

Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 612 Newsy Stuff

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

June 17 2010

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USA, MA, TYNGSBOROUGH, JUNE 11 2010. TWO NH MEN HURT IN TRUCK EXPLOSION >> AEROSOL CANS – FELL OVER AND IGNITED

karen lovett

Two New Hampshire men were injured in a truck explosion Wednesday afternoon in Massachusetts. Driver Brian Gould, 46, of Nashua, was in critical condition at Brigham and Women's Hospital on Thursday, according to a spokesperson. His two passengers, 22-year-old Colby Poulyn, of Merrimack, and 22-year-old Daniel Roy, of Billerica, Mass., were also injured, according to Massachusetts State Police. The men were traveling south on Route 3 near Exit 35, police said. The trio was in a 2004 Mitsubishi box truck reportedly owned by Christian Party Rentals, a Hollis-based company. Reached Thursday, the company had no comment regarding the incident. Around 4:45 p.m., passing drivers alerted Gould that the truck rear was smoking, police said. Gould pulled into the breakdown lane, got out and attempted to open the door, which led to a "combustible explosion," police said. Equipment – believed to be aerosol cans – fell over and ignited other supplies in the back, said Donna Nelson, a spokesperson for the Massachusetts State Fire Marshal's office. When the men opened the doors, adding oxygen, it caused the explosion, she said. The Fire Marshal's Office deemed the incident an accident. Gould and Roy suffered serious injuries and were brought by ambulance to Lowell General Hospital and then to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Poulyn was brought to Southern New Hampshire Medical Center with minor injuries, police said. The incident remains under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police, the State Fire Marshal's Office, State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section and the State Police Crime Scene Services Section. Troopers were assisted by Tyngsborough Fire Department and the Department of Transportation Highway Division. The roadway was closed for about an hour during the investigation and the vehicle was removal.

<http://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/763609-196/serious-injuries-in-truck-explosion.html?i=1>

CHINA, HONG KONG, JUNE 11 2010. TENDER AWARDED FOR PETROL-FILLING STATIONS

The tender for two petrol filling stations has been awarded on a 21-year land grant at a total premium of \$315.6 million, the Lands Department says. The sites at Aberdeen Main Road, Aberdeen, Hong Kong and 201 Waterloo Road, Kowloon were awarded to Petrochina International (Hong Kong) Corporation Limited. The successful tender was submitted on the basis of a single premium for the purchase of the two sites as one package. These two sites are existing, re-tendered sites for the development of petrol filling stations.

<http://news.gov.hk/en/category/infrastructureandlogistics/100610/html/100610en06002.htm>

SCOTLAND, GLASGOW, JUNE 11 2010. DIESEL SPILL FEAR OVER TRAIN CRASH



A loch not far from the site of the crash

Environmental officers are probing a train wreck over fears thousands of litres of diesel could pour out following a crash. A train on the Glasgow to Oban line derailed and caught fire late on Sunday night (June 6) and while the focus is on moving the train fears remain over large quantities of diesel on board. Around 60 people onboard largely escaped the crash unharmed but two engine carriages, each according to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) carrying 1600 litres of diesel, are among the wreckage. Following a request from the police two officers from the (SEPA) have been at the site of the crash. SEPA's West Highland and Argyll team manager, Jim Frame, said: "Until the incident site is declared safe, we cannot confirm whether any diesel has been lost or spilled from the derailed carriage."

"However, oil retention equipment has already been made available on site and can

be deployed in Loch Awe and on the minor tributaries below the carriage to contain any spillages." Mr Frame added that a fish farm close to the crash on Loch Awe has been warned and SEPA would continue to monitor the situation.

http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=18240&channel=0&title=Diesel+spill+fear+over+train+crash

USA, MI, WASHTENAW CO, AUGUSTA TWP, JUNE 12 2010. TANKER CARRYING HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL TIPS IN AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

mark tower

A tanker truck carrying anhydrous ammonia rolled over on Willis Road west of Pittman in Augusta Township at about 10:33 a.m. June 4, according to reports from the Augusta Township Fire Department. Emergency crews, including members of the Washtenaw County Hazardous Materials Response Team, responded to the site of the accident to contain the spill of the

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dangerous chemical, which was to be delivered to a farm on Willis Road. Augusta Township Fire Chief Vic Chevrette said the crash was caused by a hitch pin that came out, resulting in the tanker rolling over on its side, and weighing of the truck after the incident showed that about four gallons of anhydrous ammonia may have leaked out of the tank. Willis Road was closed to traffic for approximately two hours, Chevrette said, between Stony Creek and Hitchingham Roads while crews assessed the situation and righted the overturned trailer. The trailer, owned by Crop Production Services, was leaking the chemical at valves near the bottom of the tank, he said, which could have been dangerous to humans in the area because the chemical can burn the skin and, if released as a vapor, can damage the lung tissue of anyone breathing it in, according to Augusta Township firefighters. "If we would have uprighted the truck without stopping the leak we would have created a much worse situation," Chevrette said. Chevrette likened the situation to an aerosol can that is tipped upside down. The super-cooled liquid inside, he said, could have been released as a vapor into the air while the tanker was tipped over, creating a potentially dangerous mist. "When you take this vessel and flip it upside-down, that is outside it's normal operating specifications," Chevrette said. Another potential danger in that situation, he said, is that the sun can heat the bottom of the tank, which could possibly heat the liquid to its boiling point and cause it to be released through the emergency release valve. About 30 emergency personnel responded to the scene Friday, including emergency medical services, police, firefighters and members of the HAZMAT team. The leak was stopped and the tank righted without any injuries Friday, according to Chevrette. The small amount of anhydrous ammonia that did leak (about four gallons) is below the threshold of potential ground contamination, he said. "It basically just vaporized," Chevrette said. "There was no contamination." The timing of the spill was oddly appropriate for Augusta Township firefighters, who attended training only three weeks ago for incidents involving the exact type of tanker truck involved in Friday's roll-over. This training was provided, Chevrette said, by the Michigan State Police's motor carrier division.

http://www.heritage.com/articles/2010/06/11/ypsilanti_courier/news/doc4c113912a1fc1105895393.txt

USA, MN, MINNEAPOLIS, JUNE 12 2010. NORTHEAST MINNEAPOLIS BLAST INJURES 3 >> THE EXPLOSION AT THE INTERPLASTICS PLANT SERIOUSLY BURNED TWO PEOPLE.

matt mckinney & paul walsh

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.keyc.com/node/38344>

• **Watch the Video** http://www.kare11.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=852603&catid=396

• **Watch the Video** <http://kstp.com/news/stories/s1599403.shtml>

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.myfoxtwincities.com/dpp/news/Plastic-Factory-Explosion-in-NE-Minneapolis-june-10-2010>

Graphic: [Northeast Minneapolis explosion](#)



Interplastics' facility in Minneapolis.

A "flash explosion" Thursday at a northeast Minneapolis plastics manufacturing plant burned three people, officials said. The blast at Interplastic Corp.'s facility at 2015 NE. Broadway at about 7:30 a.m. seriously injured two workers and left a third needing treatment for minor burns, said company lawyer Ivan Levy. All three were taken to Hennepin County Medical Center, where two were listed in serious condition. Two of the injured were contract workers and the third was an Interplastic employee, Assistant Fire Chief Cherie Penn said. The Fire Department's hazardous materials unit did an assessment and determined that there was never any health threat to others on the property or to the public, Penn said. State officials report that

Interplastic has been cited several times since 2000 for various environmental problems. Levy acknowledged that the facility does "not have a clean record. ... [but] this plant is not among the high levels of concern" in the industry. The workers were replacing a cap on a 16,000-gallon tank for an acid-based product when the explosion occurred, Penn said. The ground-level tank was about 20 percent full, she said. "The top blew off, and there was a poof with a brief fire and smoke," read an incident report from the state Department of Public Safety. "The fire burned for 15 seconds." Interplastic makes unsaturated polyester resins, which are flammable and can explode, according to the European Composites Industry Association. Those resins are used for reinforced plastic laminates, electrical components, pipes, tanks and ducts. The company is headquartered in St. Paul and has additional operations in California, Indiana and Kentucky. It has run the Broadway plant since 1966. The state Health Department reported that the plant has a history of "numerous complaints from the surrounding community about odors attributed" to the plant. Health complaints included breathing problems, allergic reactions, and eye, nose and throat irritation, the department said. In 2000, federal pollution officials cited the company for hazardous-waste violations. Interplastic also was a state Superfund site for a number of years, but it was cleaned up and de-listed in 2004. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) said Thursday that its records show:

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- A notice of noncompliance in 2001 because the facility failed an air-emissions stack test.
- A notice in May 2001 of violations dealing with spills, storm-sewer discharges, a tank leak and other problems. Interplastic agreed to pay a \$22,500 penalty.
- A warning letter in 2006 about hazardous waste.

There also is a "pending enforcement action about which we are not permitted to release info," said MPCA spokesman Sam Brungardt. Interplastic's Levy said he is aware of the pending action, but he declined to offer specifics. He did say that it wasn't related in any way to Thursday's explosion. Also, the state Department of Labor and Industry has cited the company for various workplace safety shortcomings, among them a missing platform guardrail, an exposed portion of the electrical system and a room that had an improper outlet and electrical devices. The citations were deemed serious by the department, and all were remedied, records show.

http://www.startribune.com/local/96062114.html?elr=KArks7PYDiaK7DUdcOy_nc:DKUiD3aPc:Yyc:aUU

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JUNE 12 2010. JURY AWARDS FAMILY OF BLAST VICTIM \$82.5 MILLION

A Harris County jury has awarded \$82.5 million in damages to the family of Joshua Wade Petrie, a Mineral Wells resident who died of injuries suffered in a May 25, 2007, explosion at a natural gas processing plant in Hood County. Exterran Energy Solutions L.P. of Houston, formerly Hanover Compression L.P., will be liable for the damages if the jury award is upheld. Petrie, 27, was injured in the explosion of a device called a hot-oil treater. The plant is owned by Fort Worth-based Quicksilver Resources, a natural gas producer with properties in North Texas' Barnett Shale, the largest gas-producing area in the U.S. Hanover engineered and built the plant. The jury reached its decision Monday in a lawsuit in the 152nd state District Court of Judge Robert Schaffer in Houston. The jury found that Hanover was grossly negligent and 90 percent responsible for the accident that injured Petrie, who died at a Fort Worth hospital the next day. The jury attributed 10 percent of the responsibility to Quicksilver but also concluded that the company was not guilty of gross negligence. Quicksilver is not liable for monetary damages because of the jury's decision and because the company provided workers' compensation insurance, said Houston attorney Rob Ammons, who represented the family. Petrie was a Quicksilver employee. The jury awarded damages to Petrie's widow, Candee Petrie of Mineral Wells, and three minor children, including a son, Joshua Petrie Jr., born shortly after his father died. Damages were awarded for financial loss, loss of companionship and mental anguish, as well as \$25 million in exemplary damages, which the judge's instructions to the jury said include "any damage awarded as a penalty or by way of punishment" for wrongdoing. Exterran officials could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/06/09/2252886/jury-awards-family-of-blast-victim.html>

USA, CA, KERN COUNTY, JUNE 12 2010. LAKEVIEW GUSHER – LARGEST US OIL SPILL

📺 [Watch the Video Lakeview gusher Site](#)



The 1910 Lakeview Gusher.

On 14th March, 1910 an oil well blew out in Kern County, California, and caused the flow of millions of barrels of oil. Unlike today's modern blowout prevention equipment and strategies, in the twentieth century there were no apparent procedures for handling a situation like this. The gushing oil flowed through a path downhill and oil crews rushed to stop the flow and contain the oil. The drilling was originally done by the Lakeview oil company on 1st January, 1909. At first only natural gas was found, but after further drilling was done in collaboration with Union Oil Company, the sudden incident happened a year later. It is in history that the oil spouted out when the drill bit hit the 2440 foot level. A part of the well casing was blown out due to the tremendous pressure of the oil. It is estimated that 9 million barrels of oil flowed out of the gusher in the 18 months that it was out of control. After 18 months it was brought in control in September 1911. The gusher gave out 18,800 oil barrels per day in the beginning and in the peak days the flow went to as much as 90,000 barrels per day. The oil company workers tried to contain the flow of oil throughout its gushing time period with sandbags. One can imagine how difficult it would've been at that time to try and stop a whole river of oil with just sandbags. The most remarkable thing about the oil gusher is that of all the oil that it gave out there was never a single incident when the oil caught fire.

<http://news.puggal.com/lakeview-gusher-41021/>

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USA, WI, CHIPPEWA FALLS, JUNE 12 2010. DIESEL TANK LEAK AT COURTHOUSE SENDS FUEL INTO NEARBY CREEK >> A DNR HYDROGEOLOGIST SAYS IT'S POSSIBLE ANYWHERE FROM 50 TO 279 GALLONS MAY HAVE SPILLED

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=12635144>



A leak at the Chippewa County Courthouse sends diesel fuel into a nearby creek Friday morning, sparking a quick clean-up effort. A hydrogeologist with the DNR says he heard anywhere from 50 to 279 gallons may have leaked. But, he says only a small amount actually ended up running through the storm drains and into Duncan Creek. Fire crews used a boom mainly as a precaution in the creek. The DNR says it won't do much to stop the oily sheen from spreading, but it would catch oil globs had more of it made its way into the storm sewers. "What you saw were very low concentrations of petroleum that mixed with water in the storm sewer system and that kind of pancakes out across the surface," says Doug Joseph, a DNR Hydrogeologist. Joseph says the spill in Chippewa Falls was very minor. He says it's his job to deal with similar spills on a daily basis; for example, when a semi truck crashes. The good news is petroleum is organic and nothing Mother Nature can't

handle—in small doses. "In this case, bacteria will degrade petroleum, sunlight will degrade petroleum, air movement will degrade petroleum, and heat will degrade petroleum. There are all these things that will break it down," Joseph says. "The majority of the fuel was confined to the low areas of the parking lot and pooled up there and formed puddles," says Battalion Chief Jon Taylor with the Chippewa Falls [Fire Department](#). Taylor says fire and city crews used sand to soak up most of the fuel. He says an underground tank for the emergency generator malfunctioned causing the spill. "When that tank gets low, there's another underground fuel tank that automatically kicks on and pumps fuel into the tank that's used for the emergency generator. At some point there was some sort of malfunction that's still being investigated causing the tank that provides fuel for the underground generator to overflow. It overflowed and spread fuel throughout the parking lot," Taylor says. Joseph says the severity of oil spills are determined by quantity and concentration which is why Friday's small spill is not comparable to the spill in the Gulf. He says any remaining sheen will likely be gone in 24 hours. Firefighters say the courthouse didn't need to be evacuated but the air circulation system was shut down to keep the fumes out.

<http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/96153204.html>

CANADA, CALGARY, JUNE 12 2010. DIESEL SPILL CLOSES DOWN PART OF BARLOW TRAIL DURING MORNING COMMUTE



Calgary road crews are cleaning up diesel oil that spilled near Max Bell arena this morning.

The Calgary Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Response Team was deployed after 300 litres of diesel fuel was spilled this morning. Just before the morning rush hour a tanker truck was side swiped on Barlow Trail just south of the Max Bell arenas, spilling the diesel over part of the road and into an irrigational canal that runs parallel to Deerfoot Trail. Those passing by on nearby pathways say the diesel was clearly visible on the surface of the water and had a potent smell. A boom has been deployed on the canal further south near Glenmore Trail as a precaution, but it appears most of the diesel has been contained.

<http://www.globaltvcalgary.com/Diesel+spill+closes+down+part+Barlow+Trail+during+morning+commute/3142258/story.html>

USA, LA, COCODRIE, JUNE 12 2010. GAS LEAK ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSEL

Three dozen workers aboard a supply vessel in the Gulf of Mexico have been hospitalised following exposure to leaking toxic fumes at a natural gas platform, US officials said. Of the 36 people - out of 41 people on board - who were transported to hospital, two workers complained of more serious symptoms including shortness of breath, disorientation and chest pains, after their vessel broke open a gas line while mooring at the platform in Cocodrie, southwest Louisiana. A small amount of natural gas escaped from the leak before it was promptly shut off, officials said. The Joint Command Centre in Houma, Louisiana, which is tasked with responding to the massive Gulf oil spill, said the supply vessel was part of the Deepwater

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Horizon response fleet. US Coast Guard officials told local media however that the accident was in no way connected to the response to the oil spill, which has become the largest environmental disaster in US history. "The safety of the people in the field is a top priority of this oil spill response," said Unified Command Safety Section Chief Scot Rudolph. Operations in the Cocodrie area were stopped for the day.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/gas-leak-on-oil-spill-response-vessel/story-e6frf7jx-1225878727284>

USA, MT, GREAT FALLS, JUNE 12 2010. MONTANA OIL FIRM FINED OVER DEAD BIRDS

A Cut Bank, Mont., energy firm has been placed on probation and fined \$15,000 after 18 migratory birds died in a pond of oil that leaked from a storage tank. Provident Energy Associates pleaded guilty Thursday to violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Strong sentenced the company to 18 months of probation. Prosecutors say in September 2008, oil sludge began to leak from a long-existing hole in a storage tank at Provident's Two-Medicine Cut Bank Sand Unit. The oil formed a 10- by 20-foot pond. About 18 migratory birds -- including an owl, mourning dove and vesper sparrows -- came in contact with the oil and died over several days. Prosecutors say new leadership at the company has remedied the equipment and personnel problems that caused the bird deaths.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9G98FBO0.htm>

USA, TX, ODESSAS, NOTREES, JUNE 12 2010. LIGHTNING SPARKS TWO TANK BATTERY FIRES IN NOTREES

Lightning sparked two tank battery fires out in Notrees. The first tank battery went up in flames around 6:30 Thursday night on FM 2019 and Kermit Highway. The second tank battery sparked up a short time later. The West Odessa Volunteer Fire Department says only one fire is still burning, but the terrain is too dangerous to get to it. They're letting the fire burn itself out since nothing is in danger. They expect to see it smoking for most of the night.

<http://www.newswest9.com/Global/story.asp?S=12632544>

USA, MA, CHARLTON, JUNE 12 2010. LARGE OIL SPILL IN CHARLTON

karen nugent

Investigators and clean-up crews from state and federal agencies were at the Shady Brook apartment complex off Southbridge Road (Route 169) today trying to remove more than 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel from Cady Brook and from wetlands behind the complex. The fuel is from a spill yesterday at Charlton Welding & Repair, Inc., a nearby company at 11 Griffin Road. Nicholas J. Child, chief of emergency response for the state Department of Environmental Protection's central office in Worcester, said DEP and fire department staff went door-to-door yesterday and today warning residents to close windows and doors and keep children and pets away from the brook, which, he said, had an oil sheen on it when crews arrived. Cady Brook flows into the Quinebaug River. Mr. Child said a 700-foot-deep public drinking water supply well that is within feet of the brook was not impacted by the spill. A resident who said she smelled gasoline reported the spill to the fire department around 5:30 p.m. yesterday. Mr. Child said his agency was notified later yesterday evening, along with investigators from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and New England Disposal Technologies, an environmental clean up contractor. "You could see free diesel floating on top of the water," Mr. Child said. Today, with the odor of diesel still permeating the area, yards of absorbent fabric — called "booms" — were strung across the stream, and vacuum trucks planned to work all night removing diesel slicks. Mr. Child said rain predicted for tonight and tomorrow would help the effort, because it pushes oil along. It is unclear how the spill occurred at Charlton Welding & Repair, which is owned by Larry D. McKissick II. Mr. Child said the diesel circled around the rear of the apartment complex, passing through at least two wetland areas.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20100612/NEWS/100619908/1116>

USA, W.V, LIMESTONE, JUNE 13 2010. METHANE FIRE OUT, BUT COMPANY STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION

kef o. howard

A methane gas fire that burned for four days is out, but the company that owns the well is still under investigation. At about 8:30 a.m. Friday, flames rising from a natural gas drilling site, operated by AB Resources Inc. of Brecksville, Ohio, burned out on their own. The fire had been burning at the site on Beam's Lane in Marshall County, 3.5 miles east of Moundsville, since the early morning hours Monday, when a methane gas explosion injured seven workers. The explosion occurred while employees from BJ Tubular Services of Houston and Union Drilling Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas, who are both contracted with Chief Oil and Gas in Wexford, Pa., were attempting to drill for natural gas at the location through an abandoned coal mine. Chief Oil and Gas was hired by AB Resources to drill at the site and had been working for only a few days when crews hit a "shallow pocket" of methane gas a little more than 1,000 feet below the ground. One of the injured workers, who was

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questioned by sheriff's deputies while receiving treatment at Reynolds Memorial Hospital in Glen Dale, said the workers heard "a rumbling sound" and before they could evacuate the site the explosion occurred. Twenty fire department crews and two emergency management teams from Marshall and Belmont counties were called to the scene to battle the fire. About 255,000 gallons of water from Public Service District 3, along with water from the Ohio River, was used to contain the blaze. According to Moundsville Volunteer Fire Department Chief Danny Holmes, the flames were within about 50 feet of several fuel tankers and other combustible materials, along with several company trailers. Holmes said the VFD's job was to contain the fire, not extinguish it. Since midday Monday, Texas-based Wild Well Control, a company that specializes in rig fires, has been working at the site. Before the methane gas burned off Friday morning, Wild Well officials had reported the drilling site would have to be capped to stop the fire.

<http://www.news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/538663.html>

INDIA, KANPUR, JUNE 13 2010. FIRE AT PETROL PUMP, NO ONE INJURED

A major mishap was averted when a portion of the petrol pump situated at the busy Mall Road of the city caught fire, here on Saturday evening. As a result, panic spread in the area and people rushed for cover. The incident has been reported to take place at around 8pm. The petrol pump staff told TOI that the incident occurred when a two-wheeler engine was started while fuelling of the vehicle was mid way. The ignition spark led the fire. The vigilant staff of the petrol pump made extensive use of the fire extinguishers and put off the flames before they become uncontrollable. On sensing the gravity of the situation, four fire tenders were rushed to the site of the incident. Two fire tenders each from Meerpur fire station and Latouche road fire station came for rescue, but by then the flames had been doused. Talking to TOI, fire officer Meerpur fire station Shiv Drash Prasad said, "When we reached the spot, fire had been extinguished but there was a lot of dust. We sprinkled water and brought this dust to rest. There is no casualty and the situation is well under control though initially people panicked and evacuated themselves from the nearby commercial buildings."

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/City/Kanpur/Fire-at-petrol-pump-no-one-injured/articleshow/6041980.cms>

SWEDEN, STOCKHOLM, JUNE 13 2010. OIL COMPANIES ACCUSED OF HELPING TO FUEL SUDAN WAR CRIMES >> SWEDISH REPORT SAYS CONSORTIUM SHOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF ABUSES BY GOVERNMENT FORCES

ruth sunderland

Three [oil](#) companies were last week accused of being complicit in [war crimes](#) and crimes against humanity in [Sudan](#). A report published in Sweden by a group of charities and peace activists called for Swedish oil company Lundin, Petronas of Malaysia and OMV of Austria to be investigated by their national governments. The trio, led by Lundin, operated in a consortium and in 1997 signed a contract to extract oil in a territory known as Block 5A, which was not then under the full control of the Sudanese government. The report, by the European Coalition on Oil in Sudan (ECOS), says the start of oil exploitation set off a vicious war in the area, and that between 1997 and 2003 large-scale crimes were committed as the government attempted to secure control. The accusations include indiscriminate attacks on civilians, pillage, rape, torture and the abduction of children. Thousands of people died and others were violently displaced from their homes. While the perpetrators were the armed forces of the Sudanese government and local militias, the report calls into question the role played by the oil industry. It says the Lundin consortium worked alongside the perpetrators, that its infrastructure enabled the commission of crimes by others, and that it should have been aware of the abuses. Lundin denies that it violated international [law](#) and that it participated in, or had knowledge of, any of the illegal acts documented in the report. The report includes testimony from a Presbyterian pastor, the Rev James Koung Nimrew, who said: "There was random shelling of the villages, shelling even of cows... they burned churches. There was no safe place. Even women and children were killed in this indiscriminate kind of killing."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/13/oil-fuelled-sudan-war-crimes>

USA, MT, GREAT FALLS, JUNE 13 2010. CUT BANK OIL FIRM PLEADS GUILTY TO VIOLATING BIRD ACT

Provident Energy Associates of Montana LLC of Cut Bank pleaded guilty Thursday to violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The firm entered the plea before U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Strong in U.S. District Court in Great Falls. The company was sentenced to 18 months probation and fined \$5,000. In September 2008, oil sludge began to leak from a long-existing hole in a storage tank at Provident's Two-Medicine Cut Bank Sand Unit in Pondera County, according to the government. The leaking oil flowed about 50 feet across the ground and formed a 10- by 20-foot pond. Over the course of several days, about 18 migratory birds, including an owl, mourning dove and vesper sparrows, came into contact with the oil and died as the result of oil ingestion and coating. New leadership at the Provident has remedied the equipment and personnel problems which caused

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the migratory bird deaths, the government said. An employee of the company reported the spill and deaths to his supervisors, who notified the oil-field regulating agency, which notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, prosecutors said. The defendant's employee told investigators the tank had leaked oil from the hole several times in the past, leading to other bird deaths, but could not explain why it had not been repaired.

<http://www.greatfallsbtribune.com/article/20100612/NEWS01/6120312/Cut-Bank-oil-firm-pleads-guilty-to-violating-bird-act>

USA, FLA, BAY CO, LAGUNA BEACH, JUNE 13 2010. STORAGE TANK FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON WASHES ASHORE ON PCB

sarah owen

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wjhg.com/news/headlines/96221084.html>

 **Photo's [9]** <http://www.newsherald.com/news/panama-84604-ashore-pcb.html>

 **Watch the Video** http://www.panhandleparade.com/index.php/mbb/article/debris_launches_investigation/mbb7724014/



Coast Guard officials said that the oily substance was leaking from this hatch in the top of the tank that washed ashore Saturday morning. Officials at a press conference Saturday afternoon suspect the storage tank, now being stored at the Coast Guard station at Naval Support Activity Panama City is from the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that exploded and sank in April.

Bay County's first tangible landfall from the Deepwater Horizon crisis is not tar balls or oil plumes. Instead, it's a storage tank officials think was onboard the Deepwater Horizon rig when it exploded and sank off the coast of Louisiana in April. A tank weighing 5,000 pounds with a 550-gallon capacity washed ashore Saturday morning near 14th Street and Front Beach Road in Laguna Beach, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Steve Caskey said. A sticker bearing the BP name and the word "Horizon" led authorities to believe the tank was blown from the rig, Petty Officer Aaron Frost

added. The tank also had a serial number on it, and Coast Guard officials have contacted BP, but have not yet received confirmation of the vessel's origin. The transportable tank was leaking oil from its top hatch when crews arrived on the beach about 10:30 a.m. but stopped bleeding fluid once tractors turned it right side up, Frost said. It will take at least a week to analyze the yellowish oil stored in the nearly full tank, he added. Tanks like this one are commonly used on offshore oil vessels to transport a variety of liquids, including gasoline and hydraulic fluids, Caskey said. An oily sheen surrounded the tank as waves eased it toward the shoreline. Oil clung to at least one swimmer, who was treated by EMS, before the beach was closed, Frost said. Bob Humphries, visiting Panama City Beach from Navarre, and his family had been watching the tank approach since Friday night, when they spotted what they thought might be a dinghy. Humphries saw the sheen and noticed the accompanying smell of oil about 6 a.m., he said, while he was walking his dog and his brother was fishing. His brother caught a fish — his first in the family's weeklong vacation — but released it after realizing what the tank was, Humphries said. "We're going to go to Publix tonight and buy some seafood for our cookout instead," Humphries added. Brandie Davis stood on the beach just a few yards from where absorbent boom, wrapped around stakes driven into the sand, lay along the shoreline. She and a group of about 30 children were in town from Georgia for a Bible camp. Although a handful of other vacationers were in the water, Davis stayed out. "The pool is good," she said. She knew oil was a possibility when she planned her trip, she added, but wasn't expecting it in the form of a storage tank. Hazardous Material crews continued to sample and evaluate water in the area Saturday evening, and a 1,000-yard stretch of beach likely will remain closed for a day or two, Frost said. Coast Guard officials also drove up and down the beach looking for anything else that might have washed up, but found only a hard hat. Frost didn't think the hat came from Deepwater Horizon — "ThyssenKrupp Safety Orientation 2010" was written on a sticker affixed to it. ThyssenKrupp is an elevator manufacturing company. Still, the hat and the tank both will be sent to a warehouse in Louisiana, where everything that might have ties to the spill are being stored and catalogued, Caskey said. The tank was housed temporarily at the Coast Guard station at Naval Support Activity Panama City.

Earlier Version of the Story:



Bay County's first tangible landfall from the Deepwater Horizon accident is not tar balls or oil plumes. Instead, it was an oil storage tank suspected to have been onboard the Deepwater Horizon oil rig that exploded and sank off the coast of Louisiana in April. According to U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Steve Caskey, a tank weighing 5,000 pounds with a 550-gallon capacity washed ashore near 14th Street and Front Beach Road in Laguna Beach. "It was leaking when it washed up on the beach," Caskey said. "There is some oil in it. There was sheen created from the tank leaking."

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Caskey said there were BP markings on the tank and other evidence that it came from the Deepwater Horizon rig. The Coast Guard pulled it from the surf and has taken the tank to the Coast Guard station at Naval Support Activity Panama City. Crews Saturday afternoon were driving posts into the shoreline and stringing absorbent boom for about 100 yards along the shore. Caskey said that part of the beach and shoreline is closed "until the threat is mitigated." Hazmat trucks were on the scene cleaning up and making sure residents and visitors are safe. The Coast Guard also was driving up and down the beach looking for anything else that might have washed up. This is a developing story. Check back with The News Herald for more details.

<http://www.newsherald.com/news/panama-84604-ashore-pcb.html>

USA, PA, SUSQUEHANNA TWP, JUNE 13 2010. SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS QUESTION CLEANUP OF 17-YEAR-OLD GAS LEAKS

m. diane mccormick



View of the gas station on the corner of Progress Ave. and Union Deposit that is the source of gas that has leaked into the soil.

Step into the basement of Candace and Tom Orr's home in the 400 block of Alden Street in Susquehanna Township, and the smell of gasoline hits the nose. It dissipates immediately, but two reminders remain: a large air filter, and a fan pumping air through a chute and out a bathroom window. There's also a roaring filter in the dining room. "Try to watch TV with that on, or even think," said Tom Orr. The Orrs are among a cluster of residents in homes behind a former Exxon gas station at Progress Avenue and Union Deposit Road questioning why the state Department of Environmental Protection failed to enforce cleanup of a 17-year-old storage tank leak that left the ground so saturated with gas that one house showed "explosive" readings of combustible gases. "What we have now is a situation for 17 years that we've had gasoline in the soil, and a history of nobody even telling anyone," said Orr. According to DEP documents and interviews with those involved, when the agency ordered the gas station to remove the tanks, inspectors never ensured that soil saturated with gasoline was properly cleaned. The problem remained unnoticed until sewer workers last year were forced to stop a line replacement project after workers were overcome by fumes. Seven homes so far — five in the 400 block of Redwood Street and two in the 400 block of Alden Street — are being monitored by DEP for gasoline vapors emanating from the soil. Paul S. Palanzo has owned the gas station, branded until recently to sell Exxon products, at Progress Avenue and Union Deposit Road since 1990, according to Dauphin County property records. Palanzo, who has signed a DEP consent order regarding the cleanup, declined to talk to The Patriot-News. Under a December consent order with DEP, Palanzo must study ground and in-home air quality at seven properties — four have granted access, Repetz said — on Redwood and Alden streets. DEP has told homeowners that Palanzo's report is expected by the end of June, and the agency will schedule a meeting with them by early July "to discuss the standings and where it's going," said DEP spokesman John Repetz. According to DEP records, on Feb. 11, 1993, the agency investigated diesel fuel odors and found three unregistered storage tanks lacking leak detection or corrosion prevention testing systems. There were 12 tanks in all at the station. DEP's consent order lists nine "closed" tanks, but the agency could not specify which were removed. State officials in March 1993 saw three tanks dug up at the site, some with visible holes, and two from soil saturated with diesel. In November 1996, Palanzo filed a remediation plan to vent fumes to the surface. In 1998, Palanzo told DEP the vapor extraction system "was being gradually installed and was expected to take a few more months" before becoming operational. But after Palanzo reported slow progress in 1998, DEP "did not go back and tell him, per se," to finish the job because its underground storage tank program focuses on groundwater contamination, Repetz said. "Mr. Palanzo had a plan in place to complete the remediation," Repetz said. "We took our limited resources and then turned them to more pressing needs. Everybody was on public water, and there were no complaints (of fumes)." The remediation system was never completed — something DEP didn't find out about until on April 22, 2009, sewer workers rediscovered the problem. The Susquehanna Township Sewer Authority was forced to stop sewer upgrades in the 400 block of Redwood Street because workers found petroleum in a manhole and "impacted soil." "This whole area fumed unbelievably," said Alice Frambach, whose home has an exterior sewer hookup and not a new lateral because upgrades haven't resumed. Township officials contacted DEP immediately, said solicitor Bruce Foreman. "Lo and behold, when we contacted them, they told us they had a many-year-old file, which we didn't know, and there had been a documented leak or maybe two from a tank at that station," Foreman said. DEP did review the situation to determine "how it got from point A to point B," Repetz said, but he didn't say that lessons learned are applied to current practices. "The important thing is to figure out where we stand right now and what's going to be done moving forward

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to protect the environment and the health of the public," he said. A call to the air quality tester, Tuckey Restoration, was not returned, and geologist Gary Calvert said he's ethically bound from discussing investigations. Tom Orr said testers found "high hits" of benzene in the basement and family room of the Alden Street home he and his wife have owned since 1987. Benzene, Orr said, is "pretty scary stuff." Katherine Baker, associate professor of environmental microbiology at Penn State Harrisburg, said benzene occurs naturally in gasoline – making it "integral to a gasoline economy" – and is known to cause cancer. Opportunistic benzene follows a path of least resistance, Baker said, and it can build up in basements. Finding the source in order to vent benzene directly out of a home "is like a giant game of blind man's bluff," she said. "The other big problem is that after 17 years, there's not a single big spot," she said. "There's a single big smear." Orr said the geologist studying the case has put three test wells in his yard and told him that the fuel could have gone several directions via a fault line. Township and state officials should have told residents about the original incident and when the problem resurfaced, Orr said. He said he first learned around November that his home could be affected. "Nobody has ever, ever contacted me or anyone else, to the best of my knowledge, saying we have a problem," he said. Susquehanna Township Manager Gary Myers, who met with DEP after the 2009 discovery, said DEP took responsibility for administration, communication, and enforcement. Environmental watchdog Clean Water Action said that 99.5 percent of Pennsylvania's leaking tanks have been cleaned, but 3,368 remain. Enforcement dollars have declined for 10 years, from the Ridge through the Rendell administrations, said Brady Russell, eastern Pennsylvania director. "It is a really big deal," said Russell. "It isn't just the big cut last year. Folks want an environmental protection arm of the government to follow up. We just don't give it the resources." Frank Lynch, president of the township commissioners, said he first learned about the problem in April 2009, and the township will lean on DEP to finish the job. "We're going to be on this situation like a laser beam," Lynch said. "Even if we don't have the authority to remediate or the expertise, we have the obligation to our residents that the agencies that do have these obligations make sure our families and residents are safe." In the meantime, Orr was preparing for the geologist's return to his property. "He's coming back to dig more wells," he said.

http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2010/06/susquehanna_township_residents_1.html

USA, S.C, COLUMBIA, JUNE 13 2010. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS LIST OFFERS FIRST RESPONDERS VALUABLE TOOL IN AN EMERGENCY >> INFORMATION ON RAIL CARS' CONTENTS AVAILABLE TO LOCAL AGENCIES, BUT NOT ALL REQUEST DATA

tim smith



Derailed Norfolk Southern train cars lie to the side of the track Saturday after cleanup crews removed them to allow rail traffic to move again.

Information about the top hazardous materials transported by rail through communities is available to emergency-response agencies but not all agencies ask for it, a spokesman for Norfolk Southern Corp. told The Greenville News. The disclosure came the day after a 24-car train derailment and chemical spill near Liberty caused the evacuation of nearby residents but no injuries. Lynn Fisher, director of Pickens County Emergency Management, said he recently requested the list and hasn't yet received it. Fisher said he plans to use the list "to prepare for incidents just like this. About 25 trains pass through here every day." Jerry

Mitchell, a University of South Carolina professor who studied the 2005 train derailment and chlorine spill in Graniteville that resulted in 250 people being treated for chlorine exposure and the deaths of nine residents, said the Liberty evacuation appeared to be run by the book. But he said he still believes officials need to broach the subject of disclosing hazardous materials to emergency responders before trains travel through or near communities. "That is something we can improve upon," he said. Robin Chapman, a spokesman for Norfolk Southern, which operated the train that derailed Thursday, said the logistics make advance notification of everything being carried impossible. "We provide to emergency response agencies, when they ask, a list of the top 25 hazardous materials that we haul through their area," he said. "We cannot provide specific schedules or trains on which they are rolling. That just is not practical. But we do provide lists of what they can expect to be going through their area and that gives them an idea of what they need to be prepared for." In addition, he said, the railroad does have available for each train a listing of any materials that can be provided to authorities in the event of an emergency. Chapman said he didn't know if any Pickens County-area agencies have requested hazardous materials lists, but he said agencies throughout the nation ask for the information. "We get those requests quite a bit," he said. Chapman said some of those requests have come from South Carolina agencies, but he didn't know which ones or how many. Mitchell said the issue still vexing communities is knowing what dangerous materials are being carried through their communities. "You're dealing

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with a mobile threat," he said. "You almost have to be vigilant 24/7. That was a train that started in Georgia on its way to North Carolina. So South Carolina residents didn't even know they had a threat coming through."

He said residents and officials might get more involved if they knew radioactive materials were being transported but don't seem as alarmed at chemical-laden cars. "There is so much stuff out there daily that the bureaucratic part of it would be probably a little unwieldy," he said. "But that is something we might need to start thinking about." Mitchell said emergency responders in the Graniteville derailment evacuated a 1-mile area around the train wreck, though emergency guidelines called for a 1.9-mile evacuation. He said he isn't criticizing those on the front lines of a response because they sometimes must make decisions not knowing what on a train is leaking. "It looks like for Liberty, they went by the book," he said.

Related

- [Train derails in Liberty](#)
- [Train derailment: the day after](#)

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20100613/NEWS/306130008/Hazardous-materials-list-offers-first-responders-valuable-tool-in-an-emergency>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 13 2010. LEAK STOPPED, BUT PIPELINE QUESTIONS STILL FLOWING >> ACCIDENT >>FIRE DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES SPILL AT 21,000 GALLONS.

steven oberbeck & rosemary winters

Related: [Residents to Chevron: Clean up the mess](#)



Saturday evening, the oil flowing out of Chevron's busted Crude Oil Pipeline No. 2 was down to around five gallons a minute, a trickle compared with the 50 gallons a minute that were reported to be spilling earlier in the day. What remained a mystery: When did the leak begin? And why, with monitoring equipment in place on the pipeline, did it apparently take hours to learn of the break? "We will get to the bottom of how this happened," Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker said. "And we will address necessary measures to make sure the community continues to be protected in the future." An early report from city officials indicated the initial leak took place about 10 p.m. Friday. But that report later was withdrawn and blamed on miscommunication between Chevron and the city. "We do not know yet when the leak first happened," said Dan Johnson, a spokesman for Chevron Corp. "Our first

and most important priority was to get the leaked stopped and the damage contained." Without knowing when the leak started, though, any estimate of the actual size of the spill remains just that, said Becker's spokeswoman, Lisa Harrison Smith. Still, Fire Department Deputy Chief Karl Lieb estimated 500 barrels (about 21,000 gallons) of oil escaped. The residual leakage represented the crude that remained in the 10-inch pipeline after it was shut down. The valve used to stop the flow -- soon after Chevron learned of the leak at 7:42 a.m. Saturday -- was about seven miles east of the break. "Our pipeline-monitoring system was active but did not identify the source of the leak," company spokesman Mark Sullivan said. "Our investigation will examine that and report on the findings." He said the company would assume full responsibility for any "financial damage, environmental damage, safety concerns, impacts on health ... and cleanup." Becker vowed to hold the company to that pledge. Johnson said a team was being flown into Utah to assess the damage. Also expected to arrive are representatives from the oil company's insurance carriers, who will begin contacting those affected by the leak. State records indicate that an earlier leak on the 52-year-old pipeline occurred in February 2002. During that leak, blamed on corrosion, an estimated 207 barrels spilled. Damage was estimated at nearly \$318,000. A leak also took place near Park City in August 2004. During that incident, the result of excavation damage, around 470 barrels leaked. That damage was pegged at \$442,000. Sullivan said the pipeline must be inspected every five years. It was last checked in 2008. The U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency monitor the pipeline. "The leak was on the downhill side," Sullivan said, "where some of the standard monitoring tools don't work as well as other monitoring tools." Sullivan said he couldn't speculate on what caused the leak, but water corrosion usually is the culprit when pipes break. The oil being transported on Chevron's pipeline was a medium-grade crude, which refers to how easily the oil flows. Light crude flows almost like water while heavy crudes are closer to the consistency of furniture wax, or petroleum jelly, and must be heated before they flow easily.

About the Pipeline

- The Chevron Crude Pipeline No. 2 was built in 1958.
- It transports medium-grade crude from Chevron-owned oil wells in the Rangely Field in western Colorado, about 250 miles east of Salt Lake City.

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- The 10-inch steel pipeline transports daily up to 15,000 barrels, or about 630,000 gallons, to Chevron's refinery in Salt Lake City.

Sources: *Chevron and Salt Lake City*

http://www.sltrib.com/D=g/ci_15286704

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 13 2010. OIL SPILLS INTO RED BUTTE CREEK, BECKER SAYS CHEVRON RESPONSIBLE

 **Photo's** <http://business.gather.com/viewArticle.action?articleId=281474978297584>



Click-2-Listen [Live Broadcast: Red Butte oil spill press conference](#)



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A clean-up worker walks along the source of an oil pipe line break in Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker told citizens affected by the oil spill into Red Butte Creek that Chevron, owners of the pipeline that ruptured, is assuming full responsibility for the clean-up and any damage. Mayor Becker also said drinking water in not affected. The creek runs along the south side of Red Butte Gardens near the University of Utah. The leak sent thousands of gallons of oil into the creek, estimated at one time at 50 gallons per minute. The spill has closed Liberty Park, where ducks and geese who frequent the pond are covered with oil. Around 150 have been taken to Hogle Zoo for careful cleaning in order to save their lives. People living along the creek have reported dead fish in their ponds. The oil has already made it as far as the Jordan River on the west side of the valley, and is

expected to reach the Great Salt Lake. The leak could have started as early as last night, but the first emergency call was this morning (Saturday). Chevron is not sure if the leak was due to corrosion or a possible electrical charge. They did say the monitoring system designed to alert Chevron of a leak or malfunction failed. The leak has been capped by Salt Lake City fire teams. It is impossible to say if the spill is contained. Clean up is expected to take weeks.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-37114-Salt-Lake-City-Political-Buzz-Examiner-y2010m6d12-Oil-spills-into-Red-Butte-Creek-Becker-says-Chevron-responsible>

USA, MO, VIENNA, JUNE 13 2010. LESSONS OF GULF PIPELINE SPILL FOUND IN UNEXPECTED PLACE -- THE OZARKS

todd c. frankel

 **Watch the Video** [A resident talks about the 1988 spill](#)



Dec. 29, 1988 -- Workers clean oil sludge from the Gasconade River near its confluence with the Missouri River. The men, employees of Riedel Environmental services of St. Louis, vacuumed the oil into tank trucks.

From his backyard deck, Guy Wittler only has to look at the Gasconade River running below to see something familiar in the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. A massive pipeline ruptured on Wittler's property nearly 22 years ago and spewed more than 860,000 gallons of crude oil into the Gasconade. It was the worst inland oil spill in U.S. history. Until recently, the spill had been largely forgotten. But memories of the incident have flooded back with the gulf's deepwater catastrophe. And parallels between the two spills, despite vast differences in size, are striking — offering possible hints of what is to come in the gulf's still-unfolding drama. "It's a lot of

stupidity once again," said Sherry Bingaman, who lived along the Gasconade during the 1988 spill. The oil turned the Gasconade's clear-green waters a sickly black. And just like the current situation, the oil company's estimates of the spill's size kept rising like the tide. There was finger-pointing over who was at fault. The cleanup, estimated to take just a few weeks, dragged on for months and was criticized for mistakes. Government officials and the oil company battled every step of the way. The oil company ended up pleading guilty to environmental crimes. Two decades later, the Gasconade seems to have

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recovered, due in part to lucky circumstances. But Wittler worries the gulf will not turn out so well. "How are they going to do any of this," he said, waving at the scrubbed, narrow river, "on that scale?"

Pipeline Cracks

It was Christmas Eve 1988 when the underground pipeline erupted on Wittler's lush land in the Ozark foothills, 25 miles north of Rolla. The 22-inch steel line, operated by a division of Shell Oil, carried crude 435 miles from Oklahoma to a refinery in Wood River, Ill. A long, thin crack dumped oil into the Shoal Creek tributary and then the Gasconade, a swift waterway that meanders north through 10 counties before emptying into the Missouri River. Wittler had just finished a Christmas Eve turkey dinner at his father's home in Kirkwood when the phone rang. The call was from a hog farmer living next to the Ozark property. He said the river was black. Oil smelled like it was hanging in the air. He suspected a pipeline had burst. When Wittler drove up to the property two hours later, the fumes were so heavy, he could barely breathe. "I was lucky I wasn't smoking," he said. But Shell initially did not know the pipeline was spewing oil, according to a subsequent federal investigation. A Shell worker in Oklahoma failed to notice the pipeline's plummeting pressure gauges for at least two hours. The delay made the spill four times worse, the report concluded. Even more oil escaped because the pipeline valve nearest the leak could not be closed automatically. It had to be turned by hand. Shell eventually dispatched cleanup crews to Vienna that night. But the company was later criticized for failing to immediately notify state regulators. Meanwhile, the Gasconade was struggling to choke down a 15-mile-long plume of oil, more than a foot thick in places. Just as in the gulf, floating boom lines were laid across the banks and ahead of the spill. And just as in the gulf, there were reports of oil overtopping the booms. Vacuum-equipped trucks and a skimmer barge tried to suck oil from the water. Within days, the plume thinned out into patches of tar balls, heavy chunks and a greasy sheen. The oil slid into the Mississippi River, reaching St. Louis within a week and then Cape Girardeau. Water treatment plants in the St. Louis area braced to deal with potential oil contamination. The Anheuser-Busch brewery in St. Louis was shut down, and 2,000 workers were laid off for several days after a brewery taster noted an oily smell in the water. Shell downplayed the severity of the spill. At first, it said only 120,000 gallons of oil had escaped. Then it would comment only on how much oil it had recovered — about 300,000 gallons, estimating that accounted for 90 percent of the spill. The state Department of Natural Resources threatened a subpoena before Shell admitted the oil spill was at least 840,000 gallons, a number that would rise again. Shell said it delayed reporting a figure only because it wanted to be accurate. Shell also tightly controlled the flow of information about the spill. "It was a typical oil company response, much like you're seeing now," said attorney Patrick Flachs, who was a U.S. Department of Justice environmental crimes prosecutor during the Gasconade spill. Shell blamed a pipe manufacturing defect for the spill. But a federal report, while noting the pipe's flaw, placed the blame on a pressure surge caused by a Shell worker who abruptly shifted the pipeline's flow. The report noted that the lone Shell employee working Christmas Eve had not been trained to handle a crisis.

Saved By Weather

Bob DiStefano was one of the first state officials on the scene. A scientist with the state conservation department, DiStefano flew over the spill at daybreak. He recalled seeing "these black, huge slugs" of oil moving down the river. He later walked down to the river and collected water samples. Lab tests confirmed the oil was highly toxic. "We thought it was going to be horrendous" for wildlife, DiStefano said. Another conservation scientist, Tom Kulowiec, spent weeks looking at the immediate effect on mammals such as muskrats and beavers. "Every animal that came in contact with that oil died," Kulowiec recalled. But he didn't find that many dead animals — about 16 muskrats and a couple of beavers, although many more animals were assumed to have died. DiStefano and other scientists never saw massive fish kills. No one doubted the lethality of the oil. But it was the dead of winter. The birds were gone. Most of the fish stayed below the oil slick because of the season. Nature seemed safely subdued. "In the end, we felt like we were saved largely by the colder weather," DiStefano said. Long-term studies showed animal populations returned to close-to-normal levels within a year, although minor effects were still evident. But DiStefano said the oil spill in the gulf would devastate wildlife, especially given the delicate estuaries and breeding grounds in the oil's expected path. "I cringed when I first heard about it," he said. "I don't think they're going to be as fortunate as we were."

Cleanup Problems

In early 1989, after learning of problems with the cleanup, then-Gov. John Ashcroft railed that Shell was guilty of "at best, incompetence" and "at worst, an attempted coverup." Shell had been widely applauded for its efforts until then. It kept adding workers until about 500 people and 40 boats were deployed to scrub oil from 100 miles of the Gasconade and parts of the Missouri River. Then state investigators found a hidden pool of oil on a sandbar that was supposedly clean. Someone else turned up several pairs of coveralls buried in the river by cleanup workers. The mood changed. Support for Shell withered. Two state officials had been monitoring the cleanup process. That number was beefed up to 10. Ashcroft was one of many public officials who voiced a renewed anger — a note familiar in the words of today's politicians as the BP cleanup drags on.

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"We will not tolerate sloppiness, incompetence or subterfuge," Ashcroft said in 1989. "We will not tolerate claims that a cleanup is too expensive ... We'll see that no stone is left unturned as we work to ensure that Shell's oil is removed from our rivers." The cleanup dragged on. Shell said it would be done by April. Then more oil was discovered sitting in backwater channels. Finally, after 10 months and \$14 million, regulators and Shell agreed the Gasconade was clean. "They did a great job, they really did," said Vienna Mayor Leslie Darr, who was a deputy sheriff during the spill.

'No Secrets'

It took three years, but in 1992 a top executive with Shell subsidiary Shell Pipe Line Corp. appeared in the federal courthouse in St. Louis. He was there to plead guilty on behalf of the company to a misdemeanor violation of dumping refuse into a waterway. Shell and Texaco Pipeline Inc., which jointly owned the pipeline, also paid a \$7 million fine. The prosecutor, Flachs, said the oil spill had been caused by "out-and-out negligence." Shell did not respond last week to calls for comment. But its former top executive, Robert McMahan, once offered advice to others in the oil business based on his experience with the Gasconade spill. "There are no secrets. When you have bad news of this magnitude, don't try to hide it," he said at an 1990 industry conference in Evanston, Ill. "Break the news to the press and work with them to inform the public. Environmental problems can take many years and much effort to resolve. It is better in the long run to prevent them from occurring in the first place." Even years after the spill, Wittler still found hints of oil in the Gasconade. He would step onto a sandbar, and the water would develop an oily sheen. Only in the last few years has that sheen disappeared, he said. The hillside where the pipe burst and oil once rained down into the river, its vegetation killed off by the oil's black blanket, has fully regrown. "You wouldn't think anything would recover from that," Wittler said. "But it did." The successful cleanup is not the only reason the Gasconade spill has been forgotten. The incident also was quickly overshadowed. Just three months after the Ozarks oil spill, the Exxon Valdez supertanker crashed in Alaska.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/business/stories.nsf/0/4C16B68404C37A3286257740000F7545?OpenDocument>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 13 2010. RESIDENTS TO CHEVRON: CLEAN UP THE MESS >> CHEVRON PIPELINE » CRUDE SCARS SCORES OF BIRDS, CLOSES RED BUTTE CREEK, LIBERTY PARK.

erin alberty & Rosemary Winters

 [Photo Gallery Oil Spill](#)

 [Photo Gallery Oil spill, more photos](#)

 [Photo Gallery Aerial photos of the Chevron oil spill](#)

 [Photo Gallery Animal cleanup](#)



A leak from Chevron's underground oil pipeline may have gone undetected for hours as it spilled 50 gallons of crude a minute Saturday into Salt Lake City's Red Butte Creek. The oil blackened the east-side creek, stained scores of birds, prompted the closure of Liberty Park and sent oil as far west as the Jordan River. "This is extremely harmful," said disgruntled resident Peter G. Hayes, a biology teacher who showed oily rocks from his creek-side home to Chevron officials at Liberty Park. "I want to know when are you going to send someone to my backyard and clean up my mess because I can't even live in my house because of the smell." Chevron pledged to clean up the 6-mile mess, but the company could not quantify the damage. As of late Saturday, Chevron said the leak had been stopped. But company representatives could not say when it began, how much oil spilled into city waterways and why -- despite pipeline monitors -- it apparently took hours to learn of the accident. Cleanup crews planned to work throughout the night. Neighbors near Liberty Park -- more than 3 miles from the source near Red Butte Garden -- said they noticed an odor about 4 a.m., said

Chevron spokesman Mark Sullivan. The spill first was reported about 6:45 a.m. by staff at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, said Salt Lake City Fire Department spokesman Scott Freitag. It was flowing 30 to 40 feet downhill into the creek from the ground above a buried pipeline just south of Red Butte Garden, near the greenhouses and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. About 50 gallons of oil a minute were flowing from the pipeline when responders arrived, Freitag said. A nearby construction crew was flagged down to help build makeshift dams and dikes near the source, reducing the flow to 20 to 25 gallons a minute

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by midmorning, Freitag said. Sullivan said Chevron shut down the pipeline just before 8 a.m. after the Fire Department notified the company of the spill. By then, oil had reached Liberty Park's pond, drenching Canada geese and Mallard ducks. At least 150 birds were rescued from the pond and taken to Hogle Zoo to be cleaned. Some were goslings and chicks as young as a week old. Birds were cleaned up to three times in "kiddie pools" with water and Dawn dish soap, said Nancy Carpenter, director of the zoo's animal health services. The birds will be released at a new location by state wildlife workers. "Most of the birds are doing pretty well," she said. "It's quite an amazing thing to see so many birds in one place and then to have them oiled like this." Oil streamed from Liberty Park into the Jordan River. It was spotted as far north as 500 South, Freitag said. "It's a tragedy. It is horrible," said J.T. Martin, chairman of the Salt Lake City Council. "The whole river corridor is contaminated. It is a major catastrophe for this area and for the city." State water quality scientists were taking samples to determine oil concentrations. Depending on amounts, the spill could disrupt the food chain for the long term, killing bottom-dwelling invertebrates that feed fish, said Walt Baker, director of the state Division of Water Quality. For the short term, birds may be in even more trouble, he warned. "If they are covered with oil, they cannot fly and cannot float, so you may even have birds drown." Thomas Kurrus, who lives on Yale Avenue along the creek, rescued his pet African goose Ernie on Saturday morning. "He and I spent 20 minutes in the bathtub with Dawn detergent," Kurrus said. "This stuff is unbelievably messy." Ernie was squeaky clean and squawking loudly Saturday afternoon, itching to get back in the creek but blocked by Kurrus' garden fence. His mate, Chloe, had stuck to the nest and avoided the oil. "It amazes me," Kurrus said, "that they run a pipeline across a major waterway without some kind of protection." Kurrus, 69, also helped a neighbor rescue trout from a backyard pond. He wondered how the spill would affect vegetation and 100-year-old trees along the creek. "It just brings home the unbelievability of what's going on in the Gulf of Mexico," he said. Sullivan, who also lives along the creek, said cleanup "may take some weeks; it may take a month." "Chevron is taking full responsibility for any financial damage, environmental damage, safety concerns, impacts on health and cleanup." Gases from the crude oil did not reach concentrations Saturday that would pose a health risk, but fumes could be collecting, according to a news release from the Salt Lake City Police Department. Fire crews were monitoring toxicity levels. Symptoms of exposure include difficulty breathing, nausea, dizziness and severe headaches. Anyone exhibiting those symptoms and at risk of exposure were advised to call 911. Royal DeLegge, Salt Lake Valley Health Department's environmental health director, said people with respiratory problems should avoid inhaling fumes from the spill. Red Butte Creek does not flow into any drinking supply, but DeLegge warned residents not to allow children or animals to ingest contaminated stream or river water. Pet owners were asked to contact their veterinarians if animals are exposed to the oil. Crews had positioned absorbent booms throughout the contamination path and, as a precautionary measure, on the Jordan River as far north as the Utah Fairpark, said Jeff Niermeyer, the city's director of public utilities. "We do not want it to get into the Great Salt Lake," Freitag said. There, the lack of a current could allow oil to accumulate and affect even larger bird populations at the world-class flyway. However, he said, the oil appear to be stopped in the Jordan River. River activist Jeff Salt planned to check out the Jordan River on Saturday night. "What happens with the Jordan River that's of concern is the water feeds into the duck clubs and to Farmington Bay Waterfowl Management Area," he said. "Hopefully, there are preventive measures being installed at the key locations along the Jordan River to contain the oil before we get to the wildlife areas." Residents were urged to avoid affected areas of the Jordan River, while Liberty Park and Red Butte Creek were expected to remain closed at least through today. Red Butte Garden remained open to visitors, said Dianne Crosby, the botanical attraction's assistant director of visitor services, Freitag said, but there was no known risk of fire or explosions from the spill. Freitag credited Big D Construction -- the crews who rushed to erect the dams and dikes in the early morning -- with providing "critical" aid in the spill. "They were able to contain a lot of it," Freitag said. "This would have been much worse." Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker jetted back to Salt Lake City from a mayors conference Saturday in Oklahoma City to address the spill. "We will get to the bottom of how this happened," Becker vowed. "And we will address necessary measures to make sure the community continues to be protected in the future. We are not going to rest until we see the cleanup complete. We will obviously work with Chevron but we're not going to leave this to Chevron."

Key Questions & Answers about the Spill:

- Where and when did the spill occur?

Oil leaked from an underground pipeline near Red Butte Garden and flowed into Red Butte Creek and, eventually, the Jordan River. Early reports say the leak may have started as early as Friday at about 10 p.m., but officials later backed away from that. The city's emergency crews were notified Saturday shortly before 7 a.m. Chevron says it found out about the leak in its pipeline about an hour later.

- How much oil leaked?

Early reports said at least 21,000 gallons, but without knowing when the spill began, it was impossible to say for sure.

- Is the leak stopped?

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Yes. Chevron shut down the pipeline Saturday morning and crews were capturing the residual crude at the scene.

- What was affected?

Oil poured into Red Butte Creek, then flowed into the pond at Liberty Park and, farther west, the Jordan River. Crews closed the creek and the park and advised residents to steer clear of the Jordan River. They apparently succeeded in stopping the oil from flowing to the Great Salt Lake. Homes along the waterways also suffered damage.

- What about wildlife?

The oil stained about 150 birds, mostly Canada geese and ducks at Liberty Park, including chicks as young as a week old. Untold fish were affected in the waterways.

- How long will the cleanup take?

Officials say weeks. Liberty Park and Red Butte Creek will remain closed through at least Sunday.

- Who will pay for it?

Chevron vows to cover the cleanup tab and other financial and environmental costs.

- Who do you call with claims or other questions about the spill?

Chevron has set up a hot line at 866-752-6340. Information is available at the city's website: www.slcgov.com

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_15284499?source=most_viewed

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, GOVE PENINSULA, NHULUNBUY, JUNE 13 2010. UP TO 70,000 LITRES OF UNLEADED FUEL LEAKED AT NT RIO PLANT, HELD FOR NOW >> UNDER INVESTIGATION: THE GOVE MINE AND REFINERY

Map: [Nhulunbuy 0880](#)



Up to 70,000 litres of unleaded fuel that leaked out of a tank at a Rio Tinto Alcan mine in the Northern Territory has been kept contained within the spill area, the NT department of resources says. The department's executive director of minerals and energy, Alister Trier, said that at this stage the contamination had not spread beyond the area that surrounds the tank farm. "We are comforted at this stage that the fuel hasn't reached the harbour and is contained within the burn area surrounding the tank farm," Mr Trier said from Darwin on Sunday. "The concern is if the fuel leaks down through the gravel below and gets into the water table and the water table spreads it, it gets far more serious than it is now." A burn area is an area surrounded by an impermeable concrete wall. The department was informed about the spill on Friday and has begun an investigation into what caused the fuel

to leak, as the mine operators try to clean up the site. Mr Trier said the leak was highly likely to have been caused by "infrastructure failure" such as a burst pipe. The Rio Tinto Alcan bauxite and alumina mine is located at Nhulunbuy (Nhulunbuy) on the Gove Peninsula, about 1,000 kilometres east of Darwin. The stored unleaded fuel was about to be disposed of, Mr Trier said, given the company had some time ago moved to using Opal fuel developed to combat the high incidence of petrol sniffing in indigenous Australian communities. "They realised that the fuel had leaked out when they went to check the tank and the tank was empty," Mr Trier said. He said penalties under the Mining Management Act included fines, adding that it was going to cost the company "a significant amount of money" to pay for the clean-up. A Rio Tinto Alcan spokesperson on Sunday said the company informed authorities as soon as it discovered the leak and "very quickly took action to contain the spill". The spokesperson said Rio Tinto Alcan would conduct its own internal investigation into the matter. The mine produced 6.245 million tonnes of bauxite and 2.325 million tonnes of alumina in 2008, according to figures on Rio Tinto Alcan website.

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/oil-leak-at-nt-rio-plant-held-for-now-20100613-y5r2.html>

USA, LA, GRAND ISLE, JUNE 13 2010. VIDEO RELEASE: OVERFLIGHT OF GRAND ISLE BEACH CLEAN-UP EFFORTS

Watch the Video http://cgvi.uscg.mil/media/main.php?q2_itemId=903408

Clean-up crews are shown on the beach in this overflight video filmed from a Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter. Beach clean-up is one part of the effort to keep oil from the Deepwater Horizon incident from settling on the coastline. U.S. Coast Guard video by Petty Officer 3rd Class Kelly Parker.

For Information about the Response Effort, Visit www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com.

<http://www.huntingtonnews.net/columns/100612-staff-columnsbeachcleanup.html>

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