by since the June 29 fire that drew hundreds of firefighters and required 3 million gallons of water to fight over the course of a week, some residents fear their families are potentially in danger. "The biggest concern is to make sure the water is safe - to make sure it's safe for them to be able to there, to shower in the water, drink the water, to do the dishes," said Donnelly.

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/news_details/article/28/2010/august/04/resident-high-benzene-levels-in-pond-at-fire-site.html

CHINA, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, LUFENG, AUGUST 5 2010. CHEMICAL SPILL LEADS TO WATER SHORTAGE IN TOWN

At least 10,000 people in a South China town suffered a shortage of drinking water on Wednesday after excessive manganese was detected in their tap water. The city government of Lufeng in Guangdong province said the manganese level in the tap water in Da'an town had been 1.2 mg per liter since Monday - 12 times the maximum permissible amount in drinking water. The cause of the contamination remains under investigation and environmental specialists from Lufeng city were in town to conduct further tests, said Huang Xianjia, a city government spokesman. Health officials say manganese is both a common chemical element and a required nutrient in drinking water. Nonetheless, excessive amounts of manganese can pose neurotoxic effects not limited to mental and behavioral disturbances, as well as impairment of motor skills. The local government established emergency notices on every busy street in the city on Tuesday, warning residents not to drink tap water pending further notice. "We're trying to remedy the situation and will keep you posted," read a notice written on scarlet paper. However, Huang said, the contamination was "not serious." "Tap water still appears clear with no odor", he added. "It's safe for washing and bathing." But a resident surnamed Wang showed reporters apparent evidence to the contrary by producing two pails of water he stored on Monday. Dark sediment was clearly seen on the bottom of the buckets. Wang and his neighbors have joined in a rush for spring water in mountains near their homes. "Many families have bought new pails", he said. "Some carry water on motorbikes, while others use shoulder poles." Da'an town has several spring water resources nearby, so drinking water was not an immediate worry, said Huang Zhenyu, chief of the local government. He said police and market regulators had been told to watch out for price hikes, however, as shopping runs on bottled water and food were considered likely. The manganese-tainted water came from Da'an Waterworks, one of the two tap water suppliers in town. It provides water for more than 10,000 of the town's total 50,000 residents. The cause of the contamination is still unknown. Town official Huang Zhenyu said there was no manganese processing plant or mine around.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90782/90872/7093411.html>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION, AUGUST 5 2010. FAA TO CESSNA DRIVERS: CHECK FOR WATER IN FUEL

mary grady



The FAA says pilots of Cessna 100-, 200-, and 300-series airplanes should intensify their efforts to check for water in the fuel before every flight. "All pilots, owners, operators, maintenance, and service personnel of these type airplanes should assume some water exists in the fuel tank system," the FAA said in a Special Airworthiness Information Bulletin posted last week. Water may enter the fuel system via any penetration in the tank, or it may come out of solution in the fuel and settle or adhere to the inside of the tank walls. The bulletin recommends that owners should ensure the airplanes have plenty of drains at a variety of locations, and check them prior to every flight, taking at least one cup of fuel from each location. The FAA also suggests that fuel filler caps should be the raised umbrella-style type that shed water, and airplanes should be stored indoors when possible. Pilots should keep the tanks full, know their

fuel suppliers and monitor the fueling procedures. The bulletin provides guidance and education but compliance is not mandatory. The complete text of the SAIB, including more details and suggestions for annual and 100-hour inspections, is [available online](http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/FAAToCessnaDriversCheckForWaterInFuel_203078-1.html).

http://www.avweb.com/avwebflash/news/FAAToCessnaDriversCheckForWaterInFuel_203078-1.html

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NIGRIA, UVWIE, EKPAN, AUGUST 5 2010. CHEVRON LIES OVER OIL SPILL, SAYS OFFICIAL

julius osahon

The Delta State government has frowned at the handling of the oil spill which devastated the Multi-billion naira Ekpan fish farm when one of Chevron oil's tugboats sank in its dockyard in Ekpan, Uvwie local government area and discharged a substance suspected to be diesel into the Ekpan River. The spill contaminated water at the farm, killing tonnes of fish and sending fish farmers into despair. Chevron officials however said they have contained the incident, which the company said was restricted to its compound. The remark seemed to have attracted the ire of the state government. The state commissioner for environment, Bello Orubebe berated officials of the company who were at his office in Asaba yesterday to make a presentation on the spill. Mr Orubebe said the presentation fell short of the economic and ecological damage caused by the spill. The leader of the oil company's team, Tim Ainodion had, in his presentation, claimed that only eight litres of diesel and lubrication spilled from the sunken tug boat. He further said that while the spill was limited to the company's water front, it has been cleaned up and normal fishing was going on in the Ekpan River. But an enraged Mr. Orubebe countered these claims and accused Chevron of not giving a true picture of the event in its presentation. He said reports from the ministry's field officers show that the massive cluster of fishing ponds in Ekpan have been impacted by the spill. "We insist that the spill is still continuing, the effect is continuing, the fish in the ponds are dying, the river is polluted and there is need for Chevron to go back and deploy its full capacity to clean-up the river", said the commissioner, who said he was relocating to Warri to oversee the situation.

Peace at Risk

He said the state governor, Emmanuel Uduaghan was disturbed because the spill has adversely affected the indigenes and warned that if the situation was not properly managed, it could threaten the federal government's amnesty programme as well as the prevailing peace in the area. Mr Orubebe however pledged government's cooperation to ensure a quick clean-up of the polluted pond and river, stressing that this was not the time to trade blames over the incident. The spill started about two weeks ago and the affected farmers said they are yet to notice any reduction in the impact of the spill. "We are calling on the government and multinational agencies to come to our aid. We borrowed monies to start this business, but now all our fishes are gone. The pollution started last week, now it has spread all over the ponds. If we are not helped, we will run out of business," Joshua Ughere, chairman, board of trustees of Ufuoma United Farm, Ekpan said.

http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/News/Metro/Politics/5602883-147/chevron_lies_over_oil_spill_says.csp

USA, FLA, ORLANDO, AUGUST 6 2010. FHP: TANKER RAN OVER MEDIAN, CRASHED INTO WATER

jeff weiner

Troopers in Brevard say the driver of a semi gas tanker truck was hospitalized Monday after a blowout caused him to lose control on Interstate 95 and crash into a body of water, according to a Florida Highway Patrol report. According to the report, the driver, Bruce Hulsen, 57, was traveling north on I-95 near Wickham Road in Brevard when his left front tire blew out. Hulsen lost control, troopers say, smashing over the metal guardrail and crossing into the southbound lanes. Troopers say the tanker continued across the two south lanes and over the grass shoulder, striking a wire fence and trees before going into a body of water. According to the report, drivers traveling southbound were able to stop in time to avoid crashing into the semi as it crossed I-95 south. The driver of the semi was brought to a nearby hospital for treatment. His injuries were minor, according to troopers.

http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2010-08-04/news/os-gas-tanker-crash-i-95-20100804_1_troopers-tanker-southbound-lanes

USA, NY, NEW YORK, AUGUST 6 2010. SPAIN \$1 BILLION LAWSUIT OVER SUNK TANKER DISMISSED

jonathan stempel

A U.S. federal judge dismissed Tuesday Spain's \$1 billion lawsuit against an organization that declared seaworthy a tanker whose 2002 sinking created one of the world's biggest oil spills. U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain ruled in favor of the American Bureau of Shipping, a Houston-based organization Spain accused of misclassifying the ability of the tanker, MT Prestige, to carry fuel. Swain announced her ruling on the same day BP Plc began its "static kill" operation to permanently plug its leaking Gulf of Mexico oil well. The Bahamas-flagged Prestige sank off Spain's rocky northwest coast in November 2002, spilling most of its 77,000 metric tons of fuel oil in that country's worst environmental disaster. Spain alleged the defendant was negligent in its inspection of the 26-year-old, single-hulled tanker six months before the sinking and failed to detect and warn about corrosion and other problems. In her 20-page ruling, Swain said she recognized a "general imperative to hold appropriate parties accountable for oil spills that cause major economic and environmental damage." She nevertheless said classification societies could not under U.S. maritime law be liable to injured countries on the basis of reckless conduct in

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its certifications. "By relieving shipowners of their ultimate responsibility for certified ships, such a rule would be inconsistent with the shipowner's non-delegable duty to ensure the seaworthiness of the ship," she said. "The shipowner is ultimately in control of the activities aboard ship." Swain previously dismissed Spain's case in 2008 on the ground she lacked jurisdiction. A federal appeals court in New York last year ordered her to reconsider the matter. Brian Starer, a partner at Squire Sanders & Dempsey LLP representing Spain, said he was disappointed with the ruling. "To give them in essence a free pass is shocking in this day and age," Starer said in an interview. A decision on whether to appeal has not been made. Stewart Wade, an ABS spokesman, said he was pleased with the decision, calling it "correct and appropriate." The release of oil from the Prestige damaged land, water, marine life and other resources off the Spanish coast, harming several hundred miles of coastline and leaving hundreds of fishermen without of work. The case is Reino de Espana v. American Bureau of Shipping et al, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, No. 03-03573.

<http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/international/2010/08/05/112199.htm>

USA, CO, DENVER, AUGUST 6 2010. OUTFITTER SUES OIL FIRMS FOR CONTAMINATION

nancy lofholm

An outfitter who drank contaminated water from a faucet in his cabin north of Parachute more than two years ago has filed suit against two oil and gas companies for allegedly poisoning springs on his property. Ned Prather and other family members with an interest in his property filed suit in Garfield District Court asking for damages from Williams Production RMT and Nonsuch Natural Gas Inc. Williams and Nonsuch had pits and tanks above Prather's cabin for fluids involved with hydraulic fracturing and production water from drilling rigs. After Prather took a drink that burned his throat and sent him to a hospital emergency room in 2008, the springs below those facilities were found to be contaminated with benzene, toluene and xylene — carcinogenic compounds found in fracturing fluids and naturally released during the drilling process. The Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission investigated the contamination and issued notices of alleged violations. The suit alleges Williams contaminated the drinking water spring and Nonsuch contaminated a spring on the other side of his cabin. Williams was operating its pit without a required permit. It also had an inadequate liner. Nonsuch had an unlined pit. Prather is asking for unspecified damages for the leaks that he claims have resulted in losses to his outfitting business. The oil and gas commission is also taking action on the leaks by fining Williams a record \$423,300. In a settlement agreement expected to be finalized during a hearing next week, Williams does not admit responsibility for the contamination. The commission is continuing to investigate the contamination of the second spring and has said there may be an enforcement action taken against Oxy USA, a company that was also drilling above Prather's property. The commission has released Nonsuch as a result of its investigation. Prather's attorney Richard Djokic said he could not comment on why his client is suing Nonsuch rather than Oxy.

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_15691270

USA, CT, HARTFORD, AUGUST 6 2010. \$16.6 MILLION IN FINES AFTER FATAL BLAST AT A CONNECTICUT PLANT

russ buettner



The Kleen Energy Systems plant in Middletown, Conn., after an explosion on Feb. 7 that killed six. Federal officials proposed fines on Thursday.

Federal safety officials on Thursday issued \$16.6 million in proposed fines in connection with a huge explosion at a power plant that killed six workers in Middletown, Conn., determining that construction companies had blatantly disregarded industry procedures designed to safeguard workers. The fines, the third largest ever issued by the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) for a single episode, stem from accusations of 371 violations, including 225 considered "willful," found after the Feb. 7 blast, which occurred as flammable [natural gas](#) was being shot through a supply pipe to purge it of debris. Fifty people were injured in the explosion. Secretary of Labor [Hilda L. Solis](#) said the companies

had "blatantly disregarded" accepted industry procedures, their own safety guidelines and "common sense." Ms. Solis added that the deaths and injuries could have been prevented. "These fines and penalties reflect the gravity and severity of the deadly conditions created by the companies managing the work at the site," Ms. Solis said during a conference call with reporters. "No operation and no deadline is worth cutting corners and costing a single human life." Local and state law enforcement agencies are still determining whether to bring criminal charges in the case. Civil lawsuits have also been filed on behalf of injured and deceased workers. [David Michaels](#), the assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health, said companies stood to collect "very significant financial incentives" if they met deadlines at the construction site for [Kleen](#)

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[Energy Systems](#). Dr. Michaels said OSHA believed that the general contractor, [O&G Industries](#), stood to collect a \$19 million bonus if it could get the plant running by May 31. "What I can't say is what role those played in the incident occurring," he said. "But there is no question that they were there." The [dangers of using flammable gas](#) to clear pipes have been well established. Less than a year before the Middletown explosion, a similar blast at the ConAgra Foods Slim Jim plant in Garner, N.C., killed four workers. A 1999 explosion at a power plant in Dearborn, Mich., killed six. In Middletown, natural gas was vented into an area that was partly enclosed by buildings, where dangerous concentrations built up and met one of several possible igniting sources, including welding torches being used nearby, safety investigators found. The construction companies were cited for failing to vent the gas so it would disperse, failing to remove nonessential workers, allowing welders to keep working during the procedure and failing to train workers. In June, the [United States Chemical Safety Board](#) urged OSHA to prohibit the release of natural gas during purging operations. Rafael Moure-Eraso, chairman of the safety board, said he believed that OSHA had sufficient authority to issue a six-month emergency ban. "There is no safe way to blow hundreds of thousands of cubic feet of flammable natural gas to a workplace," Dr. Moure-Eraso said. "It shouldn't be done, and the practice needs to be banned as soon as possible." Dr. Michaels said OSHA saw the use of flammable gas to clear pipes as inherently dangerous and requiring immediate attention because there were plans for 125 similar power plants across the country. OSHA has issued a warning letter to other operators of gas-fired power plants urging them not to make the mistakes made in Middletown and to consider using alternatives to flammable gas. But the agency stopped short of issuing an emergency ban on the practice, and is reviewing whether a ban could sustain a legal challenge. "We would love to be able to ban this, but we can't," Dr. Michaels said. The companies have 15 days to contest the fines, and Dr. Michaels said companies typically did challenge the findings when the fines were so large. OSHA calls the penalties "proposed" and considers the violations accusations until the challenges are addressed. The largest fine, \$8.3 million, was issued to O&G Industries, stemming from 139 violations, including 119 considered willful. O&G said it intended to contest the findings. [In a statement](#), the company said that workers had logged 1.7 million hours of labor before the explosion with only one workplace accident. "This is an impressive safety record by any standard and demonstrates the rigor of O&G's safety programs," the statement said. [Keystone Construction and Maintenance Inc.](#), which was in charge of the piping and oversaw the gas blow, was fined \$5.7 million. Keystone issued a statement saying it "strongly disagrees" with the citations and intended to "confer with OSHA and, if need be, contest the citations." [Bluewater Energy Services](#), which was to handle the startup operation, was fined \$896,000. Fourteen subcontractors were fined a total of \$686,000. Dr. Michaels said the only larger fines in OSHA history were both issued to the oil giant BP, including an [\\$87 million penalty](#) issued last year for failing to correct safety problems after a 2005 explosion that killed 15 workers at its refinery in Texas City, Tex.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/06/nyregion/06middletown.html>

USA, CT, PORTLAND, AUGUST 6 2010. STATEMENT OF CSB CHAIRPERSON DR. RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO URGES OSHA TO ADOPT CSB RECOMMENDATION PROHIBITING FLAMMABLE GAS BLOWS DURING PIPE CLEANING OPERATIONS

On June 28, 2010, at a public meeting in Portland, Connecticut, the Chemical Safety Board voted to issue 18 urgent recommendations to various recipients, including OSHA, aimed at halting the dangerous practice of releasing large quantities of flammable gas in the presence of workers and ignition sources during cleaning operations. Six workers were killed and there were numerous injuries on February 7, 2010, at the Kleen Energy power plant under construction in Middletown, Connecticut. A recommendation to OSHA called for, among other things, the promulgation of regulations to prohibit the release of flammable gas to the atmosphere for the purpose of cleaning fuel gas piping. Today, OSHA announced citations and proposed fines against construction companies and contractors at the Kleen Energy power plant construction site and announced a plan to notify natural gas power plant operators of the dangers of natural gas blows. I was pleased that during his news conference, Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for OSHA, stated his agency is studying the CSB recommendation to prohibit flammable gas releases during cleaning operations, and that OSHA agrees with the CSB that this problem must be addressed immediately. Dr. Michaels stated that OSHA likely does not have the authority to prohibit the use of flammable gases during pipe cleaning operations, and that promulgating such a regulation would take years. The CSB believes that OSHA does have adequate authority to take this action and to start the standard setting process at any time. The CSB found that the practice of gas blows is inherently unsafe. In its investigation of the Kleen Energy accident, the CSB found that several safe alternatives to pipe cleaning are available to the industry are already in use, such as compressed air, nitrogen and the use of a solid cleaning device propelled by compressed air that is referred to as a pig. Furthermore, the CSB found companies have already begun to ban the practice. And at least one leading manufacturer of natural gas electric turbines, General Electric, has informed its customers it will not support the practice of gas blows to clear out pipes leading to

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the turbines. A GE official discussed this during the CSB public meeting held in June in Connecticut. The practice of using flammable gas to clean out pipes is inherently unsafe and I believe this practice should be prohibited by regulation, as the CSB board voted at its June meeting. I urge OSHA to examine our recommendation closely and work toward its adoption.

www.csb.gov

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, AUGUST 6 200. TIME TO REVIEW INDUSTRY POLICY

han tzu-shian

The explosions at Formosa Petrochemical Corp's Sixth Naphtha Cracker Plant in Mailiao Township, Yunlin County, last month, seem to have developed from an issue of industrial safety into a political power struggle. One cannot help but wonder if this will speed up a resolution of the problem. It is important that we review the problems the plant has experienced and demand that Formosa Petrochemical make good on its social obligation to clean up the pollution caused by the explosions as well as offering compensation to those affected. Formosa Plastics Group has made a significant contribution to Taiwan's economic development, but it has also been provided with considerable resources and opportunities by the government, growing from a rice trader into a huge and powerful conglomerate. Formosa Petrochemical Corp chairman Wilfred Wang emphasized the group's contribution to the economy and employment, but companies are also expected to abide by environmental protection and labor laws. Today, many firms even take on a philanthropic role by making community donations and seeking to improve the quality of the local environment. The manufacturing process in the petrochemical industry is highly dangerous and the pollution caused by the recent explosions was examined by a number of chemical and medical experts, so the public is aware of the seriousness of the matter. Thanks to news reports on both television and the Internet, the public identifies with the furious residents of Mailiao. Such contamination has a long-term impact not only on the livelihood of local farmers and fishermen, but also on groundwater and ecology. Because of the highly contaminative nature of the industry, Formosa Petrochemical should hold itself to higher environmental and industrial safety standards to remain beyond reproach. It should also work to improve relations with local communities and carry out relief and environmental protection work. In Taiwan, economic development has always trumped social development, and Taiwanese have paid the price in terms of environmental degradation. The government should remain objective and handle the recent spate of industrial accidents at Formosa Petrochemical in accordance with the law. The Yunlin County Government should also provide assistance with any follow up work. It is to be hoped that Formosa Petrochemical will keep its promise to obey the law, assist the local community, prevent pollution, reduce gas emissions, promote risk management, improve operations and carry out sustainable management. More important is the question: Should Taiwan continue to develop its petrochemical industry? More than 1,000 local and international experts have expressed their opposition to the eighth naphtha cracker plant proposed by Kuokuang Petrochemical Technology Company in Changhua County. Hopefully the government will review their arguments and there will be public dialogue to determine what is best for Taiwan's long-term development.

<http://taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2010/08/06/2003479696>

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, AUGUST 6 2010. ST. JOE FILES OIL SPILL LAWSUIT >> COMPANY CITES \$1.4 BILLION LOSS IN SUING HALLIBURTON

The St. Joe Co. has filed a \$1.4 billion lawsuit against Halliburton Energy Services in Delaware Superior Court, seeking damages related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and the energy company's role as the cementing contractor on the failed well. The lawsuit filing cites a subsequent steep drop in St. Joe's stock price and an estimated market capitalization loss of more than \$1 billion as the oil spill spread throughout the Gulf. It is the first legal action taken by St. Joe since the April 20 incident, which killed 11 people and released millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The law firm Bickel & Brewer is representing St. Joe in the lawsuit, which charges Halliburton with having been grossly negligent in the performance of its duties. Bickel & Brewer spokesman Travis J. Carter referred all questions to firm partner William Brewer III, who could not be reached for comment Thursday. "The allegations in this lawsuit appear to be without merit, and we will vigorously contest it in court," said Teresa Wong, manager of Halliburton Public Relations, in an e-mail response. In its filing, St. Joe stated that, prior to April 20, the company had invested considerable resources in developments along Florida's Gulf Coast, with ownership of about 577,000 acres of land, about 70 percent of which are on or within 15 miles of the Northwest Florida coastline. The company said its stock price hit a 52-week high of \$37.44 on April 29, a week after the Deepwater Horizon rig sunk into the gulf, but the price has plummeted more than 40 percent, closing at \$22.08 only 39 days later. "The resultant loss in market capitalization of approximately \$1.4 billion reflects the perception of analysts and investors as to the loss in value of St. Joe's primary assets and its Gulf Coast land holdings," according to the filing. St. Joe also asserts in the lawsuit that the company's strategic plan hinged on the master development of its own land as well as the entire Northwest Florida region. It points to the

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May opening of the new airport as an important catalyst in bringing new businesses and economic development to the region. The company claims that St. Joe "is an innocent victim of Halliburton's reckless pursuit of profits over the safety, environmental integrity, and economic health of an entire region," and the filing includes examples of disregard for safety standards in well cementing and casing procedures. In a released statement, St. Joe President and CEO Britt Greene said Halliburton was among the parties that should bear responsibility for the accident. "The lawsuit represents an important first step in our effort to achieve a full and complete recovery for the damages suffered by the St. Joe," Greene said.

<http://www.newsherald.com/news/joe-85927-energy-spill.html>

CANADA, TORONTO, AUGUST 6 2010. BYLAW WOULD LIMIT LOCATION OF PROPANE FACILITIES >> PLAN WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO BE AT LEAST 300 METRES FROM HOMES

anna mehler paperny



Sunrise Propane Industrial Gases in Downsview exploded in August, 2008.

Two years ago, thousands of people in Toronto's Downsview neighbourhood learned firsthand the downside to having a propane facility as your next-door neighbour. If the city has its way, no other Toronto residents will. Plans being put forward in the city's mammoth harmonized zoning bylaw, which goes to council later this month, would require industrial propane facilities to be at least 300 metres away from residential areas. While existing sites would be allowed to remain, the restriction would cover any new or expanded ones. "Arising out of the Sunrise incident, the zoning bylaw addresses the issue of propane safety in employment areas," reads a staff report on the bylaw. "When located close to

sensitive uses such as dwellings, schools or nursing homes, propane storage, handling and transfer poses a greater safety risk." The man behind a provincially ordered probe into Ontario's propane-safety record says the change is probably a good idea. "Operators need to calculate whether the population will be affected by an explosion," Michael Birk said. "And if they are, they need to take special protection measures to make sure these incidents don't happen. "And if some facilities are in really heavily populated areas, maybe they should move." Prof. Birk is department head of mechanical and materials engineering at Queen's University, and is an expert in "boiling liquid expanding vapour explosions" – the same kind that ripped through Sunrise Propane's facility in August, 2008, lighting up the northern Toronto sky and blanketed the surrounding area in charred metal and asbestos. He says he's pleased with the way the province is implementing 40 recommendations his panel put forward in late 2008. Whether these have an impact on safety, however, remains to be seen. "It will be in the details of how our recommendations are implemented," he said. "And that I haven't seen yet." Prof. Birk noted that although Ontario's propane-safety record is on par with other provinces, it lags behind places like the Netherlands, where facilities deemed too close to residential areas have been told to move. A 367-page Ontario Fire Marshal's report, leaked piecemeal this week and obtained in full by The Globe and Mail, labels the massive blast an accident but notes that the hose failure and propane leak behind the explosion took place during an illegal truck-to-truck propane transfer. Sunrise Propane had been given a cease and desist order about this in November, 2006; a follow-up inspection six months later found it to be following that rule. More tellingly, the report notes, the series of explosions was exacerbated by conditions that are technically permitted – but perhaps shouldn't be. The takeaway from that weighty document, says Chris Williams, who heads the office's fire investigations, is that things have to change before history repeats itself. "This isn't just an explosion: This is an explosion that took people's lives ... If we don't feed what we learn from and explore and investigate back into the program ... then it all goes for naught," said Mr. Williams. "I'm not suggesting [existing rules] are too lax, but I'm suggesting the technical depth to which our investigation went perhaps identified issues that, until you have an event of this scale, may not have been considered." But a group speaking for the propane industry argues the Sunrise Propane explosion was a freak accident. If existing rules are followed, said Ontario Propane Association compliance director Gord Ellis, everything should be fine. "We really don't see the need for further distances. ... The illegal activity that was detailed in the fire marshal's report is not representative of day-to-day activities of a typical propane facility. We really don't see the need for this," he said. "It's going to place unnecessary restrictions on an industry." Sophia Aggelonitis, Ontario's Consumer Services Minister who oversees propane industry regulation, says she looks forward to reviewing any recommendations coming out of the fire marshal's report, but noted the province has already acted to make the industry safer. "This was a tragic event – everyone in the province felt this," she said. "And the government acted quickly."

See Also: [Sunrise Propane was told to stop liquid gas transfers two years before fatal blast](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/toronto/bylaw-would-limit-location-of-propane-facilities/article1663848/)

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