

## Dangerous Goods & Hazardous Materials Group and Network

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/DangerousGoods/>

**"RELEASE 2010 – 565 NEWSY STUFF"**

**January 18 2010**



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**USA, TX, GLASSCOCK CO, LEES, JANUARY 13 2010. H2S TANK ACCIDENT LEAVES 1 DEAD, 2 INJURED**

**Watch the Video** <http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=11801728>

Officials are continuing to investigate after an industrial accident left a 65-year-old man dead Monday and three others in the hospital. Johnny Mills, 65, died just before noon Monday after he was exposed to hydrogen sulfide while working in an oil field, said Glasscock County Sheriff Keith Burnett. Mills and Steven Waters, 27, were on top of a tank battery around 9:20 a.m. Monday near Farm-to-Market Road 461 about 15 miles north of Garden City when they went to open a valve and were exposed to hydrogen sulfide gas, Burnett said. Waters had fallen off the tank when officials arrived, and Mills was discovered unconscious on top of the tank. Waters was airlifted to an Odessa hospital where he remained in stable condition late Monday, Burnett said. Mills was pronounced dead at 11:50 a.m. Monday. Mike Moore, 48, and Ernie Hicks, age unknown, were on the ground during the incident and were transported via ambulance to Scenic Mountain Medical Center in Big Spring. Burnett said they would be held at the hospital overnight Monday for observation, but remained in stable condition. The official cause of Mill's death will not be determined until an autopsy is complete, Burnett said. Two of the men involved worked for Cat Construction out of Big Spring and two for Sheridan Enterprises out of Garden City. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration describes hydrogen sulfide as a "flammable, colorless gas that is toxic at extremely low concentrations." Hydrogen Sulfide is absorbed through the lungs, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and can cause death as well as other systematic effects. The gas smells like rotten eggs, according to OSHA, and causes individuals to lose their sense of smell shortly after initial exposure. Burnett said Mills' death is the first to occur during an industrial incident this year, but said unfortunately with oil field activity increasing during recent years such incidents are not uncommon. He was not certain how many individuals died during industrial accidents in the county in 2009.

### Hydrogen Sulfide

- [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/Hurricane\\_Facts/hydrogen\\_sulfide\\_fact.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data/Hurricane_Facts/hydrogen_sulfide_fact.pdf)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen\\_sulfide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen_sulfide)

[http://www.mywesttexas.com/articles/2010/01/11/news/top\\_stories/doc4b4bb19e12865859954844.txt#ixzz0cYdl2leb](http://www.mywesttexas.com/articles/2010/01/11/news/top_stories/doc4b4bb19e12865859954844.txt#ixzz0cYdl2leb)

**USA, WA, GRAYS HARBOR, JANUARY 13 2010. INVESTIGATORS FIND CAUSE OF BIODIESEL PLANT EXPLOSION**

*john davis*

Company investigators say they have found the cause of the explosion last month at the Imperium Renewables biodiesel plant near Grays Harbor, Washington state. The DailyWorld.com reports a 10,000-gallon glycerin neutralization tank became over-pressurized to the point of an explosion when sulfuric acid caused an unexpected exothermic reaction: "Personnel were unaware of the potential for such a reaction," spokesman John Williams wrote in the release, "and the processing equipment itself was not designed with physical or mechanical safeguards to prevent an oversupply of sulfuric acid." Imperium CEO John Plaza said in the release the company is planning to install new mechanical safeguards to prevent a similar increase in the acid ratio from reacting in the future. "We are taking steps to make sure this cannot, and does not, ever happen again," he said. Company officials say they are working on getting the plant back online but didn't give a timeline as to when the repairs would be complete.

<http://domesticfuel.com/2010/01/11/investigators-find-cause-of-biodiesel-plant-explosion/>

**USA, NY, WASHINGTONVILLE, JANUARY 13 2010. WASHINGTONVILLE HOUSE HAD SUPPLIES FOR BIODIESEL: DEC**

*john sullivan*

Officials are investigating whether the owner of a house at 32 North St. violated laws by allowing the mass production of biodiesel in a residential neighborhood. Wendy Rosenbach, spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, said officials from her agency discovered dozens of 55-gallon drums, as well as about seven 500-gallon containers in a detached garage on the property while looking for the source of some 5-10 gallons of spilled fuel in the basement of the home. No environmental laws were broken, but the operation is under investigation by the village code enforcement officer for code violations, Rosenbach said. About 20 of the 55-gallon drums contained cooking oil, apparently used to make biodiesel, while two of the drums contained ethanol, which is highly flammable, said Darryl Vandermark, head of the county's Hazardous Materials Response Team. The secret production of biodiesel is a growing trend out West, but this is the first time that an operation of this size was found in Orange County, Vandermark said. "We're being told that 'hey, people are going to start doing this in their backyards,'" he said.

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100112/NEWS/1120334/-1/SITEMAP>

**USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS, JANUARY 13 2010. REFINERY CHEMICAL SPILL DOES NOT CONSTITUTE HEALTH EMERGENCY, STATE SAYS**

*dermot cole*

The levels of sulfolane found in the residential wells near the Flint Hills Refinery is not a health emergency, the Department of Health and Social Services says, but more research is needed to understand the situation. Here is a fact sheet published Tuesday by the state:

### Introduction

This fact sheet summarizes what the Alaska Division of Public Health currently knows about sulfolane and its health effects. We are preparing a more thorough report that discusses the public health implications of sulfolane in North Pole drinking water, and it should be available in the spring of 2010. Sulfolane is most commonly used in refining oil to make gasoline. When sulfolane gets into the environment, it tends to dissolve into water rather than stick to the soil or evaporate. The most likely way people might

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come in contact with sulfolane is from drinking water. Information about the health effects of sulfolane is limited because there have been no studies that have looked for health effects in people who have been exposed to this chemical, and few studies have been done with animals exposed to low levels of sulfolane for long periods of time.

### **What Is Sulfolane?**

Sulfolane, or tetrahydrothiophene 1, 1-dioxide, is a man-made industrial solvent, commonly used in gas production and oil refining. Sulfolane is also used in other manufacturing industries such as plastics, textiles, pharmaceuticals, and electronics. Despite its widespread use, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency does not regulate sulfolane levels in drinking water.

### **What Happens to Sulfolane When It Gets Into the Environment?**

Sulfolane dissolves readily in water, and when it gets into the environment it tends to move into groundwater. Once in groundwater, sulfolane spreads out and gets diluted as it travels with groundwater flow. Sulfolane does not break down easily in groundwater; it breaks down faster in surface water bodies when nutrients and oxygen are present. Sulfolane does not readily move from water into the air (volatilize), nor does it stick to the soils. Some plants can take up sulfolane from water. Sulfolane does not build up or accumulate (biomagnify) in aquatic food chains.

### **How Might I Be Exposed to Sulfolane?**

The most likely way you might come in contact with sulfolane is from drinking contaminated water. Bathing/showering and washing clothes or dishes with contaminated water is not likely to pose a health risk because sulfolane is not absorbed through the skin and it does not readily volatilize.

### **How Can Sulfolane Affect My Health?**

What we know about the health effects of sulfolane comes from animal studies (e.g. rats, guinea pigs, mice). No studies have been done to look at potential health effects in people who have been exposed to sulfolane, either from their work or from consuming contaminated drinking water or food crops. In most of the studies available, animals that were given a single high dose of sulfolane showed acute (short-term) effects to the central nervous system, such as hyperactivity, convulsions, hypothermia, and sometimes death at very high doses. Only a few studies looked for chronic (long-term) health effects using lower sulfolane doses (about 700 times lower) over a longer period of time. In these chronic toxicology studies, sulfolane affected certain organs, like the liver, kidneys, and spleen, and lowered white blood cell counts in test animals. These subtle chronic health effects in test animals occurred at sulfolane doses that were much higher (several hundred-fold higher) than those that could be obtained through consuming drinking water from North Pole wells. Sulfolane is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream when it is consumed, and is also rapidly excreted (removed), with a half-life of 3.5 to 5 hours (meaning that every 3.5 to 5 hours, half of the amount remaining in your body will be gone). Sulfolane is not a skin or eye irritant in animal studies.

### **How Likely Is Sulfolane to Cause Cancer?**

No long-term studies in animals have been done to see if sulfolane can cause cancer. In most laboratory tests with bacterial or animal cells, high doses of sulfolane did not cause cancer-like changes to the cells. Preliminary computer modeling also suggests that sulfolane is not a carcinogen (cancer-causing agent).

### **Has The Federal Government Made Recommendations to Protect Human Health?**

Sulfolane is not a regulated drinking water contaminant, so the federal government has not set a "maximum contaminant level" (a safe level) for sulfolane in drinking water.

### **What Is The Alaska Division Of Public Health Doing to Address Community Concerns about Long-Term Exposure to Sulfolane In Drinking Water?**

The amount of sulfolane in North Pole's residential wells is not a public health emergency. However, to be cautious, Flint Hills is providing bottled drinking water to residents with sulfolane in their well water. To address concerns about past exposure, we are currently reviewing all the available scientific studies and literature on sulfolane. Some of the studies have been hard to locate (having been done over 20 years ago or not published in peer-reviewed journals), some were of questionable quality, and some had to be translated into English. As we learn more, we will share this information with the community through fact sheets, reports and notices. We have also asked a federal public health agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), to recommend a level of exposure for sulfolane in drinking water that does not harm human health, both for children and adults. Unfortunately, this takes some time, but we anticipate a response in February 2010. Because there are no studies that have looked for health effects in people who have been exposed to sulfolane, scientists and toxicology experts must rely on animal data and computer modeling to make recommendations on what is a "safe level" of exposure for people. The more uncertainty (due to lack of information and types of data available) that exists around a chemical, the higher the "safety factor" or buffer (layer of protection) we use between the smallest dose that caused a chronic health effect in animals and the amount allowed in drinking water.

[http://newsminer.com/pages/full\\_story/push?blog-entry-Refinery+chemical+spill+does+not+constitute+health+emergency-+state+says%20&id=5540995&instance=blogs\\_editors\\_desk](http://newsminer.com/pages/full_story/push?blog-entry-Refinery+chemical+spill+does+not+constitute+health+emergency-+state+says%20&id=5540995&instance=blogs_editors_desk)

**UK, NEEDHAM, JANUARY 13 2010. SCUBA TANK FLIES INTO NEEDHAM RECYCLING AND TRANSFER STATION, SMASHES THROUGH WALL**

*steven ryan*

A scuba tank discarded at the Recycling and Transfer Station on Jan. 7 reportedly smashed through the wall of the main office building at the RTS after its top valve was knocked off, police said. The RTS superintendent reportedly told police a man dropped off an aluminum diver's tank in the metal pile earlier that day. The man reportedly dropped off diver's tanks at the RTS in the past and was told not to do so since the tanks require special handling. An RTS employee reportedly removed the tank from the metal

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pile and put it by the main office building for further processing. At some point, the tank apparently fell over, which knocked off the top valve of the tank. Since the tank was under pressure, it was sent flying into the RTS building, going through the building's metal outer shell, through the half-inch of drywall, pushed aside a chair at the desk and struck the wall to the rear of the office. There were no employees in the office at the time of the accident.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/needham/news/x1689202350/Scuba-tank-flies-into-Needham-Recycling-and-Transfer-Station-smashes-through-wall>

### **VIETNAM, HANOI, JANUARY 13 2010. HANOI PLANS PRIVATIZATION OF STATE COMPANY PETROLIMEX**

Vietnam appears ready to restart its privatisation drive after the government signalled it was preparing to sell two of the largest state-owned enterprises. Nguyen Tan Dung, the prime minister, earmarked Petrolimex, the largest fuel importer and distributor, and Vietnam Steel Corp, the steelmaker, as the next candidates, but did not give a timetable. Analysts said it was impossible to give an accurate valuation for either company because the companies did not publish accounts. Petrolimex, which controls 60 per cent of the fuel distribution market in Vietnam, could be worth \$1bn-\$1.5bn. A executive from an international company based in Vietnam, said: "Getting equitisation going again is very important. Some of these companies are very well established; they have good brands and they represent industries with quite high barriers to entry, either in regulatory terms or in establishing the physical infrastructure which they need to operate." Other analysts sounded a note of caution. Petrolimex, formally known as Vietnam National Petroleum Corp, is dominant in fuel product imports but faces growing competition as Vietnam starts building its own refineries that are not tied to distribution deals. The finance ministry also suggested last month that fuel prices might be returned to state control, a move that would damp investor enthusiasm. Petrolimex, which has 6,000 petrol stations, turned over an estimated 25,000bn dong (\$1.3bn) in 2008.

<http://www.petroplaza.com/news/industry/MiZlbiY5MDQ3JjMmMSYzMCYx>

### **CHINA, ANHUI PROVINCE, HEFEI, JANUARY 13 2010. DRUG COMPANY ORDERED TO PAY COMPENSATION FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL DUMPING IN E CHINA**

A Chinese pharmaceutical company has been ordered to pay hefty compensation for dumping toxic chemical waste in rural areas. Environmental watchdogs of Anhui and Zhejiang provinces issued the decision after a meeting. Zhejiang Puluodebang Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., based in neighboring Zhejiang Province, has been ordered to pay 2.2 million yuan (322,000 U.S. dollars) to two counties in Anhui, where water and soil was polluted by the waste. An investigation by the environment authorities found the chemical waste contained in more than 1,000 barrels was dumped in roadside ditches and a pool in Woyang and Lixin counties. Some of the waste has spilled. Environment workers found a 10-km section of the Fuwo River running through Xinli County has been polluted by the waste. Test results showed the toxic ingredients were methylene dichloride, methanol and methane, which damage the central nervous system. No deaths or illness had been reported in connection with the pollution. Police have detained six men suspected to be involved in the dumping. A detained garbage dealer surnamed Yang, from Ruji Town of Xinli County, Anhui, said he had been contracted to dispose of the waste by a local man surnamed Ren, who told him the waste came from the pharmaceutical company in Dongyang City in Zhejiang. Yang hired four local men to dump the waste. The pharmaceutical company admitted that it entrusted a chemical plant to dispose of the chemical waste. However, the owner of the plant had disappeared after media reported the waste dumping. Environmental authorities in both provinces held the pharmaceutical company responsible for the environmental damage caused by the dumping. The environmental protection bureau in Anhui launched the investigation after local people reported the pollution in December last year. More than 1,000 local people were mobilized to collect the 395 tonnes of waste and polluted soil in Woyang and Lixin counties, said the spokesman. A recent water sample test showed the quality of the river water had basically returned to normal, said an official with the Anhui Provincial Environment Monitoring and Supervision Bureau.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/13/content\\_12801885.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010-01/13/content_12801885.htm)

### **USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, JANUARY 14 2010. I-64 FULLY REOPENS FOLLOWING GAS TANKER FIRE**

**Watch the Video** <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/81335902.html>

**Photo's** <http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/81335902.html>

All lanes of Interstate 64 are back open near the Washington St. exit in Charleston after a truck fire. It happened shortly after 1 p.m. at the 58 mile marker, snarling traffic in both directions. Assistant Chief Rodney Winter with the Charleston Fire Department tells WSaz.com that a tanker truck being towed caught fire after a tire blew out. This created a large plume of black smoke above the city that could be seen for miles. Winter says the tanker was empty and it usually carries diesel fuel. No one was hurt in the incident. All lanes of I-64 have since reopened in the area.

<http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/81335902.html>

### **USA, OH, COSHOCTON, JANUARY 14 2010. PORT AUTHORITY RECEIVES ASSESSMENT PROPOSALS**

The Coshocton Port Authority received six submissions this week to a Request for Qualifications to implement a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sponsored brownfield assessment and underground petroleum storage tank evaluation. The port authority was awarded two \$200,000 grants from the EPA, as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, to develop a countywide inventory of brownfield sites and underground storage tank locations. The funds may be used to perform Phase 1 and

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Phase 2 environmental assessments and other activities. The successful firm will perform the activities identified within the grant. Proposals received from the Payne Firm in Cincinnati, Cox-Colvin & Associates Inc. in Plain City, BJAAM Environmental in Canal Fulton, the Mannik and Smith Group of Maumee, Hull & Associates Inc. in Dublin and Conestoga-Rovers & Associates in Sandusky will be evaluated this month. A recommendation is expected at the Feb. 11 board of directors meeting.

<http://www.coshocntribune.com/article/20100113/NEWS01/1130319/1002/PORT-AUTHORITY-RECEIVES-ASSESSMENT-PROPOSALS>

### USA, AR, GRAVETTE, JANUARY 14 2010. OFFICIALS SAY GRAVETTE IS SAFE AGAIN AFTER GASOLINE LEAK

📺 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kfsm.com/kfsm-nwa-gravette-gas-leak.0.859962.story>

📺 **Watch the Video** <http://www.4029tv.com/news/22222670/detail.html>

📺 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kfsm.com/kfsm-news-nwa-gravette-gas-leak.0.7152699.story>

It was a scary moment for residents in Gravette yesterday. A gasoline tank at the Shop N Go Gas Station along Highway 59 sprung a leak, spilling out 1,600 to 2,000 gallons of gasoline. The gasoline not only spilled onto the ground, but possibly into the sewer line as well. Residents and employees at local businesses could smell the fumes. "We smelled all the odor and we seen the fast that was piling up there in that wall and just realized something was wrong," said Gabe Harris, who works at Harris Auto Sales next door to the gas station. That's when Fire, EMS, and Hazmat crews made the decision to evacuate the area. "We had a few of the blocks marked off and wouldn't let traffic and stuff in just for safety precautions," said Lieutenant Braxton Handle with the Gravette Fire Department. Chris Gibson lives less than a block away from the station. He says it was a scary moment for his family. "It worries me that it was pretty close to home...We've got two kids, young teenagers, so we were definitely pretty concerned if we should get out or not," said Gibson. Officials say residents and businesses are no longer in danger, and the sewage system has been cleaned out. "We've flushed out the sewer system last night with some foam and water," said Lt. Handle. Everyone was allowed back into the area at around 10:30 last night. Crews spent today trying to figure out how the gas made its way into the sewage system. It's still unclear when the gas station will re-open. It's likely the fire chief will have to make that final decision. So far, officials say there's no indication the water supply was effected.

**Related links** [Gasoline Leaks into Gravette Sewer](http://www.kfsm.com/kfsm-nwa-gravette-gas-leak.0.859962.story)

<http://www.kfsm.com/kfsm-nwa-gravette-gas-leak.0.859962.story>

### USA, WI, KRONENWETTER, JANUARY 14 2010. KRONENWETTER WANTS ASSURANCE ON GASOLINE SPILL

📺 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wsaw.com/home/headlines/81360437.html>

Kronenwetter officials and residents are demanding more answers from the company responsible for a 25,000-gallon gasoline spill in their community in early December. Magellan Pipeline Co. sent a letter this week assuring Kronenwetter that the spill is contained to company property along Old Highway 51 and has not contaminated groundwater. "I don't buy it," said Harold Lyon, a neighbor for nearly 40 years to the tank farm where the gasoline leaked. "Do you realize how much 25,000 gallons is? That's two-and-a-half semi loads of gas that escaped through a half-inch pipe. That would have to leak for a long time." Lyon, 76, questioned how the Wisconsin [Department of Natural Resources](http://www.dnr.state.wi.gov) can agree with Magellan that the spill poses no safety risk. The letter says the DNR agrees with Magellan's findings, and Lyon asked why the agency is relying on testing from Magellan's own wells and not the state's experts. Magellan detected on Dec. 4 a half-inch pipe below ground had corroded, leaking 25,000 gallons of gas into the soil and eventually the groundwater. The village and the public did not learn of the spill until two weeks later. Lyon and other neighbors who live just west of Old Highway 51 are concerned that the groundwater will be contaminated with gas, rendering the wells they use to water their lawns useless. The letter says Magellan hired a remediation company that has installed 28 monitoring wells that show the gas has not migrated off the Magellan property. The letter also states that groundwater samples have been taken, showing that gas only has leaked into the groundwater under the Magellan site and there is no risk to neighbors. The DNR did not respond to a phone message Tuesday, nor did a Magellan representative. Village Board member Mark Pertile says that Magellan has been unresponsive following the initial leak and ongoing questions from the community. He wants to know why more monitoring wells haven't been installed south of the site of the spill. According to a Magellan map submitted with the letter, most of the monitoring wells are to the northwest of the leak, or the direction in which Magellan says the groundwater flows. But Pertile said it's unclear from the map if there is any pattern to where the leak went, and there should be more monitoring.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20100113/WDH0101/1130667/1981/WDHOpinion/Kronenwetter-wants-assurance-on-gasoline-spill>

### USA, TX, BRYANS MILL, JANUARY 12, 2010 (AP) HYDROGEN SULFIDE RELEASE AT GAS PLANT KILLS TEXAS MAN INJURES ANOTHER

Federal investigators are investigating a chemical leak at a natural gas-processing plant in northeast Texas that killed one worker and injured another. The accident occurred when hydrogen sulfide was accidentally released from an Enbridge Inc. gas processing plant Saturday night near Bryans Mill, about 135 miles northeast of Dallas. Enbridge spokeswoman Terri Larson said Tuesday she didn't know the cause of the leak. The Canadian company and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration are investigating. Enbridge employee Nalvester Maxie was pronounced dead at the scene. The 56-year-old resident of nearby Bivins worked at the plant more than 30 years. The injured man was in critical condition.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9543396>

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**AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, JANUARY 14 2010. MONTARA PLATFORM SPILL: COMPANY SAYS CAP LEFT OFF LEAKING WELL**

*andrea hayward*

**Photo's** <http://www.smh.com.au/environment/pttep-confirms-oil-spill-cause-20100114-m8x9.html>

**Related Links** [PTTEP confirms oil spill cause](#)

**Related Links** [PTTEP secures Montara platform](#)

The ThThe massive fire that engulfed the West Atlas rig last week after workers tried to plug an oil leakai-based company behind an oil spill in the Timor Sea has revealed, ahead of a federal government inquiry, that a containment cap was not installed at a well that spewed oil for more than 10 weeks. A submission from PTTEP Australasia, which operates the Montara oilfield off Western Australia's northwest coast, has been published on the Montara Commission of Inquiry website. The inquiry, to be headed by former public servant David Borthwick, will summon witnesses, take evidence on oath and require individuals and corporations to hand over relevant documents. PTTEP said it was aware of the cause of the spill after it plugged the leaking H1 well, near the West Atlas oil rig, in early November, but would wait until the inquiry to reveal it. "When the work on the wells recommenced in August 2009, PTTEP discovered that the 340mm pressure-containing corrosion cap required by the drilling program had not been installed during the suspension of the H1 Well in March 2009," the company's submission says. "The drilling Superintendent had been advised by the drilling supervisor on the West Atlas, in an email advice of offline activities at the time of the March 2009 suspension, that the 340mm pressure containing corrosion cap was installed." The success of the relief well operation confirmed the source of the flow was in fact in the 244mm casing in the H1 Well and the most likely cause of that was a channel in the cement in the casing of the 244mm shoe track, the company said. The corrosion cap was removed on August 20 to clean up corroded casing threads in the well and was not reinstalled, PTTEP said. Oil, gas and condensate began leaking from the well on August 21, prompting the evacuation of workers on the West Atlas rig. The National Offshore Petroleum Safety Authority (NOPSA) and the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts have also made submissions to the inquiry, which will examine the information ahead of public hearings. Hearings are expected to take place between February 22 and March 31, with public hearings to be held in Canberra. The terms of reference include:

- the cause of the spill;
- whether the regulatory regime governing the oil drilling operation was adequate; \* the performance of relevant people acting under that regime;
- the adequacy of the response; and
- the environmental impact of the spill.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/company-says-cap-left-off-leaking-well-20100114-m9ni.html>

**USA, CA, SANTA CRUZ, JANUARY 14 2010. CUP OF CHEMICAL [MERCAPTAN] SPILLS, PROMPTING ALARM IN SANTA CRUZ, BUT THERE'S NO DANGER**

*genevieve bookwalter*

County residents from Mount Hermon Road to Highway 17 reported fears of a natural gas leak on Wednesday after a company contracted to fill fuel tanks in Harvey West accidentally spilled a cup of the liquid chemical they add to highly flammable natural gas so people can smell if the dangerous fuel is in the air. The chemical, mercaptan, typically smells like rotting cabbage and is readily identified by most as the telltale sign of a gas leak, said officials with Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District. County dispatchers said they reported 911 complaints about the odor to Santa Cruz Fire Department, which drove to the scene about 12:30 p.m. to make sure the permeating scent didn't signify a potential disaster. Instead, NorthStar, the company that Metro contracts to fill natural gas tanks for the district's low-emission buses, was mixing the mercaptan with the natural gas and "had some mishap where about a cup (of mercaptan) actually came out. That tells you how intense the odor is," said Les White, director of Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District. NorthStar is a Wyoming company that specializes in liquid natural gas fueling facilities. White said this is the first mercaptan spill at the new Harvey West fueling station since it opened about a year and a half ago. No one was injured by the spill or smell, he said. "We're having conversations with NorthStar about being more careful," White said.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_14182642?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14182642?nclink_check=1)

**USA, CA, SACRAMENTO. JANUARY 15 2010. SERVICE STATION OWNERS ONLY WANT FAIR REIMBURSEMENT**

In response to the column "[As governor slices, oil industry gets cake](#)" by Dan Morain of The Sacramento Bee (Jan. 12, Page A-9): In the mid-1980s California passed a law requiring all service stations and commercial underground fuel storage tanks to be replaced. All tanks had to be replaced with double-wall tanks and double-wall piping between 1988 and 1998. The purpose was to reduce the amount of petroleum pollution the state was experiencing because of leaking underground tanks. As all of us started to replace our tanks, many people found that they had some pollution and had no insurance to clean up the soil. Our general liability carriers would not accept responsibility for the cleanups. We also found that no insurance companies would provide us with reasonable pollution insurance. We all wanted to be good citizens and clean up the pollution that we were responsible for. So we went to the state and asked them to create a fund that we would pay into. In 1991, this fund was created, and each underground tank owner paid about 1 cent per gallon into the fund for the state to manage and reimburse pollution claims. This was a great deal for the state because many tank owners did not have the money to clean up the sites. In effect we were all paying for insurance that the state would administer and give us our money back to pay for pollution clean ups as they occurred. This was also good for

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our communities because without these funds many sites would just remain polluted for many years. Over the years the "insurance" fee has been raised from 1 cent to 1.2 cents per gallon and then to 1.4 cents per gallon as needed to pay the claims submitted. In the case of Boyett Petroleum, we pay approximately \$700,000 a year into the fund, and right now the state is two years behind in reimbursing us for our expenses. That means the fund has paid out more than it has collected or it has been mismanaged. I am owed hundreds of thousands of dollars by the state fund, but I have to keep paying into the fund every month. The state's overhead in managing this fund has been 22 percent, which is much higher than most other states. Now the fee is going up to 2 cents per gallon, and I will be paying approximately \$1 million a year into the fund and hoping that someday I will see some money out of it. This is in no way a tax increase on the consumer. It is not a tax that we pay when we buy the gasoline. This is an insurance premium. That does not mean that I will not try to increase my profit to cover that expense. But I can only do that if the competition allows me to do so. This fee is an expense that all service station owners pay, and it is no different from any other expense. We all hope to make enough money to cover our expenses and have a profit at the end of the year. But it is disingenuous of Morain to say that this is a windfall for the oil industry. It is true that the California Independent Oil Marketers asked for this increase and supported it with contributions to legislators, but it is only so that we can get back the money we have paid for 15 years so that we can continue our tank cleanups. Of the roughly 10,000 service stations in California, at least 9,500 are owned by small operators. Very few are owned by the major oil companies. They have mostly been sold so that they don't have the liability anymore. All we want is for the state to manage our funds in a responsible manner and return the money that is owed to us when we present a valid pollution claim.

**Editor's Note:** Carl Boyett's response, printed here, and the original column, published in Tuesday's Bee and available at [is.qd/6h4A0](http://is.qd/6h4A0), take different views on who pays the underground storage tank fee, which the Legislature just raised to 2 cents per gallon. So who does pay? According to the State Water Resources Control Board, which manages the tank fund cleanup, the per-gallon fee is legally owed by the owner of the storage tanks, but widely viewed as being paid by motorists as part of their cost at the pump. When the State Energy Commission adds up the taxes that Californians pay on gas, it shows the amounts as:

- 18.0 cents per gallon state excise tax
- 18.3 cents per gallon federal excise tax
- 2 cents per gallon state underground storage tank fee
- 0.5 cents per gallon federal leaking underground storage tank tax, and
- 8.25 percent state sales tax (plus whatever extra charges occur by county or city).

More information on the state's tank pollution cleanup program is available at the State Water Resources Control Board Web site, <http://swrcb.ca.gov/ust/>.

<http://www.modbee.com/opinion/community/story/1008539.html>

### **UK, LEICESTER, JANUARY 15 2010. AM WIDDOWSON FINED £5,000 FOR FIRE RISK**

Leicestershire haulier [AM Widdowson](#) has been prosecuted for creating a fire risk by illegally storing huge quantities of highly flammable aerosols. The company pleaded guilty at Coalville Magistrates' Court to breaching Regulation 6(2) of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999 (COMAH) and Section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, in a case brought by the [Health & Safety Executive](#). Widdowson stored large amounts of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for about seven months at its depot on the Hilltop Industrial Estate site in Leicestershire. It failed to notify the authorities of its operations on site, did not complete a risk assessment and then failed to implement many good practices recognised by industry. The firm was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay costs of £4,900.

<http://www.roadtransport.com/Articles/2010/01/13/135339/am-widdowson-fined-1635000-for-fire-risk.html>

### **USA, PA, WARRINGTON, JANUARY 15 2010. FEDERAL RECOVERY ACT HELPING CLEAN UP LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS; PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY**

The Department of Environmental Protection is using \$6.1 million in federal Recovery Act funds to help clean up 71 sites around the state where leaking underground storage tanks are threats to the environment and local economies. DEP Secretary John Hanger today joined federal, state and local officials in Bucks County to highlight the cleanup efforts at one of the sites. Hanger was joined by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator Shawn Garvin at the abandoned Malcolm's Auto Repair and said removing the leaking underground tanks is an important first step to jump-starting the site cleanup and returning the property to productive use. "It is easy to see that this property does not fit with the surrounding development," said Hanger. "All productive activity here ended years ago, but the underground petroleum storage tanks remained. Those tanks were leaking and have impacted the environment and the economy. "While businesses flourish in the surrounding area, this site remains an eyesore and the leaking tanks serve as a tall hurdle that must be overcome before the site can flourish again." Malcolm's is one of the sites being cleaned up with financial assistance from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In August, EPA awarded \$6.1 million to Pennsylvania to clean up sites where historic abandoned underground tanks are hindering economic development due to concerns about possible contamination and potential cleanup costs. Currently, DEP contractors have initiated field work at 35 of the sites. Corrective actions include removing leaking and abandoned tanks and contaminated soil, as well as investigating the extent of contamination. During the fourth quarter of 2009, the 10,300 hours worked by environmental technicians, equipment operators, drilling technicians and various environmental professionals on these projects accounted for 20 full-time equivalent jobs. It is expected that 80 to 90 full-time equivalent jobs will be funded by Recovery Act investments to clean up the 71 sites. Plans are being made to begin work at the 36 other sites as soon as possible, depending on the weather and securing agreements with

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property owners. "Few people are willing to take a risk on purchasing land in a prime location such as this when they suspect that it may be contaminated," said Hanger. "By removing the remaining product from these tanks and getting the abandoned tanks out of the ground, not only are we ending the threat of groundwater contamination and any potential danger to public health and safety, we are clearing the way for this property to once again be useful to the community." To learn more about how the federal Recovery Act will benefit communities across Pennsylvania, visit [www.recovery.pa.gov](http://www.recovery.pa.gov).

SOURCE Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

**Related Links** <http://www.recovery.pa.gov>

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/federal-recovery-act-helping-clean-up-leaking-underground-storage-tanks-protect-public-health-safety-81521227.html>

### IRAN, TEHRAN, JANUARY 15 2010. 46 NEW PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEXES PLANNED BY IRAN IN NEXT CALENDAR YEAR

Iran's 20-Year Outlook Plan envisions petrochemical output to reach 100 mln tons by 2015. In a bid to meet these targets, Iran plans construction of 46 new petrochemical complexes in next calendar year (to begin March 21) to boost its production capacity by 50 million tons. An investment outlay of US\$25 bln has been planned. Currently, 29 projects being built at the cost of US\$18 billion are estimated to add 22.5 mln tons to the current production capacity.

[http://www.plastemart.com/plasticnews\\_desc.asp?news\\_id=16935](http://www.plastemart.com/plasticnews_desc.asp?news_id=16935)

### UK, BUNCEFIELD, JANUARY 15 2010. CHANGE IN PLEA OVER BUNCEFIELD EXPLOSION

British Pipeline Agency has changed its original not guilty pleas over the explosion at the Buncefield Oil Storage Depot to guilty following a hearing on Wednesday. The company is now admitting that between November 18, 2001 and December 12, 2005, it failed to take all the measures necessary to prevent major accidents and that between December 10, 2005, and December 31, 2005, that it caused polluting matter - fuel and firewater chemicals - to enter the chalk aquifer under Buncefield. The change of plea was made at an administrative hearing in the Royal Courts of Justice. Also facing charges in relation to the explosions in Hemel Hempstead on December 11 are Total UK, Herts Oil Storage Ltd., TAV Engineering and Motherwell Control Systems.

<http://www.hertsad.co.uk/content/herts/news/story.aspx?brand=HADOnline&category=News&tBrand=HertsCamsOnline&tCategory=newslatestHAD&itemid=WEED14%20Jan%202010%2016%3A28%3A13%3A070>

### USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 15 2010. OSHA CITES TWO EMPLOYERS FOLLOWING CONFINED-SPACE DEATHS



*A co-worker of Rene Francisco Rivas (inset) mourns his death near the toxic sewer site where the man perished.*

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has completed inspections prompted by a June 29, 2009, triple fatality at a Jamaica, N.Y., recycling facility. An employee of S. Dahan Piping and Heating Company of South Ozone, N.Y., was fatally overcome by hydrogen sulfide gas while cleaning a dry well at Regal Recycling Company Inc. The owner of S. Dahan Piping and Heating, who was also the worker's father, and a Regal Recycling employee also succumbed while trying to rescue him from the dry well. OSHA's inspection found that S. Dahan Piping and Heating should have monitored the air quality in the dry well to determine if there was a lack of oxygen or the presence of another breathing hazard before any of its employees entered the dry well to perform their duties. If a hazard was found, protective measures would need to have been

implemented prior to employee entry. OSHA defines a confined space as a space that has limited or restricted access of entry or exit, is large enough for a worker to enter and work in, but is not designed for continuous occupancy. Regal Recycling failed to post signs warning its employees of hazards that may be present in a confined space, such as the dry well. "Unfortunately, this incident was a classic example of a multiple-fatality event where would-be rescuers are themselves overcome in their attempt to save the initial victim," said Kay Gee, OSHA's area director for Queens, Manhattan and Brooklyn. "Many deaths in confined spaces occur because people who are attempting to rescue someone else are neither trained nor equipped to do so." As a result of its findings, OSHA has issued four serious citations to S. Dahan Piping and Heating for the confined-space hazards and for not having a respiratory-protection program. "This family has already paid an incalculable price with the loss of two of its loved ones," said Robert Kulick, OSHA's regional administrator in New York. "Nothing can restore their lives, but it is our hope that employers will heed these findings and take effective action to prevent future confined-space tragedies." Regal Recycling Company was issued one serious citation for the absence of warning signs and for failure to abate notices for not correcting unrelated respiratory protection and guardrail hazards cited after a January 2009 OSHA inspection. Regal Recycling faces a total of \$79,000 in fines. OSHA issues serious citations when death or serious physical harm is likely to result from hazards about which the employer knew or should have known. Failure-to-abate citations are issued when an employer does not correct specific hazards cited in a previous OSHA inspection. Detailed information on confined-space hazards and safeguards is available online at <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/confinedspaces/index.html>. Each company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and proposed penalties to comply, meet with OSHA or contest them before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

<http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/22194/OSHA-confined-space-deaths>

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**USA, KY, STANFORD, JANUARY 15 2010. INVESTIGATION INTO DEADLY STANFORD EXPLOSION CONTINUES >> 'CARELESS HANDLING' CITED; EXACT CAUSE STILL UNCLEAR**

*ben kleppinger*

The Tuesday afternoon explosions that rocked Stanford appear to have been due to "careless handling" of black powder, according to state police. Shannon Corman, 80, and James Greenwood, 57, were mixing black powder Tuesday afternoon in an outbuilding behind Corman's residence along Oak Street, Trooper Chris Lanham said. The two men were taking bulk amounts of black powder and dividing it into smaller units for resale, Lanham said. The mixing process requires sifting out clumps of powder in order to optimize the powder's moisture level. Police now believe Corman stepped outside momentarily to dispose of some trash. Shortly after he returned to the building, the explosions began.

### **Two Remain Hospitalized**

Lanham said state police arson investigator Pat Alford told him it looks like "careless handling" of the black powder caused the explosions, which probably killed Corman and left Greenwood and Corman's wife, Louise, badly injured. Louise Corman and Greenwood were both transported to the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center in Lexington following the explosions. Greenwood remained in critical condition today, and Louise Corman was in serious condition. Police have not determined the exact ignition source of the explosions, but Lanham said investigators are examining some electrical outlets and open-flame space heaters. Static electricity also has not been ruled out. Lanham said it's possible black powder dust, which could have been in the air if the men were pouring black powder from one container to another, could have contributed to the explosions. Following the initial explosions, live ammunition rounds began exploding in the heat of the fire. Investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have not determined how much black powder was involved, but Lanham said two other buildings on the property contain as much as 3,000 pounds of the substance. Investigators located a body in the wreckage, thought to be Shannon Corman, but are still waiting for positive identification. Corman, a retired state trooper, ran a business mixing black powder for things like novelty cannons at football games, Lanham said. Judge-Executive Bill Demrow said battle re-enactors were one of Corman's biggest clients. Lanham said Corman was a Class 3 licensed federal firearms dealer, though he would still have needed permission from the city of Stanford to run a resale business out of his home, which is zoned residential.

### **No City License**

Kirk Correll, Stanford's Planning and Zoning attorney, said Corman did not have a license from the city for an at-home business. Stanford can grant licenses for at-home businesses if the business is one that is typically home-based, like a salon, Correll said. A black powder business is not one typically run out of a home, he said. Stanford largely depends on its residents to report planning and zoning violations like businesses being run out of a home. Correll said to his knowledge no one had ever reported Corman's business. Corman used to run a store along East Main Street, which Correll said probably was licensed appropriately as a business when it was open. Jerry Wilcher, who serves on the Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Board, said he had been in Corman's store a few times before it closed. "This guy was an expert. There wasn't nobody better," he said. "It just goes to show you accidents can happen." A candlelight vigil for Corman has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday in front of the Lincoln County Courthouse. Melody Addams, who has known Corman all of her life and whose father worked with Corman at his East Main Street store, is organizing the vigil. Addams said Corman, who had four daughters of his own, was like a father to her as well. "He was a wonderful, loving, caring person. If anybody needed his help, he was willing to help anybody," she said. "He was a good friend, a good father and he was just an outstanding person. I could go on and on."

<http://www.amnews.com/stories/2010/01/14/loc.482779.sto>

**USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, JANUARY 15 2010. MECHANIC'S EVIDENCE CONNECTS BENZENE EXPOSURE TO HIS LEUKEMIA**

**Introduction:** In West Virginia, a worker can show a causal link between an occupational disease and his employment if: 1) studies and research clearly link a specific disease to a particular workplace hazard; and 2) he can show he was exposed to the hazard and is suffering from the disease to which it is connected.

**Case name:** Casdorph v. West Virginia Office Insurance Commissioner and West Virginia State Police, No. 34473 (W.Va. 11/19/09).

**Ruling:** The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals reversed and remanded a decision of the workers' compensation board of review, holding that the worker's occupational disease was a result of his employment and was a compensable condition.

What it means: In West Virginia, a worker can show a causal link between an occupational disease and his employment if: 1) studies and research clearly link a specific disease to a particular workplace hazard; and 2) he can show he was exposed to the hazard and is suffering from the disease to which it is connected.

**Summary:** A police auto mechanic was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia. He filed a workers' compensation claim alleging his disease was due to his daily exposure to workplace benzene. He died while his case was on appeal after being denied. The Supreme Court of Appeals concluded that the mechanic's medical literature and expert and witness testimony sufficiently established a causal link between the mechanic's benzene exposure and his disease. It determined his leukemia was a natural result of his benzene exposure at work and that the proximate cause could fairly be traced to his employment. The court also explained that his disease did not come from a hazard to which he would have been equally exposed but for his employment. It held that the board of review's order was "so clearly wrong based on the evidentiary record" that there was insufficient support to sustain its decision. It reversed the board, and sent the case back for a finding of compensability. The employer argued that the case studies and other literature the mechanic presented showing a connection between benzene exposure and his type of

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leukemia were not medically significant enough to be valid. It also argued that scientific theories must be "generally accepted within the scientific community" to hold weight in court. The court rejected the employer's arguments that the studies held little weight, finding the general rules of evidence and procedure do not strictly apply in workers' compensation claims.

<http://www.riskandinsurance.com/story.jsp?storyId=321743631>

### **USA, PA, BUCKS CO, WARRINGTON, JANUARY 15 2010. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS EXCAVATE FORMER WARRINGTON GAS STATION**

*brad segall*

Officials in Warrington (Bucks County), Pa. want to know if underground storage tanks at a long-shuttered service station are leaking, so federal stimulus dollars are being used to pull those tanks out of the ground. Malcolm's gas station and auto repair shop has been closed for several years -- so long, in fact, that the sign still advertises gasoline for \$1.38 a gallon. Now, six underground tanks are being removed from the site on Rt. 611 so the state's Department of Environmental Protection can assess whether there is any damage. State representative Kathy Watson says federal dollars are being used because the property is part of an estate and they haven't been able to go after the owners: "No one has true legal responsibility to get this site cleaned up. What do you do, and how long do you let it go on when indeed it could be a danger to the entire community?" Watson says that Warrington has a good public water system but there are still wells in part of the township, and the concern is that petroleum products may have leaked into the ground. "Indeed, as you move towards the western part of the township, there's still a lot of well water. And the folks have to dig very deep for that, so there's always the concern of the aquifers being contaminated." Once the tanks are out, she says, the soil and groundwater can be sampled. The federal dollars are being used for the excavation work and assessment. If the site needs to be cleaned up, Watson is not sure whether the money is there for that.

<http://www.kyw1060.com/Environmental-Officials-Excavate-Former-Warrington/6117092>

### **UK, MAIDSTONE, JANUARY 15 2010. SWIFT ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ACTION SAVES WATER QUALITY**

A major environmental pollution incident was narrowly avoided on Tuesday (January 12th) after a lorry spilled more than 6,000 litres of diesel into waterways near Maidstone. The accident happened following a multi-vehicle crash on the M20, during which the truck transporting the fuel spilled its load. Officers from the Environment Agency attended the scene to deploy oil booms and prevent the spread of the pollutant. The oil entered the Lilk Stream through the motorway drainage system and was carried as far as the top of Major Lakes fishery at Bearstead before it was contained. Jan Leslie, spokesperson for the agency, commented: "Due to our prompt efforts, the impact of the pollution of the environmentally sensitive waterways has been greatly reduced and was prevented from spreading across the fishing lakes." She added that full surveys will be undertaken to assess the impact of the spill on the affected stretch of river. According to Environment Agency figures, oil and fuels are the most frequently reported type of pollutant found in inland waters, with more than 5,000 incidents involving these chemicals reported each year.

[http://www.envirotech-online.com/news/water-wastewater/9/breaking\\_news/swift\\_environment\\_agency\\_action\\_saves\\_water\\_quality/7749/](http://www.envirotech-online.com/news/water-wastewater/9/breaking_news/swift_environment_agency_action_saves_water_quality/7749/)

### **NIGERIA, PORT HARCOURT, JANUARY 15 2010. 'KIDNAPPERS OF BRITONS, COLUMBIAN YET TO MAKE CONTACT'**

The Nigeria Police have said it is yet to receive fresh information about three Britons and a Colombian who were kidnapped in an ambush in Abia State last Tuesday. The victims include Mr. John Bennet, Mr. Kevin Gray and Mr. Martin Phillips and a Colombian Fabien Sanchez, all of whom are working for Royal Dutch Shell Plc in Abia State, though live in Port-Harcourt, Rivers State. But Rivers State Police Command yesterday told journalists in Port-Harcourt that it began a joint operation with the Abia State Police Command to rescue three Britons and a Colombian abducted in the oil-rich region. Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Rita Abbey spoke with THISDAY on phone yesterday, confirming that the command "has not received new information about the victims while the kidnappers were yet to make contact. According to the police spokesperson, the contractors live in Port Harcourt in neighboring Rivers state. Police in both states are involved in the search. We are closing in on them. The operation is still on. The kidnappers had not made any contact with the employers of the four. By this development, the Trade Union Congress (TUC), Rivers State Council condemned the incident in strong terms, saying the kidnap of the expatriates working on the Afam VI power plant belonging to Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC). Speaking on the kidnap of the four expatriates, TUC Chairman, Rivers State Council, Comrade Hyginus Chika Onuegbu condemned increasing attack on Port Harcourt bound passengers and road users on the Aba-Port Harcourt expressway. Onuegbu therefore charged the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Ogbonna Onovo to ensure security of lives and properties in the oil-rich region of Nigeria. He also pleaded with the Commissioners of Police in all states of the oil-rich region to carry out a joint patrol of the boundary zones between the two States where many prominent people have either been kidnapped or killed. According to him, TUC strongly condemns the armed attack on the convoy that was transporting some workers of NetcoDietsmann to Afam VI power plant on January 12 2010 as well as the abduction of four expatriate staff of the company. The TUC Rivers State is deeply worried about the increasing unrestrained attacks on the residents of Rivers State by criminal gangs operating in Abia State. He explained that the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo "should take decisive actions that will ensure that the Abia State Police Command rise up to the challenge. We also ask the Rivers State Commissioner of police and other securities agencies in Rivers State to work closely with Abia State Commissioner of Police to secure the release of the expatriates as well as put an end to these wanton attacks". Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil producer. Violence by armed groups, including those seeking more local control of oil wealth, has cut more than 20 percent of the country's crude exports since 2006 and deterred fresh investment in the country. A police escort was killed in yesterday's attack, while the

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driver of the vehicle in which the four people were traveling was shot and injured. A 2 million naira (\$13,250) reward is being offered for information that will assist the police with the rescue of the expatriates, Abbey said yesterday. Shell Petroleum is cooperating with the Nigerian government and the contractor NetcoDietsmann Co., a joint venture between Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. and Dietsmann NV, for the safe release of the four kidnapped workers, a spokesman for The Hague-based Shell said by e-mail yesterday.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201001140227.html>

### **UK, PETRO-INDUSTRY ARTICLE, JANUARY 15 2010. BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT HAZARDOUS AREA EQUIPMENT – KNOCK-OFF PRODUCTS CAN CAUSE DISASTROUS FAILURES**

Applications in many industry branches, such as chemical, petroleum and natural gas production and processing, are exposed to explosion hazards due to flammable substances that may be released in the course of production, processing, storage, and transport. Actual explosions can cause serious injuries to people and severe damage to property. In order to reliably prevent such incidents, explosion-protected electrical equipment is used in hazardous areas. Such devices, e.g. lights, installation material, switchgear, and automation technology, are designed in a way that prevents them from becoming ignition sources. Components for use in hazardous areas are manufactured and tested according to high quality standards to ensure smooth operations and safe usability. However, copies of such explosion-protected products have been appearing in various markets for some time now. The suppliers of these knock-offs claim to have developed their products themselves and refer to various certificates from testing laboratories. In fact, even a quick comparison often shows that these devices are replicas of brand products. Moreover, R. Stahl (Germany) has carried out various tests with such knock-offs that have produced alarming results: due to inferior materials and sub-standard manufacturing technologies, many replicas fail to meet the required explosion protection standards even under light stress. Deploying such components in hazardous areas can therefore lead to disastrous failures that threaten the health and life of employees and may result in the destruction of machines and plants. Those who regard counterfeit products as a welcome opportunity to lower their costs, thinking they can purchase the equivalent of brand-name products at an attractive price, should consider the risks. "Knock-offs can cause a great deal of damage especially in hazardous areas, where safety is absolutely crucial," explains Dr. Thorsten Arnhold, Vice President Product Management and Marketing. "Manufacturers of such fakes are only in it for the quick sell, and do not have the required safety technology expertise. Product pirates do not offer safe products, and neither do they provide adequate, professional user guidance and consulting, safe problem solutions, quick and reliable supply of spare parts, or accurate technical documentation."

[http://www.petro-online.com/news/safety/15/r\\_stahl\\_schaltgerate\\_gmbh/beware\\_of\\_counterfeit\\_hazardous\\_area\\_equipment\\_knock-off\\_products\\_can\\_cause\\_disastrous\\_failures/7461/](http://www.petro-online.com/news/safety/15/r_stahl_schaltgerate_gmbh/beware_of_counterfeit_hazardous_area_equipment_knock-off_products_can_cause_disastrous_failures/7461/)

### **USA, MN, CHAMPLAN, JANUARY 15 2010. VEHICLE DESTROYED AFTER CATCHING FIRE AT GAS STATION**

A minivan is damaged after catching fire at a north metro gas station early Thursday morning. Firefighters were called to the gas station at Highway 169 and 114th Avenue in Champlin shortly before 3 a.m. Thursday. Authorities say the van was turned off when the engine started smoking and caught fire. The van was not hooked up to a gas pump and the driver was not hurt. The gas station is scheduled to be open Thursday morning.

[http://www.kare11.com/news/news\\_article.aspx?storyid=836220&catid=391](http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=836220&catid=391)

### **USA, IL, CHICAGO, JANUARY 15 2010. BARGE OWNER, CAPTAIN CHARGED IN FATAL EXPLOSION**



*Dennis Egan stands near one of his barges that exploded in 2005, in which a crewman died. Egan and his company were indicted Wednesday on federal charges of maritime negligence.*

The captain and the owner of a tank barge that exploded in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal in 2005, resulting in the death of a crew member and the spilling of thousands of gallons of oil, were indicted Wednesday on federal charges of maritime negligence. Dennis Michael Egan and Egan Marine Corp. were charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Chicago, according to a release from the U.S. attorney's office. Egan, 32, of Topeka, Ill., and formerly of Lemont; and Egan Marine, of Lemont, were each charged with one count of negligence by a ship officer or owner resulting in death; and were charged together with one count of causing oil to pollute a navigable waterway, according to the release. According to the indictment, on Jan. 19, 2005, a fully-loaded Egan Marine tank barge, the EMC-423, was being pushed by the tow boat Lisa E from the ExxonMobil refinery in Joliet to the Ameropan Oil facility near California Avenue in Chicago. The barge was transporting about 600,000 gallons of clarified slurry oil, a byproduct of petroleum refining that also can be used as fuel. About 4:40 p.m., just after the boat cleared the Cicero Avenue bridge and was traveling parallel to the Stevenson Expressway, a large explosion erupted on the barge. As a result, the barge sank, discharging thousands of gallons of the combustible heavy oil into the canal, according to court documents. Crewman Alexander Oliva, 29, who had been aboard the barge, was determined to be missing. His body was recovered from the canal near Laramie Avenue on Feb. 4, 2005. Court documents allege Egan Marine and its employees negligently vented combustible vapors from the cargo hold of the barge to the deck causing an explosion hazard. And at the alleged direction of Egan Marine, Oliva was using a propane-fueled open flame from a handheld torch to heat a cargo pump on the deck. The use of open flame near the vented vapors allegedly caused the explosion and, ultimately, Oliva's death, the destruction of the barge and the pollution of the canal, the charges allege.

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According to the indictment, Dennis Egan was the captain and pilot of the Lisa E and the barge, which had no crew. He allegedly was negligent and inattentive to his duties by allowing an open flame to be used on the deck. Both Dennis Egan and Egan Marine violated the federal Clean Water Act by negligently causing the discharge of thousands of gallons of oil into the canal, the indictment alleges. Dennis Egan faces more than 10 years in prison and fines of more than \$350,000 if convicted, while the company faces fines of more than \$700,000, the release said

<http://www.southtownstar.com/news/1989630,STM-Egan-barge-explosion-charges-0113.article>

### **CANADA, BC, NORTH BURNABY, JANUARY 15 2010. MASSIVE OIL SPILL CASE MOVING FORWARD >> THE COMPANIES INVOLVED IN THE JULY 2007 PIPELINE RUPTURE THAT SPRAYED CRUDE OIL OVER A NORTH BURNABY NEIGHBOURHOOD ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE IN COURT TODAY.**

The companies involved in the July 2007 pipeline rupture that sprayed crude oil over a North Burnaby neighbourhood are expected to make an appearance in court today. Kinder Morgan Canada Inc., Trans Mountain Pipeline, B. Cusano Contracting and R.F. Binnie & Associates are facing a combined total of 26 charges under the provincial Environmental Management Act, the federal Fisheries Act and the Migratory Birds Act. Those charges - seven each for Kinder Morgan and Trans Mountain, and six each for B. Cusano Contracting and R.F. Binnie & Associates - were initially sworn in July 2009, and all four defendants made a first court appearance in early October. The next appearance is scheduled for today. On July 24, 2007, a Kinder Morgan pipeline was struck and punctured during excavation for a new storm sewer line along Inlet Drive. Crude oil sprayed out of the pipe for 25 minutes, reaching heights of 20 metres and covering nearby homes. Some residents in the area had to be evacuated, and the cleanup took several months. The investigation into the spill was carried out by the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada. A report from the Transportation Safety Board in March 2009 concluded that the blame lay with poor communication between contractors carrying out work and Kinder Morgan and a reliance on outdated maps. At the time of the first court appearance in October, Kinder Morgan Canada released a statement saying it would "vigorously defend itself against the B.C. Ministry of Environment regulatory charges." "Kinder Morgan Canada believes the charges have been inappropriately laid against it," the company said at that time. Additionally, the statement said that the company had conducted an investigation into the incident and concluded that the spill "resulted from the actions of a third-party contractor working on behalf of the City of Burnaby." It is expected that Kinder Morgan will release a statement today after the court appearance.

<http://www.canada.com/burnabynow/news/story.html?id=701a45b9-229f-48d3-ba74-20c599c31f31>

### **CHINA, SHANDONG PROVINCE, WEIFANG, JANUARY 15 2010. OIL TANKER TRAPPED IN SEA ICE**

**Photo's** [http://www.china.org.cn/china/2010-01/15/content\\_19240636.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/china/2010-01/15/content_19240636.htm)

An oil tanker trapped amid sea ice off east China coast was pulled to the shore Thursday without casualties or oil leakage. The tanker ran aground after hitting ice 14 nautical miles off the Weifang port in the eastern province of Shandong in the Bohai Sea at 10:43 a.m. Wednesday, said Wu Chunjun, a maritime official of Weifang City. The ice pierced the bottom compartment of the 1,000-tonne oil tanker from the eastern province of Zhejiang. An icebreaker arrived at the scene midday Thursday. The grounded tanker was pulled to the shore within seven hours. Nine crew members were evacuated to safety, Wu said. The authorities would start discharging the oil from the ship at 2 a.m. Friday to rule out the danger of leakage, he said. The worst sea ice in 30 years appeared from early January along the coastline of the Bohai Sea and the Yellow Sea as cold fronts pushed temperature to minus 10 degrees Celsius and below, according to the National Marine Forecasting Station. Sea ice in Liaodong Bay expanded to 60 nautical miles off the coast on Tuesday from 38 nautical miles on Dec. 31, according to the station. In the following week, the floating chunks of ice could extend up to 90 nautical miles off the coast of Bohai and 25 nautical miles in the northern Yellow Sea. The ice thickness could measure up to 40 cm, the station said. The station has issued warnings against sea ice, saying it could threaten port infrastructure, transportation and maritime operations.

[http://www.china.org.cn/china/2010-01/15/content\\_19240636.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/china/2010-01/15/content_19240636.htm)

### **USA,MD, ROCKVILLE, JANUARY 15 2010. POLICE CHARGE FREDERICK MAN WITH NEGLIGENT DRIVING AFTER TANKER CRASH**

**Watch the Video** <http://your4state.com/content/fulltext/?cid=96051>

**Watch the Video:**

<http://www.abc2news.com/news/local/story/Massive-Tanker-Fire-in-Gaithersburg/h388wwOx2E6CmGxzAn5i-Q.csp>

**Photo's** <http://www.wbalv.com/news/22235416/detail.html>

Montgomery County Police have charged the driver of a tanker truck that tipped over on Montrose Road in Rockville early this morning with negligent driving. The crash caused a massive fuel fire and snarled traffic on Montrose Road and Interstate 270 throughout most of the day. Michael Andrew Gondola, 45, of the 10000 block of Woodchuck Lane in Frederick, was driving the truck from northbound I-270 onto westbound Montrose Road when he lost control of the vehicle and it tipped over on its side, police and fire officials reported. As the Peterbilt truck slid on its side, debris from the vehicle struck a second vehicle, a 2007 Infiniti driven by Jeffrey Daniel Seelig, 35, of Rockville. Both drivers remained at the scene and neither was hurt in the crash. Much of the 8,900 gallons of gasoline in the tanker spilled and ignited, sparking the fire. Montrose Road remained closed at 4:45 p.m. today, 12 hours after the crash, as State Highway Administration crews performed emergency repairs to sections of the road damaged by the intense heat. The westbound lanes of Montrose at Tower Oaks Boulevard opened at approximately 5 p.m. and the eastbound lanes

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of Montrose at Seven Locks are expected to open at approximately 6 p.m., said county police spokeswoman Lucille Baur. Firefighters were called to the scene shortly before 5 a.m. and found the tanker on its side. The tank was ruptured and fuel was leaking onto the road surface, said Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service spokesman Capt. Oscar Garcia. Fire officials contained the burning fuel before it could run into any storm drains, Garcia said, and firefighters had to stretch hoses more than 3,000 feet to reach the scene of the blaze. After containing the fuel, firefighters allowed the fire to burn until a hazardous materials crash truck from Dulles Airport arrived on the scene. The crash truck coated the fuel with a special foam that began to extinguish the fire around 6:15 a.m. and fully stifled the flames by 6:45 a.m. About 55 firefighters battled the blaze, Garcia said. I-270 was shut down intermittently while the fire was burning, but was completely stopped in both directions while firefighters extinguished the blaze. It reopened at 6:40 a.m., Garcia said. Traffic remained slow well into the day, as vehicles were forced to merge from the northbound local lanes to the main lanes of the highway. The Maryland Department of the Environment was on the scene for much of the day making sure no fuel leaked into storm drains or was absorbed by the pavement, Garcia said.

[http://www.gazette.net/stories/01142010/montnew172605\\_32575.php](http://www.gazette.net/stories/01142010/montnew172605_32575.php)

### USA, MASS, LINCOLN, JANUARY 15 2010. TRIO MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVES AS TANKER SQUASHES CARS IN LINCOLN

*laura crimaldi*

**Watch the Video:**

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/lincoln/multimedia/x370521584/Public-safety-personnel-respond-to-multi-vehicle-crash-on-Route-2>

**Watch the Video** <http://www.necn.com/Boston/New-England/2010/01/12/Tanker-truck-rolls-over-in/1263312384.html>

**Watch the Video** <http://www.necn.com/Boston/New-England/2010/01/12/Tanker-rolls-onto-three-cars/1263329937.html>

**Photo's:**

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/lincoln/multimedia/x370521584/Public-safety-personnel-respond-to-multi-vehicle-crash-on-Route-2>

The driver of the tanker truck that tipped over onto three vehicles yesterday on Route 2 in Lincoln was cited for drunken driving in 1998 and 1985, according to Registry of Motor Vehicle records. John Revene, 47, of Westboro, was taken by medical helicopter to Massachusetts General Hospital, with serious injuries after the 2006 Freightliner he was driving went up onto an embankment and rolled over onto three vehicles at about 9:00a.m., state police said. Drivers Nancy James, of Concord, and Christiane Rabich, 48, of Ontario, Canada, escaped unharmed. A third driver, Elizabeth Buchanan, 52, of Arlington was taken to Emerson Hospital with minor injuries, state police said. Authorities cited Revene for speeding. RMV records show Revene was cited for drunken driving in 1985 and 1998. He obtained his commercial driver's license in 1992, said RMV spokeswoman Ann Dufresne. His boss said he was not aware of those incidents when Revene was hired in October. Jay Howard, owner of Trans Spec Truck Service Inc. in Millbury, said under federal law driving records provided to employers for commercial license holders go back six years. In the past six years, Revene has one entry on his driving record for a speeding ticket in Grafton, the RMV said. A 2006 state law that yanks commercial licenses for one year for any driver convicted of drunken driving in a personal vehicle does not apply to Revene, Dufresne said. "He came very well recommended," Howard said. Howard said Revene has a license to transport hazardous materials, which was issued by the Department of Homeland Security. He also said Revene has a license to operate a combination trailer and has clearance from federal authorities to enter ports to pick up materials for transport. "Was he speeding, I don't know. But he definitely wasn't paying attention," Howard said. "He made a bad judgment." Howard said Revene told him the brakes failed. However, he said state investigators who examined the tanker truck found no problems with the brakes or any other systems. Howard also questioned why Revene ended up on Route 2 given he was transporting 8,500 gallons of diesel fuel from Chelsea to Charlton. "What the hell was he doing on Route 2," Howard said. "Will he work here again? I doubt it." Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration records show Trans

[http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100113three\\_miraculously\\_survive\\_as\\_tanker\\_squashes\\_cars\\_in\\_lincoln\\_escape\\_route/srvc=home&position=also](http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/20100113three_miraculously_survive_as_tanker_squashes_cars_in_lincoln_escape_route/srvc=home&position=also)

### USA, GA, SOUTH FULTON COUNTY, JANUARY 15 2010. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS & CATCHES FIRE

*mike morris*

In south Fulton County, a tanker truck overturned and caught fire on Fulton Industrial Boulevard at Marvin Miller Drive just before 4 a.m. The fire had been extinguished at 5:15 a.m., but a large fuel spill remained, according to Paul Marshall, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation. No injuries were reported. All lanes of Fulton Industrial were shut down in both directions just south of I-20 for several hours. At 7:40 a.m., the DOT reported that all northbound lanes had reopened, but one southbound lane remained closed.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/alcohol-speed-might-have-274838.html>

### USA, MA, LEOMINSTER, JANUARY 15 2010. POTENTIAL OIL LEAK REPORTED AT SCHOOL

*marisa donelan*

School officials reported a potential oil leak at Southeast Elementary School to the state Department of Environmental Protection at the end of December, Superintendent Nadine Binkley said Wednesday. The problem is being classified as a "threat of release," and there's been no evidence so far that oil has contaminated the environment or the school, she said. "We don't know if there's been a release of oil, and if there has been, it looks like it was very minor," Binkley said. The problem became apparent Dec. 31 when a pipe cracked as maintenance work was being done on the school's boiler, and Binkley said the school notified the DEP

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immediately. Any potential for oil leaking will be nowhere near as damaging -- or costly -- as the leak from Northwest Elementary School last year, she said. Since then, environmental workers and engineers have collected soil samples for tests and have also run air-quality tests in the building to make sure there is no contamination, Binkley said. The engineering firm Woodard & Curran has taken several soil samples, and initial tests showed they were clean, she said. City Purchasing Agent Gregory Chapdelaine said he has not received any cost information about the work at Southeast, which indicates "it's going to be small." The district can work with its utility provider to monitor oil usage, and will be able to find out quickly whether a significant amount of oil was lost, Chapdelaine said. "If they compile records of fuel usage, you can easily see where there are abnormalities, if any," he said. Meanwhile, Binkley said, work is expected to wrap up soon on the Northwest spill and its effects. Northwest's oil leak has cost Leominster \$248,000, all of which has come from school-choice tuition, School Department Business Manager Erin McNamara said. An underground heating oil tank at Northwest began leaking last spring, causing oil to seep into the ground and sparking complaints from nearby residents, who said they could smell oil in the air. The DEP and private contractors worked with district officials at Northwest on a plan to prevent oil from being carried in a nearby stream, which could potentially have carried oil throughout local water if not caught quickly. Mayor and School Committee Chairman Dean Mazzarella said the incidents show the importance of maintenance on the lines. He said the city is looking into whether it would make more sense to convert some buildings to natural gas. Both fuels have their own costs, but Mazzarella said oil -- in minor problems such as the Southeast issue and major problems such as the Northwest leak -- has caused Leominster more headaches recently. "We need to make sure we're keeping up on checking all of these lines on a regular basis," he said. "We're certainly examining the options. Oil's definitely cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars in cleanup recently."

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3782196#>

### **USA, CA, CONTRA COSTA, JANUARY 15 2010. INSIDE CITY HALL: HARD TO FIX BLAME FOR \$1.7M STORAGE TANK REPAIR BILL**

*paul eakins*

No one at City Hall seems to know who's really to blame, but Long Beach's failure to upgrade its underground storage tanks will cost at least \$1.7 million at a time when the city can least afford it. With no other options on the table Tuesday, the City Council approved the payout to the state Water Resources Control Board. City officials had apparently ignored problems at the tanks, which store waste oil and other hazardous materials, despite being aware of them since 1995 and receiving a notice of violation from the state in 2003. All of this happened long before City Manager Pat West took the reins in 2007, and West told the council Tuesday that those who were responsible have since flown the coop. Assistant City Manager Suzanne Frick elaborated Wednesday. "There were a variety of people that were responsible," Frick said, noting that staff members from Public Works, the Fire Department and the City Manager's Office all had a role in handling the matter. So, not a single person who may have been at fault is left at City Hall? "All of the people that were involved in this matter in these departments are gone," Frick said, adding an assurance that the city "did drill down" to find those responsible and hold them accountable. She said that upgrading the city's storage tanks was a job that wasn't handled by department heads, but by bureau and division managers. Frick isn't even sure exactly how many people were involved, she said. "We had considerable difficulty piecing this back together, but once it came to our attention, we dealt with it immediately," Frick said. The \$1.7 million had been anticipated and budgeted, Frick said, but the money is still coming out of the virtually skeletal general fund. The settlement, which took 18 months of negotiations by city attorneys to reach, doesn't just give Long Beach a financial spanking, but a public one as well. Under the settlement, the city is required to run a full-page newspaper ad acknowledging it screwed up. The settlement has a total value of \$6 million, although not all of that may have to be paid out. The \$1.7 million approved by the council Tuesday is a \$1.5 million cash penalty and \$200,000 to reimburse the board for its legal and other expenses. Another \$2 million must be put toward enhanced underground storage tank improvements - paid for out of the also anemic Tidelands Fund - and another \$2.5 million fine was suspended contingent upon the city's ongoing compliance for five years. Public Works Director Mike Conway told the council that despite the failure to comply, little environmental harm was caused by leakage. "There was no impact to groundwater and minor impacts to soil, which has been excavated and properly disposed (of)," Conway said.

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci\\_14185052?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_14185052?nclink_check=1)

### **USA, MA, BOLTON, JANUARY 15 2010. FOLLOW UP: TESTING CONTINUES ON OIL SPILL AT BOLTON'S PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER**

*holly camero*

#### **The Past**

An oil leak was discovered at the public safety center in early December when an underground oil tank was removed. Soil and water samples were sent out for testing. Initial test results, which came back on Dec. 22, indicated that the soil samples taken from beneath the tank and at the building side of the tank, exceeded Department of Environmental Protection thresholds for fuel oil contamination. Notices were sent to abutters on Dec. 14, informing them of the lead, and again on Dec. 23 asking for permission to conduct well testing on their property. Initial costs for services were estimated by the Maguire Group, the owners project manager, to be more than \$25,000.

#### **The Present**

Maguire Group began testing the abutters' private wells on Jan. 6. To date, of the 10 wells that have been tested, all tests for fuel oil have come back negative. Tests done on the water supply for the public safety building and the new library have also come back

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negative. So far, about 50 percent of the abutters have given permission to have their well water tested. Four monitoring wells were installed on Jan. 14 and more testing was completed. Digging resumed on Jan. 14.

### The Future

Additional soil testing will be completed. Based on the results of the well testing, a layout for borings will be developed that will help to further determine the extent of the oil leak and its impact to the soil. This will then establish the extent of the soil remediation. The results of the well tests will also determine if a plan of action for groundwater remediation will be necessary. All this information must be gathered to determine the proper course of action and to enable Maguire Group to put together a response plan.

### Related Stories

- [bolton Public Safety Center: Oil spill drains project budget](#)
- [public Safety Center: Oil leak could raise price](#)
- [public Safety Center: Notice to abutters](#)

[www.wickedlocal.com/bolton/news/x1560339922/Follow-up-Testing-continues-on-oil-spill-at-Boltons-public-safety-center&ct=ga&cd=NiwFspj774&usq=AFQjCNHaH0ChyrU\\_P0AT99JCuWALekK6cA](http://www.wickedlocal.com/bolton/news/x1560339922/Follow-up-Testing-continues-on-oil-spill-at-Boltons-public-safety-center&ct=ga&cd=NiwFspj774&usq=AFQjCNHaH0ChyrU_P0AT99JCuWALekK6cA)

### UK, MANCHESTER, JANUARY 15 2010. WAR VETERAN DIES IN LAWNMOWER FIREBALL >> AN 89-YEAR-OLD WAR VETERAN DIED AFTER ACCIDENTALLY SETTING HIMSELF ON FIRE IN AN "ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE" SEQUENCE OF COINCIDENCES.

William Baines had been filling his petrol lawnmower when he was engulfed in flames last June. An inquest in Stockport heard a box of matches – which he kept for lighting candles at church – had probably fallen out of his pocket as he bent down to start the mower in his garden. The great-grandfather then stood on them, the friction lighting the matches and igniting petrol vapours and fuel on his clothes. When he rushed in a panic into the passageway where he kept the mower, petrol already spilt on the floor fed the fire, engulfing Mr Baines and filling the passage with flames. Neighbours called 999 after seeing smoke coming from Mr Baines's house on Chelford Grove, Bridgehall. Coroner John Pollard ruled his death was accidental, adding: "What's more likely than not is that he has been filling up his lawnmower and perhaps some fuel has been spilt – it's easily done. "There appears to be a strange and almost unbelievable sequence of events. Sometimes fact is stranger than fiction – and this is one of those occasions. "He has got the matches in his pocket as he bends over the mower to start it and they fall out of his pocket." Mr Pollard said there was then a series of coincidences in which the friction of his foot against the matches and the concrete set Mr Baines on fire. He added: "He then panicked in a way which I guess most of us would." Mr Baines, a former foundry worker who served in the navy during the Second World War, died from his injuries the next day at Wythenshawe Hospital. He was described by family as a very religious, independent and fit man, a keen gardener who did daily press-ups and seemed decades younger.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/6990528/War-veteran-dies-in-lawnmower-fireball.html>

### USA, PA, SOUTH PHILADELPHIA, JANUARY 15 2010. SUNOCO NEIGHBORS AWAKENED, IRKED BY STRONG ODOR

A stench so powerful that it awakened residents in South Philadelphia and even across the river in Camden County wafted from Sunoco's Philadelphia refinery Wednesday night and yesterday morning. Officials determined that the smell - "like rotten eggs and gasoline mixed," one resident said - was nontoxic. But it triggered a flood of calls to emergency lines. Sunoco was cited for violating a city odor ordinance, which carries a minimum \$300 fine, said Jeff Moran, spokesman for the city Air Management Services. Further investigation will determine if federal regulations also were violated, he said. If so, there could be additional fines. MaryAnn Tierney, the city's deputy managing director for emergency management, said her agency wasn't directly informed yesterday about the source of the odor until 6:30 a.m. and vowed to look at procedures for public notification in non-emergency cases, such as this one. Sunoco spokesman Thomas P. Golembeski said the smell had dissipated by late afternoon. "We're still conducting air monitoring inside and outside the refinery as a precautionary measure," he said. "Readings are still telling us the situation is safe. There's no risk of explosion, no risk of fire from the fumes. It's unpleasant, but not harmful." The smell occurred when a tank was being washed out, Golembeski said. Some of the oil got onto the roof of the tank, and the wind carried the odor. "We are very sorry that this occurred," he said, "and we really do apologize to the people in the community surrounding the refinery and elsewhere who may have been inconvenienced by the odor." Complaints from residents and calls from authorities started coming in about 9:15 p.m. Wednesday, Golembeski said. About 4 a.m. yesterday, the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management notified New Jersey officials, and about that same time, residents in Camden County started calling to complain, said Edward Choromanski, administrator for the Department of Environmental Protection's air compliance and enforcement program. Officials tested the air from several spots on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River and verified that the air was nontoxic, he said. Workers stopped cleaning the equipment when the problem occurred, Golembeski said. Skeptical residents were still chafing. "In my whole life, I have never smelled an odor like this, that wakes you up from your sleep," said Chuck Fitzsimmons, 46, an accounts receivable specialist who lives near 17th Street and Packer Avenue, about a mile from the refinery. Sunoco's 1,400-acre facility, the region's largest and the seventh-largest in the nation, is also one of the most urban. About 321,000 people, including Fitzsimmons, live within three miles. He said that he went outside shortly after 2 a.m. to investigate, and that about two dozen neighbors were also on the street, upset and baffled. No sirens, police cars, or fire engines came by to offer an explanation, Fitzsimmons said. The stench gave him a wooziness that lasted until he was on his way to work in Center City, Fitzsimmons said. Explaining his clothes were still reeking by midafternoon, he said Sunoco should clean and deodorize his home. "When they affect the community, they need to pay," he said.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/81649742.html>

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**USA, WASHINGTON, DC, JANUARY 15 2010. CSB TO HOLD FEB. 4 PUBLIC MEETING IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, ON FATAL 2009 GAS EXPLOSION AT THE CONAGRA SLIM JIM PLANT INVESTIGATORS WILL PRESENT PRELIMINARY FINDINGS, BOARD WILL HEAR TESTIMONY AND PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONSIDER URGENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON GAS PURGING**

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) today announced that it will be holding a public meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2010, in Raleigh, North Carolina, to present preliminary findings from its [investigation](#) of the June 9, 2009, natural gas explosion and ammonia release at the ConAgra Food Slim Jim facility in Garner, North Carolina, that killed four workers and injured seventy others. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Raleigh Sheraton Ballroom located at 421 South Salisbury Street in downtown Raleigh. The meeting is free and open to the public. At the meeting the CSB investigative team will present its preliminary findings on the circumstances of the accident to the three CSB board members and the public. The Board will then receive testimony from outside experts concerning safety issues raised by the accident, focusing on the topic of safe purging of natural gas piping. Following a public comment period, the Board is expected to consider draft staff recommendations for changes to the National Fuel Gas Code, which establishes gas purging practices followed across the country. The meeting will be videotaped and an official transcript will be published. The explosion occurred during the commissioning of a new, gas-fired industrial water heater at the plant, when natural gas was purged into the interior of the building. The gas accumulated to an explosive concentration and ignited; the ensuing blast caused large sections of the building to collapse. "This was a serious accident which claimed the lives of four workers, injured scores of others, and resulted in hundreds of job losses," said CSB Chairman John Bresland. "The goal of the CSB investigation is to recommend measures that will help prevent other devastating accidents during gas purging operations." Board investigators said they have identified a number of similar gas purging accidents in recent years, including an explosion at a Michigan power plant in 1999 that killed 6 and caused \$1 billion in property damage and an explosion in 2008 at a San Diego hotel that injured 14.

[www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov)

**USA, MO, HANNIBAL, JANUARY 15 2010. FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONDS TO LEAKING TANKER TRUCK**

*danny henley*

A leaking tanker truck prompted Hannibal police to block traffic on Stardust Drive for a time Thursday afternoon until it was determined the chemical did not pose a health threat. When leak was noticed by the driver of the truck, which is owned by the Coal City Cob Co. in Coal City, Ill., he pulled into the parking lot shared by the Sutherlands and the Aldi's store. Hannibal firefighters were summoned to the scene at 3:33 p.m. for what was initially reported to be a tanker truck leaking anhydrous ammonia. Upon arriving, firefighters determined the truck was instead hauling ammonia hydroxide, which is used as a household cleanser and in the manufacture of a wide variety of products, including textiles, rayon, rubber, fertilizer and plastic. "It's hard to estimate how much has leaked out," said Acting Fire Chief Bill Madore. "It's less than 5 gallons that we've seen." An inspection of the tanker did not reveal any broken equipment that might have caused the leak. Madore suggested the tanker might have simply been overfilled. After determining there was no immediate health or safety risk, Hannibal firefighters worked to contain the chemical. Madore reported that firefighters were successful in keeping the chemical from reaching the city's stormwater system. The tanker truck, minus the leak, was back on the road by 5:30 p.m.

[http://www.hannibal.net/news\\_local/x1063250907/Fire-department-responds-to-leaking-tanker-truck](http://www.hannibal.net/news_local/x1063250907/Fire-department-responds-to-leaking-tanker-truck)

**USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, JANUARY 16 2010. NORTH SLOPE OIL SPILL CLEANUP COMPLETED**

The Department of Environmental Conservation says crews have completed the cleanup of a North Slope oil spill. About 46,000 gallons of crude oil and oily water spilled Nov. 29 from an 18-inch flowline that froze and ruptured along a 2-foot tear. The line operated by BP Exploration carried the oil, water and natural gas to the Lisburne Processing Center for separation. It had been shut down by ice plugs. The department's on-scene coordinator, Tom DeRuyter, says crews hauled away the oily snow and tundra. The next state is restoration. BP will backfill the site and then cover it with tundra peeled away from another area being used as a gravel mine.

[http://newsminer.com/pages/full\\_story/push?article-](http://newsminer.com/pages/full_story/push?article-North+Slope+oil+spill+cleanup+completed%20&id=5556484&instance=home_news_window_left_bullets)

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**USA, NC, MOREHEAD CITY, JANUARY 16 2010. PORT RECOVERS FROM PETN SPILL**

The State Port Facility has resumed normal operations following the accidental spill of a liquid explosive that prompted the voluntary evacuation of downtown Morehead City on Tuesday. The cleanup of the hazardous materials were completed Thursday, according to a Coast Guard news release. No one was hurt Tuesday when a forklift operator accidentally punctured containers of pentaerythritol tetranitrate stored at the Morehead City port. More damaged containers were discovered later, and a small spill was found inside the large container carrying the cylinders. PETN was part of a device that authorities say a Nigerian man used to try to bring down a Detroit-bound Northwest flight on Christmas Day. PETN is often used in military explosives and is found inside blasting caps. It is also the primary ingredient in detonating cords used for industrial explosions. This is the first time in two years that PETN has come into Morehead City. The shipment was approved by the Coast Guard. The Maxam UEB company shipped the PETN, said Karen Fox, a spokeswoman for the Ports Authority, but she did not know where in the United States it was headed.

[http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local\\_state/story/285228.html](http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local_state/story/285228.html)

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