



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2010 – 595 Newsy Stuff

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

April 25 2010



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CHINA, HENAN PROVINCE, LUOYANG CITY, APRIL 20 2010. GASOLINE QUALITY - STALLING CENTERS ATTENTION ON SINOPEC

sun zhe

Sinopec gas is suspected to have caused stalling problems in cars in three cities in Central China's Henan Province, according to a report published in the China Youth Daily Saturday. The cities are Anyang, Jiaozuo and Xinxiang, all in northern Henan Province. In the past month, more than 100 Ford sedans were sent to a Ford repair shop in Anyang for a gas circuit problem, according to the store's after-service manager, surnamed Li. Li said that was a third of the shop's typical total monthly repairs. Li said highly odorous emissions are coming from the cars' tailpipes, while their engine nozzles are spraying red or black fluid, though in a car without engine problems such fluid is normally colorless or yellow. An Anyang-based Hyundai repair shop saw more than 1,200 such cases from April 6-16. The first case occurred last November in Xinxiang, but late March was the peak of the problem, according to the China Youth Daily report. "I think the problem is with the fuel's ingredients," Li said. A test in Hyundai's Beijing laboratory showed that the manganese additive in the defective gas was 97 times higher than standard. The excessively high manganese could erode engine components, such as piston rods and piston rings, Li said. Sinopec has offered free cleaning of gas circuits for cars with similar problems in Anyang, though it has denied that its gas caused the problem and refused to pay for component replacement. In Xinxiang and Jiaozuo, local Sinopec branches have yet to start dealing with the problem, according to the newspaper report. From last September to January, 5,000-6,000 Hong Kong taxis that refilled at Sinopec stations experienced stalling problems. The Hong Kong local government's investigation, launched January 3, has reached no result. A laboratory test on Sinopec liquefied petroleum gas samples revealed the fuel was not related to the cabs' stalling problems, said a report released March 11 by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

<http://business.globaltimes.cn/industries/2010-04/523406.html>

INDIA, WEST BENGAL, RAIGANJ, APRIL 20 2010. GAS LEAKAGE ON NH34 AS GAS TANKER SKIDS OFF BRIDGE IN WEST BENGAL

A gas tanker of the Indian Oil Corporation fell off a road bridge on NH34 near Rupahar here resulting in a gas leak in the area and injuries to two persons, official sources said. District magistrate Ramanuj Chakravarty said the tanker while trying to negotiate the bridge, fell into a roadside ditch yesterday and was damaged resulting in leakage of gas. The driver and the helper of the tanker were injured. Engineers at Bharat Petroleum's bottling plant nearby rushed to the spot and sealed the tanker, the DM said. Indian Oil personnel transferred the gas to an empty tanker today. The district administration urged the people on the public address system not to light their gas ovens in the area and not to use mobile phones as a precautionary measure. NH34 was also closed to traffic for sometime

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_gas-leakage-on-nh34-as-gas-tanker-skids-off-bridge-in-west-bengal_1373147

USA, MA, BOSTON, APRIL 20 2010. SHIPPING INDUSTRY TRIES TO TORPEDO STATE LAW PROTECTING BUZZARDS BAY >> CLAIMS THAT FEDERAL AUTHORITY RULES OVER OIL TANKER TRANSPORT

jon chesto

A shipping industry coalition is trying to sink provisions in a 2009 state law aimed at protecting Buzzards Bay from oil spills, claiming that the state is illegally trying to preempt federal authority over ocean transport issues.

The American Waterways Operators and several other industry groups sued Gov. Deval Patrick's administration earlier this month in an attempt to overturn at least two provisions in the 2009 law. The industry groups want to strike a rule that would triple the applicable fines in an accidental oil spill for any tanker carrying 6,000 or more barrels of oil through the bay – if the shipper doesn't request a state pilot to board the tanker or its tugboat to traverse the bay. The plaintiffs are also challenging a similar rule that would triple the fines for any oil spill if the tanker company doesn't provide a 24-hour notice to the state before operating a vessel in Buzzards Bay. The 2009 law was passed in reaction to the catastrophic oil spill in 2003 that contaminated miles of Buzzards Bay coastline – as well as successful legal challenges to another state law aimed at regulating oil tankers in the bay. The industry argues that the U.S. Coast Guard's authority supercedes a state's authority on issues like this one. "The best way to protect against bad things happening is to have a strong, uniform federal program," said Jonathan Benner, a lawyer for the plaintiffs. "Massachusetts doesn't like being part of a strong federal program. It likes to make things up for itself. We understand that instinct is well-motivated, but we think it is a threat to safety and a threat to the environment." A spokesman for the Patrick administration declined to comment beyond saying that state officials are still reviewing the lawsuit and that the rules being challenged are still in effect. He said the rules affect Buzzards Bay and the Cape Cod Canal, which connects Buzzards Bay to Cape Cod Bay. The industry and the state have been battling in federal court

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over this issue since 2005, when an earlier suit was filed over a previous state law governing Buzzards Bay. That case was eventually winnowed down to two issues – manning requirements and tugboat escort rules. In March, a federal judge essentially affirmed that the Coast Guard had the final say on these issues. Benner said the 2009 law was simply a misguided attempt to circumvent federal authority by imposing penalties, in the event of a disaster, on companies that don't follow state guidelines – as opposed to blatant requirements for shipping oil in the bay. "If we have to comply with a patchwork of different state regulations, it makes it very confusing," said Anne Burnes, a spokeswoman for American Waterways Operators. "When you're on a vessel, you might pass through the state waters of eight different states in a day."

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/sandwich/news/business/x43862290/Shipping-industry-tries-to-torpedo-state-law-protecting-Buzzards-Bay>

USA, KY, LOUISVILLE, APRIL 20 2010. FUEL SPILL SAID TO BE CONTAINED ON BEARGRASS CREEK IN ST. MATTHEWS

martha elson

A recent 50-gallon spill of diesel fuel mixed with water into Beargrass Creek at the Metro Public Works facility at Hubbards Lane near Brownsboro Road has been cleaned up, and a containment boom in the creek will be removed Tuesday Public Works director Ted Pullen said. A substance was still covering the top of the creek Monday beside the boom, but the mixture was not thought to have gone any farther downstream, Pullen said. The spill occurred a little more than a week ago when a piece of equipment malfunctioned and a pipe broke, sending the liquid into the creek, which runs alongside the Public Works facility and a Metro recycling station on the same property. Representatives from the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet, the Metropolitan Sewer District, the Metro Health Department and an environmental cleanup company, Safety Kleen, were called in, Pullen said. The diesel mixture was in a storage container connected to a fuel pump station that was used to fill Public Works trucks, Pullen said. The pumping station and tank have been removed and won't be replaced, he said. The department has been shifting in recent years to filling trucks and other vehicles at commercial Thornton's stations, under a contract with the city, Pullen said. Winnie Hepler, an environmental activist who lives in St. Matthews, said she heard about the incident April 10 when she made a regular weekly trip to the recycling center. She noted that the scum was still on the surface of the creek, saying, "I'm really concerned."

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20100419/ZONE02/4190351/Fuel+spill+said+to+be+contained+on+Beargrass+Creek+in+St.+Matthews>

USA, CA, SAN JOSE, VALLEJO, APRIL 20 2010. VANDALS SPILL CORROSIVE ACID ONTO VALLEJO STREET

A group of people intentionally spilled jugs of corrosive acid onto the street Sunday night, requiring an emergency cleanup by the Solano County Hazardous Material Response Team. Witnesses to the incident, reported at about 7 p.m., saw several people pour out two one-gallon jugs onto Coughlan Street at the top of the hill, before driving away and leaving a third jug upright on the street, Vallejo Fire Capt. George Everett said. The third jug had started to leak acid by the time emergency responders reached the scene, Everett said. "It started to eat up the asphalt," Everett said. "It's very corrosive. (But) there was minimal damage (to the road)." The cleanup team was initially uncertain what type of hazardous material had been used, and remained on the scene until after midnight to neutralize the chemical, Everett said. The chemical dumping incident, considered a criminal act, is under investigation by the Vallejo Police Department, Everett said.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14914988?nclink_check=1

USA, MS, PUCKETT, APRIL 20 2010. TANKER CARRYING 9,000 GALLONS OF FUEL OVERTURNS >> PORTION OF MISSISSIPPI 13 WILL REMAIN CLOSED TODAY

nicklaus lovelady



Thousands of gallons of gasoline were estimated to have soaked into the surrounding soil from a tanker that overturned on Mississippi 13 on Sunday.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is overseeing a dangerous operation to remove thousands of gallons of gasoline that spilled from a tanker Sunday morning. A portion of Mississippi 13 from Puckett north to Polkville will remain closed today as crews work to clean the contaminated site. Around 9 a.m. Sunday, a tanker carrying 9,000 gallons of fuel overturned on Mississippi 13 in Smith County near the Rankin County line, Mississippi Department of Transportation spokeswoman Carrie Adams said. A ruptured valve on the tanker

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caused the fuel to leak. The spill forced the evacuation of homes within one mile of the site and traffic along the road to immediately be shut down, officials said. On Sunday, officials said the cleanup may take up to two days. "This is the most I've known it to take for a cleanup, which lets you know it's an extensive process," Adams said. MDEQ environmental scientist Ernie Shirley said several thousand gallons of gasoline were removed from the scene and another 2,500 gallons remained in the soil Sunday night. "We're still in the emergency phase," he said. The gasoline spilled across a 300-foot area along a ditch and is likely to have seeped into the ground between 4 and 8 feet deep. "Our primary concern is protecting ground water. The longer gasoline stays in the soil, the greater the chance of it getting into the ground water," Shirley said. A private company, U.S. Environmental Service, has been contracted to remove the contaminated soil along the road, which Shirley says is an extremely dangerous project. Gasoline remains volatile in the soil, he said. The lengthy road closure time is a safety measure for both motorists and the clean-up crews, Shirley said. "As they're putting the soil in the back of dump trucks, the vapors are going to be coming up. Imagine if you have someone coming down the road and they dump a cigarette on the ground ... there you go," Shirley said. "This is a very dangerous situation and we are taking this seriously." He expected much of the work would be completed by this afternoon. Those evacuated from their homes are advised to stay away until work is complete. Additional information about the wreck and evacuees was not available. Shirley said the driver was transported to an area hospital in a private vehicle. Motorists who normally travel Mississippi 13 are urged to take an alternate route. Detour routes were not available.

<http://www.clarionledger.com/article/20100419/NEWS/4190326/Portion+of+Mississippi+13+will+remain+closed+today>

USA, ILL, WESTMONT, APRIL 21 2010. MAN IDENTIFIED IN FATAL WESTMONT MIDAS EXPLOSION << WELDING TWO BARRELS TOGETHER, WHEN THE WELDING TORCH IGNITED CHEMICAL RESIDUE THAT WAS IN ONE OF THE BARRELS. THE CHEMICAL MAY HAVE BEEN METHANOL,

dave heitz

Westmont police and fire officials said an employee of a Westmont car repair shop was welding some barrels outside the property when a fatal explosion occurred Monday, April 19. Police said William R. Zuponeck, 28, of Glendale Heights, an employee at Midas Auto Service, 401 W. Ogden Ave., was killed in the explosion. The accident happened in the back of the property when the man was working, police said. An autopsy was expected to be performed on Tuesday, April 20, according to the DuPage County Coroner's office. The explosion occurred at about 9:45 a.m. Monday, according to Westmont Police Chief Tom Mulhearn. Zuponeck was pronounced dead at the scene at 10:06 a.m. by personnel from Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, Mulhearn said. Nobody else was injured in the explosion, and there was not fire or structural damage to the building, police said. No one at the Midas in Westmont would comment on the accident the day it occurred, and the store was closed Tuesday, April 20. In a statement given by Bob Troyer, director of corporate affairs for Midas, he said the company "expresses its sympathy to the family of the victim of this tragic incident, and we express our condolences." Mulhearn said Zuponeck was welding two barrels together, when the welding torch ignited chemical residue that was in one of the barrels. The chemical may have been methanol, which is commonly used in automotive window washer fluid to prevent it from freezing in cold weather, Mulhearn said. While there was no structural damage, the explosion on the border of Westmont and Downers Grove was heard at least a half-a-block down by one resident. Holly Tiusty, who lives along Roslyn Road about three or four houses down from the station, said she heard a loud boom while she was on the phone with a friend that startled her. "It was loud, and it almost shook the house," Tiusty said. "I thought it was a car accident along Ogden Avenue at first. Then I heard the sirens." Employees from businesses near the Midas said they too heard the explosion. "We thought something happened on our roof. It shook a lot of the rooms here," said Michelle Zagara of McKay Chiropractic. Esperanza Ontiveros, an employee at the Great American Bagel, said she heard a boom, "like an explosion." "We didn't see anything else," she said.

Related Galleries [Explosion at Midas "sounded like a bomb"](#)

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/berkeley/newsnow/x1520940449/Man-killed-in-Westmont-Midas-explosion>

USA, PA, WASHINGTON, APRIL 21 2010. TANKER CARRYING NITRIC ACID OVERTURNS ON I-79 EXIT RAMP >> TRAFFIC APPROACHING I-79/I-70 SPLIT BACKED UP FOR HOURS OUTSIDE WASHINGTON

Watch the Video [Watch Tara Edwards' Report](#)

A tanker truck carrying nitric acid overturned Monday evening on Interstate 79, leaving behind a miles-long traffic backup that lasting for hours. Video from Sky 4 showed the overturned tanker truck at Exit 21. Pennsylvania State Police closed the northbound I-79 lanes leading up to the crash for hours. Skid marks were left on the roadway of the exit ramp from Interstate

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70 onto southbound I-79 toward Waynesburg. Paramedics helped the trapped truck driver on to a stretcher as hazardous materials crews assessed the situation. The driver was taken to an area hospital. There was no word on his condition.

<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/23202514/detail.html>

USA, N.J, EDISON, APRIL 21 2010. EDISON OFFICIAL PROMOTES UNDERGROUND TANK REMOVAL

Council President Charles Tomaro is kicking off a "Dig This Campaign" to persuade homeowners to dig up and remove underground fuel tanks from their properties. There is \$70 million in state grants available to New Jersey homeowners to pay for the excavation and removal of potentially hazardous underground storage tanks, Tomaro said. "Burying fuel tanks on residential properties was a common practice for decades. Today we know better. Fuel tanks decay, leak and contaminate our soil and drinking water," he said. "They must go." The average Middlesex County homeowner would easily qualify for the state grants, he said. "My hope is that homeowners in Edison and throughout Middlesex County will take advantage of these grants. They have been under-used in previous past years," he said. As an incentive for Edison homeowners, Tomaro is drafting two ordinances to prohibit new underground storage on properties and to offer a one-year waiver of the \$75 permit fee for Edison homeowners who apply for state grants to excavate their old tanks. "Once Edison's ordinances are in place, I want to encourage other towns in Middlesex County to adopt similar measures as incentives to their residents," Tomaro said. In March, Tomaro and state Assemblymen Peter Barnes III and Patrick Diegnan and Senate President Barbara Buono (all D-18th District) hosted a town hall meeting to raise awareness about the removal of potentially hazardous underground storage tanks. Representatives from the state Economic Development Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection were on hand to discuss the grants. Homeowners can get information about the grants by calling the Edison Township Clerk's Office at 732-248-7350 or at Edison's website, www.edisonnj.org. More information can be found on the websites www.njeda.com and www.state.nj.us/dep/srp/finance/ustfund.

http://ems.gmnews.com/news/2010-04-21/Front_Page/Edison_official_promotes_underground_tank_removal.html

SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN, APRIL 21 2010. ONE DEAD AFTER PETROL TANKER, TRUCK, CAR COLLIDE

nivashni nair



Fuelling the Flames: A petrol tanker exploded on the N3 near Mariannhill, Durban, after being hit by a truck yesterday.

A horror accident involving a truck and a petrol tanker, which burst into flames, resulted in a motorist being killed on Durban's N3 highway yesterday. The major highway was closed until late yesterday afternoon. The truck carrying tyres was travelling towards Durban when the driver lost control near Mariannhill. "The driver swerved, causing his vehicle to veer into oncoming traffic," said Road Traffic Inspectorate spokeswoman Zinhle Mngomezulu. The truck slammed head-on into the petrol tanker, which then exploded. "Both vehicles caught alight. The tanker then crashed into a Toyota Condor, which also caught alight. The Condor driver burned to death," Mngomezulu said. Netcare 911 spokesman Jeff Wicks said the

truck driver sustained multiple fractures and burns to his face and torso. The tanker's driver was uninjured. Thick clouds of black smoke rose above the wreckage as firefighters tried to contain the blaze. "Burning petrol spilt into a storm drain and caused a fire in a gully near the road side," Wicks said. The highway was expected to be closed until late yesterday while a cleanup operation was under way. Experts would check whether the road was safe for use.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article412967.ece/One-dead-after-petrol-tanker--truck--car-collide>

USA, CA, ORANGE CO, SEAL BEACH, APRIL 21 2010. COUNTY HEALTH REJECTS BP/ARCO PLAN FOR SEAL BEACH CLEANUP

tracy wood

Orange County Health Officials Monday rejected a clean up plan proposed by BP/ARCO for an old gasoline spill in Seal Beach that caused three homes to be evacuated last winter. County officials instead urged the oil company to dig out the contaminated dirt. "The most significant impact of the contamination at this site has been the potential health risks and well-being of the community residents," said the letter from the Orange County Health Agency to BP/ARCO. It asked BP/ARCO to submit a revised clean up plan by mid-June. "We haven't yet had time to fully review the county's response," BP spokesman Tom Mueller said in an email statement. "But our position is that the first priority has to be the health and safety of the residents and the final option, or options, selected must adhere to that principle. "We believe there are several viable options

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for cleaning up this site," Mueller added. The source of the contamination is a 1986 leak from tanks under an ARCO gas station on Pacific Coast Highway. The gas station is next to homes and tests last fall determined chemical vapors from the spill were seeping up through the ground and into houses. Three homes were temporarily evacuated until further tests showed vacuum systems were lowering the levels of benzene. Residents were allowed back into their homes in January. A team of volunteer environmental consultants, all of whom live in Seal Beach, [asked the county](#) earlier this month to order BP/ARCO to dig out the polluted soil. In its letter to BP/ARCO, county health officials noted that the oil company ruled out soil excavation as "infeasible" and preferred instead to vacuum the vapors from the soil along with other decontamination techniques. Health officials said they received 51 written and 30 oral comments from members of the community on how the cleanup should be handled. "The vast majority of the comments stated that excavation was the preferred alternative method of remediation on-site," said the county letter, "and that the objective was to eliminate any actual or potential negative health impacts on the surrounding residents with certainty and as soon as possible." The letter added that county health officials determined that of four possible ways to rid the ground of contamination, the best idea was to dig up the soil. The letter was signed by Richard Sanchez, director of environmental health and Anthony F. Martinez, senior engineering geologist for the county health agency's environmental health hazardous materials mitigation section.

http://voiceofoc.org/blogs/article_883f9bc0-4cae-11df-ba83-001cc4c03286.html

NEW ZEALAND, ALEXANDRA, APRIL 21 2010. RELIEF AS LITTLE FUEL ESCAPES AFTER TANKER CRASH

lynda van kempen



Alexandra firefighters spray foam around a fuel tanker which rolled off Springvale Rd near Alexandra yesterday afternoon.

A tanker and trailer containing 21,000 litres of diesel and petrol rolled near Alexandra yesterday afternoon, spilling only a small amount of fuel. Springvale Rd was subsequently closed for eight hours as a precaution against any spilled fuel being ignited. The Dunedin driver was uninjured, apart from some cuts and bruises. Leakage from the crashed vehicle was "minimal", Alexandra Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mark Hutton said. The Hooker Pacific tanker was making fuel deliveries for CRT and the accident occurred about 6km from Alexandra, near the intersection with State Highway 85. Remaining fuel from the vehicle was pumped into an empty tanker. While that was being carried out, about 1km of the road was kept closed as a precaution. It was reopened last night. Sergeant Ian Kerrisk, of Alexandra, said heavy-lifting machinery would be available today to salvage the tanker. "As far as leakage from the vehicle is concerned, this was probably the best-case scenario." Mr Hutton said compressed air foam was used to cover the ground near the site to lessen the risk of fuel igniting. A bund was also constructed to contain any possible

leaks. Sixteen firefighters from the Alexandra Fire Brigade and Central Otago District Council rural fire crew attended. Sgt Kerrisk said the accident's cause was under investigation and the commercial vehicle investigation unit staff would inspect the vehicle. Alcohol was not a factor, he said.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/the-regions/central-otago/102611/relief-little-fuel-escapes-after-tanker-crash>

USA, HI, HONOLULU, APRIL 21 2010. 60,000 GALLONS OF FUEL REMOVED FROM SUNKEN TANKER

More than 60,000 gallons of aviation and diesel fuel has been removed from a tanker that sank in American Samoa's Pago Pago Harbor 60 years ago. The operation by the U.S. Coast Guard with Pearl Harbor divers began March 30. The Coast Guard incident supervisor at Sand Island, Lt. Cmdr. Joe Herrador, says officials believed the fuel had to be removed from the USS Chehalis because of the threat its hull could break open and cause a catastrophic spill. The Chehalis was commissioned in 1944. It caught fire Oct. 7, 1949 while offloading gasoline, killing six sailors and 24 others of the 80 on board. The 311-foot vessel was towed from the fuel terminal, anchored and scuttled in about 160 feet of water to extinguish the fire.

<http://www.kpua.net/news420-2.html>

FRANCE, LE HAVRE, APRIL 21 2010. VITOL SAID TO HIRE TANKER TO STORE JET FUEL IN EUROPE (UPDATE1)

moming zhou

Vitol Group, a Geneva-based commodities trader, has chartered an oil tanker to store jet fuel in Europe as the eruption of Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull volcano delayed flights and reduced demand for the fuel, according to three brokers familiar with the

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deal. Byzantine Maritime Corp.'s Zenovia Lady is anchored in the English Channel near France's Port of Le Havre, according to vessel tracking data compiled by Bloomberg. It will be chartered for the next two to three months, according to the brokers who declined to be identified because they are not authorized to speak for the shipowner. The tanker can carry as much as 112,000 metric tons of oil products, or about 952,000 barrels. The vessel left the U.S. Atlantic Coast on March 25 to bring a cargo to Europe, according to Bloomberg data. Byzantine, the Athens-based shipowner, declined to comment on the vessel, citing a confidentiality agreement with clients. Don Goldberg, a Washington-based spokesman for Vitol, declined to comment. An official at New York-based Colonial Navigation, the ship's commercial operator, declined to comment or provide his name.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-20/vitol-said-to-hire-tanker-for-jet-fuel-as-volcano-cuts-flights.html>

UGANDA, KAMPALA, APRIL 21 2010. MANDELA TO OPEN 6 NEW PETROL STATIONS

silvano kibuuka

THE Mandela Group is planning to open seven new service stations around the country, a top official announced last week. Haji Omar Mandela, the group chairman, disclosed that the venture would create up to 200 jobs by the end of next year. He said four stations would be opened in Kampala and three in Arua, Gulu and Mbarara. "Last year (2009) was very challenging. We thank our employees for keeping the company afloat during the tough global economic crisis. We urge you to continue with that spirit," Mandela said at the awarding ceremony for the best performers in Kampala. Up to 35 employees from different departments received awards ranging from TV sets, certificates and cash. Abdullah Ahmed, the City Tyres boss, said awarding employees and paying them well was one of the ways of improving productivity in any company.

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/D/8/220/716939>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, APRIL 21 2010. CHEVRON HAS GO-AHEAD TO FIX LOUISIANA OIL LINE LEAK >> ALL NEEDED AGENCY APPROVALS SECURED

bruce nichols

Government agencies have approved the start of repair work on a damaged Louisiana oil line that leaked oil into a wildlife refuge, a spokesman for operator Chevron Corp said Tuesday. The U.S. Coast Guard told Reuters on Monday that needed agency approvals were near for work to begin at the site of the April 6 leak, but Chevron was unable to comment until all shippers were notified, the spokesman said. "Agency approvals necessary to start work on the Cypress 10-inch (0.25 meter) are in place, and Chevron Pipe Line, as operator, is beginning the repair process," the Chevron spokesman confirmed in an email. "The completion of the risk assessment, as well as any integrity testing, will be required prior to restoring Cypress 10-inch to full service. Estimated completion times for these events will be provided in subsequent updates," the email said. A Coast Guard official said site preparation was expected to begin this week. The line leaked 18,000 gallons (68,100 liters) of oil into the Delta National Wildlife Refuge near the mouth of the Mississippi River. The leak was discovered early April 6 by a contractor for Exxon Mobil Corp after anchoring a barge near the pipeline. A barge anchor may have punctured the line, the Coast Guard said. Oil leaked despite Chevron quickly shutting the line and teams have been working to contain and clean up the spill, which at one point affected 160 square miles (414 square kilometers), officials said. Officials have described wildlife impact as minimal. The pipeline was carrying a type of oil known in the markets as Heavy Louisiana Sweet. Prices for the grade have been elevated since the line was shut down, but Chevron declined to comment on the market impact and analysts have cited the strength of competing Brent as a key reason for the surge. The pipeline is owned by Cypress Pipe Line Co, a joint venture between Chevron and BP, and operated by Chevron Pipe Line Co. Permits came from the Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Transportation, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2033006220100420>

CANADA, ONT, SHAKESPEARE, APRIL 21 2010. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? MAN INJURED AFTER USING PROPANE TANK FOR TARGET PRACTICE

Police say a southwestern Ontario man was injured by shrapnel after the propane tank he was using for rifle target practice exploded. The man from Shakespeare, Ont., east of Stratford, was injured Monday night. Police say two young men were shooting at the tank when a rifle shot found its mark and caused an explosion. Pieces of the cylinder flew back at the men, injuring one of them. He was taken to Stratford General Hospital and has since been treated for his injuries and released. No word yet if any charges will be laid.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/breakingnews/what-were-you-thinking-man-injured-after-using-propane-tank-for-target-practice-91600694.html>

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USA, TX, HOUSTON, APRIL 21 2010. KINDER MORGAN SHUTS PIPE CARRYING FUEL TO LAS VEGAS

Pipeline operator Kinder Morgan said on Tuesday the 14-inch Calnev pipeline carrying refined products from Los Angeles refineries to Las Vegas was shut to investigate the source of soil contamination found at the pipeline's Colton, California, terminal. A parallel 8-inch pipeline running between Colton and Las Vegas continues to operate, said Kinder Morgan spokeswoman Emily Thompson. The 14-inch line was shut on Monday night. "We don't expect any supply interruptions," Thompson said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSWEN303120100420?type=marketsNews>

AUS, TX, PORT ARTHUR, APRIL 21 2010. MAN KILLED AT MOTIVA NAMED, DIED OF MASSIVE HEAD INJURIES

dan wallach & blair dedrick ortmann



Stewart Shaver, 41, died Monday.

Justice of the Peace Tom Gillam Tuesday afternoon confirmed the name of the man killed in Monday's accident at Motiva and provided a preliminary cause of death. This was the first official release of the man's identity. Stewart Shaver, 41, of Newton, died of accidental massive head injuries, Gillam said by phone. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office spokesman Brent Weaver said the department only confirmed that the family had been notified this morning. The department sends out a notice to the law enforcement agencies in the area in which the relatives live, and that agency contacts those relatives and then gets back to the local agency with confirmation that the contact has been made. In this case, Weaver said, there was a breakdown in that line of communication, leaving the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and Gillam unsure if the family

had been notified until Tuesday afternoon. The fatality Monday at the Motiva Port Arthur refinery expansion project likely will cause contractors and project supervisors to review their safety procedures to prevent other deaths or injuries, a safety engineer said. Federal investigators from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration will have six months to determine the cause of the accident about 8:30 a.m. that resulted in the death of a rigger working for Becon Construction Co., the major contractor at the \$7 billion expansion project. A crane boom is suspected of snapping, causing it to fall, crushing the man. Port Arthur Justice of the Peace Tom Gillam declined to identify the man. He called the scene one of the worst he'd ever witnessed. Monday's fatality likely will send contractors back to their policies and procedures for analysis, said Kenneth Holder, safety director for Performance Blasting and Coating Inc. Holder also is Sabine-Neches chapter president of the American Society of Safety Engineers. The society holds group meetings to discuss changes in recognized safety procedures and ensures its members, which include the major local refineries and petrochemical plants, are aware of the latest advances in safety protocols. "This is very hard-hitting for us as safety professionals," Holder said. "We have people who work at this project. It's a tremendous impact. You do everything you can to prevent this." Holder said there are safety meetings every morning at job sites such as Motiva. The project will double Motiva's daily crude oil processing capacity to 600,000 barrels when it is completed in 2012. "You do a job hazard analysis. There are no short cuts," he said. "Like us, everyone wants to know what happened and how to keep it from happening again." Holder said in the not-too-distant past, before there was an OSHA, contracts for major construction projects were awarded taking into account that some casualties - injuries or deaths - would occur. "Now, jobs are bid with zero deaths, zero injuries," he said. "This, or any, incident or accident is a learning experience. It's not to shift blame. We ask what happened and see what changes we can make." A witness to the accident and fellow rigger told The Enterprise the deceased man wasn't doing anything unsafe when the accident happened. The construction project where the man was killed is taking place within refinery property, which encloses an area of about 1,700 acres. The project presently employs about 4,500 workers and will add at least another 1,000 workers later this year. About 1,800 of the current workers are employed by Becon. The expansion means that new equipment is brought into the existing plant on mammoth flatbed transports and angled into position within the confines of the refinery. In many cases, cranes are used to lift the new pieces into place. The modules, self-contained and pre-fabricated units of pipe racks that measure 60 feet wide, 60 feet tall and 120 feet long, came into Port Arthur by barge and were delivered by the flatbed transports into the refinery. As of last month, contractors had hoisted into position more than 400 of a planned 800 lifts without incident, project supervisors told The Enterprise in a recent tour of the project. A lift takes place almost imperceptibly as steel cable is attached to the modules to be hoisted. When rigged, the modules are then slowly hoisted by crane to the desired level and set into place. After all the pieces are set into place, welders will attach them. That part of the project is expected to get under way this summer. The witness said all contract workers, himself included, were sent home for the day, but were told to report back to work today. The fatality is the second at the Motiva construction since work began in 2007. In August 2007, a worker died in an accident involving a bulldozer in the project to divert Alligator Bayou around the area designated for the expansion. Monday's accident

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occurred at about 8:30 a.m., according to a statement attributed to Joseph Thompson, program manager of Bechtel-Jacobs Joint Venture, the contractor building the expansion. Becon is Bechtel's construction subsidiary. "An employee of Becon Construction Co. was killed in the accident, which is under investigation by the Bechtel-Jacobs joint venture, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration," Thompson said in the statement. "Our heartfelt condolences go out to the deceased worker's family and loved ones. We are working to ensure that family members are notified of this tragic event before releasing the name of the deceased," he said. Motiva refinery spokeswoman Verna Rutherford said work at the construction site was suspended after the death and workers building the expansion were sent home for the rest of the day. Workers are expected to return today. The refinery continues to operate, she said. "In the meantime, an investigation is under way, including an extensive safety review," Rutherford said. "Special arrangements have been made for employees needing grief counseling during this time." An OSHA spokeswoman said investigators from the federal agency are on-site and will look for any safety violations or equipment failures and will interview witnesses and other employees. The agency has six months to complete its investigation and issue its findings, said Elizabeth Todd, OSHA spokeswoman. If any violations are discovered, OSHA can assess fines as it did in 1999 after a fatality at the refinery in 1998. OSHA fined Motiva \$7,000 in that incident. Since then, OSHA has awarded the Motiva refinery the designation as a Voluntary Protection Program Star Site. That means the refinery has achieved OSHA's highest operating safety designation. OSHA reviews Star sites every three to five years, but incidents could cause annual reviews.

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/91587939.html>

SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH, APRIL 21 2010.. RIVER HIT BY NEW OIL SLICK

mark mclaughlin

An investigation is under way after an oil spill polluted the Water of Leith for the second time in six months. The pollution was first spotted back in November but environmental officers were unable to trace the source. Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) officers were out again yesterday after a slick reappeared in the same place. The spill was spotted by 48-year-old security supervisor William Cochrane, who lives in nearby Saughton Loan and walks his dog along the riverside every day. He said: "It's definitely some form of industrial affluent. "When the sun hits it you get that distinctive rainbow effect, and it smells very much like diesel. "There was a similar spill towards the end of last year, which I reported to SEPA and they sent someone out to investigate. "They told me that they had managed to find the outlet where the stuff was coming from, but they were unable to trace the source. "It's quite worrying as there is a lot of wildlife in the river. "There are two swans nesting in the section of the river that's covered by the spill, and it could potentially have serious consequence for them. "I also noticed a family of newly-hatched ducklings on the river last week, but they seem to have disappeared." The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said it was monitoring the situation closely, and was awaiting an update from SEPA to discover if the spill is toxic to birds. The Water of Leith Conservation Trust said it received more than 20 calls about the spill yesterday, and has been receiving regular updates from SEPA. Manager Helen Brown said: "I would think the adult birds would be able to cope with the pollution, but some of the chicks may have problems. "Because their fur is so fluffy, if they get any of the pollution on them it could affect their buoyancy. "The spill appears to be flowing from a culverted stream, a sort of man-made tributary that flows from Craiglockhart, through Gorgie and down into the Water of Leith at Murrayfield. "The area covered by this stream is massive so I understand they're having some difficulty tracing the source. "The stream is designed to carry flood water into the stream, but we've not had any downpours recently, so the most likely explanation is someone pouring something down a storm drain, or a spill from a generator or some other machine." SEPA has issued a reminder to the public not to pour industrial chemicals or waste oils down storm drains. A SEPA spokeswoman said: "These drains are designed to deal with rain water and run-off and, in the case of surface water drains, generally do not go through any form of treatment before they discharge into local watercourses. "Just one litre of spilled oil can result in a large surface area being covered in an oil film, and even a small amount can have an impact on the environment. "We would like to thank the people who have contacted us about this incident, allowing us to investigate. Getting details quickly will mean we can begin investigations early and take effective action as necessary."

<http://news.scotsman.com/scotland/River-hit-by-new-oil.6238769.jp>

USA, WI, COLUMBUS, APRIL 21 2010. OSHA FINES AMERICAN PACKAGING FOLLOWING WORKER'S DEATH >> GRINDER HE WAS USING TO CUT OFF A BOLT IGNITED FLAMMABLE VAPORS

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited American Packaging Corp. in Columbus with 29 alleged serious violations of federal workplace health and safety standards and is facing fines of more than \$127,000 following an investigation into a worker's death. OSHA began its inspection in October 2009 after an explosion at the

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Columbus plant killed long-time employee Jeffrey Duxtater. An investigation found that Duxtater was killed when the grinder he was using to cut off a bolt ignited flammable vapors, causing the explosion. American Packaging has been cited with 26 serious health violations and fined \$108,450. Some of these violations include failing to provide safe work practice procedures for hot work in a confined space, failing to properly train workers in procedures to safely maintain equipment, the lack of a proper emergency response plan, the lack of procedures for summoning rescue and emergency services, not having appropriate personal protective equipment for workers, the absence of lockout/tagout procedures for energy sources and various process safety management deficiencies. The company also has been cited with three serious safety violations with \$18,900 in proposed penalties for failing to take adequate precautions to prevent the ignition of flammable vapors, to prevent cutting operations in the presence of explosive atmospheres and to maintain safe handling of equipment in cutting operations. An OSHA violation is serious if death or serious physical harm can result from a hazard an employer knew or should have known exists. "These types of violations show the company's disregard for the safety and welfare of its employees," said OSHA area director Kim Stille in Madison. "Those who ignore safe practices and OSHA regulations are inviting tragedy into the lives of their workers." American Packaging has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and the \$127,350 in proposed penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director or contest the findings before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Company Vice President of Operations Dennis Couture says the company will contest the citations.

http://www.wiscnews.com/portagedailyregister/news/local/article_b06ddb50-4c2e-11df-b6f7-001cc4c03286.html

USA, WA, LONGVIEW, WILLOW GROVE, APRIL 21 2010. COUNTY STUCK WITH CLEANUP BILL FOR BOAT DUMPED AT WILLOW GROVE >> \$1,200 FOR THE OIL CLEAN UP

barbara laboe



After towing it partially on shore, workers drain oil and gasoline from a boat left to sink at Willow Grove on April 9.

Two men deliberately sunk a boat at the Willow Grove boat launch earlier this month, apparently trying to avoid the \$400 scrap disposal fee and instead sticking the county with a \$8,000 clean up bill. "It's unfortunate that someone trying to save \$400 in scrap costs would do this," Commissioner George Raiter said Tuesday. "And now the county taxpayers have to pay." Commissioners on Tuesday approved up to \$9,000 in emergency clean up costs for the gillnet boat dumped in the Willow Grove basin April 9. Final costs aren't all in, but right now it appears the cost will be about \$7,900, said Ron Junker, the county's parks and facilities director. Two men in a red Ford F-150 pick-up pulled up to the boat launch on the afternoon of April 9, launched the boat off a trailer

and then left, according to witnesses. The fiberglass boat had been stripped of all metal parts, which allowed water into the boat. It sank within 15 minutes, just a few feet from the launch. "The intent was to scuttle the boat intentionally," Junker said. Witnesses called the state Department of Ecology because of an oil sheen leaking from the boat. The Coast Guard and county, which owns the Willow Grove park and boat launch on the Columbia River, also were called in on the case. Crews towed the boat halfway out of the water so the hydraulic oil and gas could be removed, Junker said. It then was pulled all the way out of the water and towed away. About 15 gallons of oil leaked into the water, which was cleaned up by Cowlitz Clean Sweep. Junker said the Coast Guard is investigating because it's a federal crime to pollute the river. A partial registration number on the boat lists an Oregon owner, but officials believe the boat's likely been sold several time since that registration, he said. Witnesses did not get a license plate of the truck used to launch the boat, Junker said. The investigation is continuing. Anyone with information can call the Coast Guard at 503-240-9301 503-240-9301 and ask to speak to the incident management division. "We're hoping someone can identify these guys," Junker said. The clean up costs include \$6,300 for the towing and extraction, roughly \$1,200 for the oil clean up and about \$400 to dispose of the boat. Disposal of the boat at Waste Control costs \$38 a ton and they figure it's about 10 tons, Junker said.

http://www.tdn.com/news/local/article_6c22d6ca-4cde-11df-b480-001cc4c002e0.html

NEW ZEALAND, APRIL 21 2010. WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE SHELL BRAND IN NEW ZEALAND

The new boss of Shell's fuel retailing business, which was recently sold to Kiwi owners, says the decision to rebrand it or stick with Shell is tricky. Greenstone Energy chief executive Mike Bennetts was in Christchurch, meeting staff of the formerly Shell-owned petrol, diesel and fuels business. Greenstone completed the purchase on April 1. Rebranding would cost "tens of millions of dollars", Bennetts said. "Wherever you go brand is a very tricky decision and it's one you only really get to make

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once." Greenstone Energy had purchased the right to use the Shell brand for three years and could pay to continue with the brand after that. "So we want to take our time to really understand, what do our retail customers value more, the strength of and security of a global brand like Shell or would they prefer to have something more homegrown that they can better relate to? In either case we need to make sure we are seen as a world-class company differentiated through our Kiwi ownership." The turnover of the Shell business was \$2.5 billion a year, with about half that being sales to the aviation, marine, fishing, transport and corporate market and the rest sales at the pump. Asked how Greenstone would get more value out of a business that was already No1 in New Zealand for market share with 30 per cent of the fuel retailing business, Bennetts said it could be run more efficiently but that should not be taken to mean Greenstone would be firing staff. He did not say staff numbers would not be reduced when asked, but said: "I would be personally disappointed if we got to the end of the year and we had retrenched people who wanted to stay with the company and who were delivering the right level of performance. I believe we will be growing this company and that will create more opportunities for existing staff as well as new staff." There were no targets for reducing costs, he added. Greenstone could also improve the business' convenience food and other petrol station offerings. It could develop biodiesel for the domestic market and bring its call centre back to New Zealand. Greenstone would have the freedom to develop the business in directions that Shell had decided not to pursue because it was part of a larger global business with different priorities. Running a call centre in New Zealand would be about half the cost Shell had paid for the services of its global call centre in Manila.

<http://www.petroplaza.com/news/industry/MiZlbiY5NjQwJiYx>

SLOVENIA, LJUBLJANA, APRIL 21 2010. ITALIAN OIL GIANT TO ENTER SLOVENIA



Opening of an Agip service station.

Italian energy company Eni plans to form a new company Eni Slovenia. The Slovenian government will decide on a meeting this week whether Eni will be allowed to use the name Slovenia for its daughter company. Eni is already present in Slovenia with two companies. It manages some ten filling stations through its subsidiary Agip and distributes gas through Adriaplin, in which it holds a 51-percent share. According to some estimates, Eni wants to establish a new company in Slovenia because of the construction of the South Stream pipeline. The pipeline,

in which Russian Gazprom and Italian Eni will invest some EUR 20 billion, will connect gas sites in North Siberia through the Black Sea and SEE countries with Italy.

<http://www.petroplaza.com/news/industry/MiZlbiY5NjM5JiYx>

USA, OH, EDGERTON, APRIL 21 2010. COMPANY WORKING TO GET BACK ON TRACK - FLAMMABLE ETHANOL IN SOME >> THIRD TRAIN WRECK ON LINE SINCE FEBRUARY

Watch the Video <http://www.wane.com/dpp/news/company-working-to-get-back-on-track>



Crews rushed to clean up the mess left by Monday's train derailment in Edgerton, Ohio. It's a familiar scene for the area. Three trains have derailed on the line since February. On [February 18th](#), a train derailed in the Dekalb County town of Butler. Then, a train carrying coal jumped the tracks in Waterloo on [March 27th](#). Monday, Edgerton was hit with the latest Norfolk Southern accident. According to Norfolk Southern, they now have to restore 2,400 feet of track because of the crash. It's part of the clean-up for the 37 derailed cars and eight tank cars that leaked toxic, flammable liquid Monday. That's been a headache for the railroad company. This is its busiest line. "Derailments are bad for business," said Rudy Husband of Norfolk Southern. "Our rail-line between Chicago and Cleveland is the busiest line segment on the Norfolk Southern system with somewhere between 100 and 120 freight trains daily." But Tuesday was far from normal. Bulldozers and heavy equipment filled the tracks instead of hundreds of trains. Dana Speelman lives just an eighth of a mile from Monday's train derailment. He heard it happen a little after 9:00 a.m. "I heard a big bang and it sounded like a bunch of tin cans just crunching together," said Speelman. "I said, 'That's a train wreck.'" Speelman and his brother said they're not surprised by the derailing. "You can tell something was going to happen there," said Speelman. "If you live beside the tracks for 35 years, you know when it sounds different. You can just hear the clip clatter and the clatter gets louder." Officials hope to reopen the tracks near Edgerton late Tuesday night to early

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Wednesday morning. The company hasn't halted transportation though. Norfolk Southern is rerouting freight trains through Michigan.

<http://www.wane.com/dpp/news/company-working-to-get-back-on-track>

THAILAND, PATHUM THANI, THAPLINE, APRIL 21 2010. AIRPORT OIL DEPOT ATTACKED, TANK SET ABLAZE

A tank containing aviation fuel for supply to Suvarnabhumi airport was set on fire early Wednesday morning.



A tank containing aviation fuel for supply to Suvarnabhumi airport was set on fire early Wednesday morning and the attackers probably used a rocket propelled grenade, police said. The attack at the Thai Petroleum Pipeline Co (Thapline) fuel depot in Pathum Thani's Lam Luk Ka district occurred about 1.15am. Energy Minister Wannarat Charnnukul said this morning that according to a preliminary police report, a tank containing aviation fuel was set on fire by one of two M79 grenades fired into the Thapline grounds. One failed to explode. Pol Lt-Gen Krisda Pankhongchuen, the Region 1 Provincial Police chief, said later that two investigators - Pol Maj-Gen Methi Kusolsang, the Pathum Thani police chief, and

Pol Col Preeda Pongsethsan, deputy forensic police chief of Pathum Thani - had since examined the scene and reported the tank had likely been hit by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG). They had recovered an RPG fragment near an oil tank. He said the RPG round made a hole about one and a half inches in diameter, penetrating the steel tank and setting the contents on fire. The fire had been extinguished in about an hour and the hole had been plugged. The investigators suspected the RPG had been launched from the motorway, about 100m away. Mr Wannarat said the tank was only half full. Mr Wannarat said that before the rally by the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) the Energy Ministry set up a war room to maximise security at oil depots, oil refineries, power plants and transmission lines. He said the attack took place despite the precautions against sabotage. The minister admitted it was difficult to protect the Lam Luk Ka oil depot from being attacked from a distance. Mr Wannarat said there was an attempt to sabotage the transmission facilities at Wang Noi power plant last week, but did not give details. This morning's attack did not affect the supplies of aviation fuel to Suvarnabhumi airport because Thapline has a total of 19 fuel tanks. Most fuel is supplied to the airport through a pipeline. "I would like to make a plea to any groups which may be involved not to aim to destroy public property, because doing so could cause the people to suffer. "Oil and electricity are important commodities for the country," said the energy minister. Anuporn Assadornnithi, Thapline's manager for operations, said security guards reported that they heard an explosion about 1.15am in the oil depot, and the fire started immediately afterward. Emergency teams rushed to the scene and were able to extinguish the blaze by about 2.30am. There were no injuries. Atthapol Rerkpiboon, PTT vice executive president for communications and social affairs, said PTT, a major shareholder of Thapline, had been informed of the incident.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/175353/oil-tank-attacked-possibly-hit-by-rpg>

THAILAND, PATHUM THANI, THAPLINE, APRIL 21 2010. THAI POLICE INVESTIGATE JET FUEL TANK FIRE



Thai police said Wednesday they were investigating a fire that broke out at a jet fuel tank in Bangkok, which is on edge after weeks of civil unrest. Police declined to speculate on the cause of the fire, which local media reports said was caused by a grenade, but confirmed they found a piece of metal at the site, which belongs to Thai Petroleum Pipeline Co. Ltd. "We are still compiling evidence. So far we found a piece of metal but at this point I cannot say whether it's a grenade. We have to wait for forensic examination," said police colonel Naradej Thiprat. Thai Petroleum Pipeline said the fire erupted at one of its tanks on the northern outskirts of Bangkok but that emergency staff put out the blaze 75 minutes later. "The company security staff said they heard a loud noise like an explosion and then fire broke out outside the tank which contains

jet fuel," it said in a statement, adding they were also investigating the incident. The jet fuel was destined for delivery to aircraft at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi International Airport. Bangkok and surrounding areas have been hit by a series of small explosions aimed at politically sensitive sites and army buildings since the anti-government protests began a month ago. A bomb attack on three electricity towers disrupted power supplies in a suburb of the Thai capital earlier this month.

<http://www.mysinchew.com/node/38022>

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USA, WYO, Uinta County, Robertson APRIL 21 2010. Crews cleaning up Bridger Valley spill

Workers continue to clean up a pipeline break that spilled tens of thousands of gallons of crude oil earlier this month in southwest Wyoming's Bridger Valley. The oil spill occurred April 5 near Robertson in southwest Uinta County, according to Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality officials. The pipeline is owned by Bridger Lake LLC of Louisiana. DEQ emergency response coordinator Joe Hunter estimated that about 2,000 barrels (84,000 gallons) of oil spilled onto the ground before workers located and plugged the leak. "Right after they found the leak, they shut the line in, and at that point no more (oil) goes into the line," Hunter said. Hunter said the company reported the leak in a "timely manner" and that its cleanup response has been good. "After the cleanup is done, we'll evaluate the causes and the cleanup actions and we'll go forward from there," he said. Hunter said an oil fire broke out and burned for a short while on April 10 during cleanup work, pouring black smoke into the valley skyline. "A spark came off a piece of equipment and caused the blaze in a catch basin" workers had dug as part of the containment effort, he said. Two environmental cleanup companies have been working for more than a week, he said. The oil-contaminated soil will be stockpiled on site and then disposed of, according to cleanup plans. Hunter said some of the oil leaked into an irrigation ditch, but none of it "got into any live waters." He said pressure in a corroded segment of the pipeline is believed to have led to the break in the line. "The company is doing a good job and they've got the right people in there for this cleanup ... we're pretty happy the way the cleanup is progressing," he said.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_fe615568-4cfa-11df-a993-001cc4c03286.html

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, APRIL 21 2010. OIL SPILL RESPONSE FLEET PAY TO RISE >> PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND: ALYESKA OFFERS HIGHER RATES TO ENSURE ENOUGH BOATS.

elizabeth bluemink

The operator of the trans-Alaska pipeline and Valdez tanker port announced Tuesday it is offering a substantial boost in pay to Southcentral fishermen who participate in its oil-spill response program. It's not clear yet whether the pay increases will be satisfactory to the fishermen, however. The pay raise was triggered by declining participation by fishing boat owners in the program. This winter, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., fell out of compliance with state rules that require it to keep a certain number of fishing boats under contract to provide aid in the event of a Prince William Sound oil spill. Fishing vessel owners and an oil-spill watchdog group say participation in the program has been falling for years due to low pay, lack of respect toward fishermen, and the exclusion of them from decision-making about the oil-spill response program. Fishing fleet representatives in Kodiak, Homer, Valdez and Cordova told Alyeska in March and April that more fishermen plan to leave the program unless the company offers satisfactory pay increases by May 1. On Monday, Alyeska sent e-mails to the 400 fishing vessel owners in the program describing its pay increases, which vary depending on the size of a boat and how quickly the boat must respond to a tanker spill. For example, the base-rate compensation for a fishing vessel that participates in annual oil-spill training exercises is increasing by 48 percent and the base-rate compensation for a fishing vessel responding to an oil spill is increasing by 63 percent. Cordova fishermen involved in the oil-spill program plan to meet on Thursday to vote whether to accept the pay raises, according to Mark Swanson, executive director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. "The Cordova fleet did have some issues with (Alyeska's proposal)," Swanson said. But Swanson said he thinks there's a strong likelihood that Alyeska and the fishermen will reach agreement this week.

<http://www.adn.com/2010/04/20/1242555/oil-spill-response-fleet-pay-to.html>

CANADA, ONT, POTTERSBURG CREEK, APRIL 21 2010. CHLORINE SPILL BLAMED FOR KILLING DOZENS OF FISH

randy richmond

A chlorine spill killed of dozens of fish in Pottersburg Creek on the weekend, ministry of the environment investigators believe. But investigators still haven't pinpointed the source, Kanina Blanchard, manager of the ministry's regional office, said Tuesday. "We don't have any clear answers at this point," she said. Investigators have been at the creek since Sunday, when residents in the area discovered about 30 dead fish. Since then, several more dead fish have been discovered, Blanchard said. "The good news is there are still many live fish in the creek. It is a thriving environment." Even so, the ministry wants to find out where the chlorine came from. "We need to understand what happened. There's a range of possibilities." Blanchard stressed that the fish kill had nothing to do with PCBs, which have plagued the creek for decades. Ministry investigators spent Monday and Tuesday working their way up the creek from Kiwanis Park, where observers noted a strong smell of bleach on Sunday. Dead fish could be seen at the bottom of the creek Sunday, while others floated downstream amid a white, bubbly foam. The day before, thousands of volunteers joined the annual cleanup of the Thames River and its tributaries, including Pottersburg Creek. That day, the water was noticeably sparkling, said Leo Young, who regularly jogs the park path. It's not the first time the

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ministry has investigated a fish kill in the creek. In 2005, officials also sampled the creek after hundreds of dead fish were reported. The creek was dug up in the 1980s after it was found to be laden with PCBs.

<http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2010/04/21/13660226.html>

USA, LA, VENICE, APRIL 22 2010. AT LEAST SEVEN HURT IN OIL RIG BLAST - SEVERAL OTHERS ON GULF OF MEXICO PLATFORM ARE MISSING

Seven people were injured and several others were missing after an explosion at an oil drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico off Louisiana's coast, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The explosion was reported on the rig, which is 52 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana, at around 10 p.m. Tuesday, Coast Guard senior petty officer Mike O'Berry said. It was still burning Wednesday morning. Three of those injured in the blast were critically hurt, according to Fox 8 News and radio station WWL First News, citing parish and Coast Guard officials. Two of those hurt were suffering from burns. No deaths have been reported.

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36683314/ns/us_news-life/

USA, LA, VENICE, APRIL 22 2010. EVACUATED WORKERS SOUGHT AFTER OIL RIG EXPLOSION

Authorities were searching for missing workers early Wednesday who evacuated after an explosion at an oil drilling platform off the coast of Louisiana. The explosion happened around 10 p.m. Tuesday, 52 miles southeast of Venice, La., while 126 workers were aboard the platform, Coast Guard Senior Chief Petty Officer Mike O'Berry said. No deaths were reported, but O'Berry said there were some injuries. He did not know how many. O'Berry also said four helicopters, four Coast Guard boats and a plane were helping search for some workers who were unaccounted for Wednesday. "We're hoping everyone's in a life raft," he said. At the same time, fire boats were still battling the fire at the oil platform, called Deep Water Horizon. "It's burning pretty good and there's no estimate on when the fire will be put out," O'Berry said.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g5qnWbqZ9SqBHvSYqJeE2AT5KebwD9F7CSL00>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 22 2010. BLAST JOLTS OIL WORLD -SEARCH CONTINUES >>GULF RIG EXPLODES, 11 MISSING; POTENTIAL BLOW TO INDUSTRY

ben casselman, russell gold & angel gonzalez

 **Watch the Video:**

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704133804575197613591134990.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines



The Deepwater Horizon rig was listing in the Gulf of Mexico as rescuers sought the missing. The platform, operated by a contractor for BP, is part of a deep-offshore drilling boom seen as key to future U.S. output.

A massive fire on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico left 11 workers missing and cast a pall over an offshore drilling boom that stands to dramatically lift U.S. energy output. Rescuers scoured the Gulf for the unaccounted workers late Wednesday as firefighters struggled to quench a towering fire that forced all aboard to flee. The blaze on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig, which broke out around 10 p.m. central Tuesday night, thrust a geyser of flames and smoke into the sky about 50 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Seventeen people were injured, three critically, rescue officials said. The rig is operated for oil giant BP PLC by drilling contractor

Transocean Ltd., which said the search for the cause of the fire would begin after the missing had been accounted for. But Transocean said one possibility that might explain the size and ferocity of the blaze is a blow-out, an uncontrolled burst of oil and natural gas from the well. Some industry analysts said they feared the accident might temporarily damp the pace of oil development in the deepest reaches of the Gulf, which has become a significant exploration hotspot for international oil companies seeking new sources of petroleum. The industry is booming, and has been challenged by a tight supply of rigs and skilled workers. The accident comes at a sensitive time politically for the industry. President Obama late last month proposed allowing drilling in new areas of the eastern Gulf of Mexico and off the southern Atlantic coast, where it was banned. Supporters argue the industry has become much safer. The Transocean fire could be an untimely reminder of risks. "Is there a domino effect from this?" asked Arun Jayaram, a Credit Suisse analyst. "It seems like there would be some collateral damage." In recent years, oil companies have pushed further offshore in search of oil, as older, easier oilfields dry up and foreign governments cut access to reserves. The emphasis on deepwater exploration has led to a surge in construction of rigs capable of drilling in such depths. The number of deepwater rigs—capable of drilling in 3,000 feet of water or more—has grown 43% since 2006, according to research firm ODS-Petrodata. The boom in rigs has strained contractors, which have

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struggled to find experienced workers to run them. Big companies such as Transocean have had to move workers onto newly built rigs, while also fending off new, smaller companies looking to hire away veteran crews. Transocean has grown especially fast. In 2007 it merged with rival GlobalSantaFe in an \$18 billion deal. Integrating the two companies has been a challenge, said Doug Sheridan, managing director of EnergyPoint Research, a firm that rates drillers and other oil service companies based on interviews with their customers. Mr. Sheridan said Transocean's safety ratings have remained strong since the merger. But he added, "You have to ask the question, 'Have we been stretched thin? Did something fall through the cracks?'" Transocean spokesman Greg Panagos dismissed such concerns. He said the company is a "very safety conscious organization. It's the top priority in the company." Deepwater Horizon was one of five Transocean ships given safety awards by the U.S. Minerals Management Services last year. There were spots on its record. It partially flooded in May 2008 and began to list, after a worker accidentally opened a valve that let in seawater, federal records show. No injuries were reported. The rig had a small fire in 2005. No one was injured. There were at least three rig fires in the Gulf this year before the Horizon incident and 14 last year, including several that forced crew members to evacuate, according to data from the Minerals Management Service. Major fires, in which oil and gas catch fire, are rarer. In 2001, a big platform tipped over and caught fire off Brazil, killing 11. The oil markets didn't react strongly to the news, falling 17 cents in futures trading to close at \$83.68 a barrel. The fire occurred at a long-term BP prospect called Macondo, not an existing producing oilfield. Deepwater wells have become important for companies such as BP as well as for the broader oil supply. The Gulf of Mexico produces more than 1.6 million barrels a day, about 30% of U.S. oil output, federal data show. Production from the Gulf has fallen recently as early, shallow-water discoveries have begun to dry up. But new, deepwater drilling has begun to reverse that trend. Gulf output was on track to rise last year for the first time since 2006, preliminary data from the Energy Information Administration show.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704133804575197613591134990.html?mod=WSJ_latestheadlines

USA, FLA, DESTIN, APRIL 22 2010. BOY LEARNING BRAILLE AFTER BEING BLINDED BY FIREWORKS

andrew metz

 [Photo Gallery of Gianni](#)



Two years ago, Gianni Toce was learning in the same way and at the same pace as his second grade peers. Now, as he finishes fourth grade, he still finds himself on track, but in a whole new way. On a recent Monday afternoon, Toce made his way to the Vision Resource Room for his daily, personal instruction. In this special Destin Elementary School space are the learning tools that have helped Gianni stay on an educational path that has led to "big things." "The progress that he's made has just been amazing," said Pat Wilson, one of Gianni's teachers. "He is destined to do great things." Two years ago, Gianni's life and ability to achieve were suddenly threatened when an accident at home left him completely blind. On Mothers' Day of 2008, Gianni and his father, Andre, were celebrating the life of his mother, Dana, who had passed away three years before from cancer. In their back yard, they were setting off fireworks when one sent plastic shrapnel into Gianni, damaging his windpipe, collapsing his lung,

causing massive hemorrhaging and leaving him blind. Now, after extensive medical recovery, Gianni has settled into a routine at DES, attending classes with his friends and receiving the necessary educational tools to continue learning and growing. He partakes in normal activities that are enjoyed by all students at DES. "P.E. is my favorite," said Gianni. "We run the track, jump rope and hula hoop." Gianni took a few minutes with The Log recently to show his reading ability with the Braille system, and his proficiency at math with an abacus. "It usually takes four to five years for a blind person to become capable with these tools," said Wilson, who founded Emerald Coast Blind Ambitions. "What's so impressive is that he has already learned almost all of the Braille contractions. There are well over 100." In February, Gianni attended the 2010 North Florida Braille Challenge in Tallahassee, hosted by Florida State University, where he finished first in the freshman category. He is now awaiting word on whether or not he has advanced onto the national competition, which is held in California. "I had a lot of fun," said Gianni. "We got to play a lot of games and we went to Chuck E. Cheese." Wilson is now in the process of planning the next learning steps for Gianni, and two other area blind children she instructs at Elliott Point Elementary, Darren Garland and Dylan Clark. "Next, Gianni is going to move on to keyboarding," said Wilson. "I'm already downloading the programs." The learning tool that Gianni most wants to use is a new device called the Brailenote. This portable computer for the blind helps with many everyday situations and has a price tag of about \$6,000. Wilson and the Toces are brainstorming ideas to raise funds so that Gianni can

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use this very beneficial piece of equipment. For information or to contribute donation ideas, call Wilson at 896-2536 or email oandmpat@comcast.net. "He is really an amazing kid," said Wilson. "I love him. He is my heart."
<http://www.nwfdailynews.com/news/way-28210-learning-destin.html>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 22 2010. BP ALREADY IN SAFETY SPOTLIGHT - LOUISIANA WELL FIRE

guy chazan

The fire at an offshore drilling rig doing work for BP comes as the company already faces intense scrutiny in the U.S., five years after an explosion and fire at its Texas City, Texas, refinery killed 15 people and injured scores more. The cause of the rig fire off Louisiana isn't known, and industry experts say disputes are possible over responsibility. Last year, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration slapped an \$87 million fine on BP for failing to correct safety violations at the Texas City refinery, the largest penalty in OSHA's history. OSHA said BP hadn't made safety improvements promised in a settlement reached with safety inspectors in September 2005. BP formally contested the fine and is in talks with OSHA to resolve the issue. BP says it has invested more than \$1 billion to fix problems at Texas City and also is spending \$500 million to improve instrumentation controls and electronic digital systems at the refinery as part of a multiyear program. But an OSHA official said last year that BP still had a "serious systemic safety problem," both at Texas City and across the company. BP disagrees, saying its risk profile has improved significantly since 2005. "But I recognize that we have a lot to prove," Iain Conn, BP's head of refining and marketing, said in an interview. "A bad track record leaves you with a long shadow, and we have to deal with that." Meanwhile, OSHA has continued to punish the company. The agency fined BP \$3 million last month, citing safety problems at its refinery in Toledo, Ohio.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703404004575198520759423634.html?mod=WSJ_business_whatsNews

USA, IA, CENTERVILLE, APRIL 22 2010. DNR: 3,000 GALLONS OF GAS LEAK FROM TANK

Iowa Department of Natural Resources officials said Wednesday that a leaking gas tank has been discovered at an Iowa gas station. Officials said Kum N Go workers at the 830 N. Street location in Centerville discovered the leak from one of their tanks on Wednesday. Although local officials have not detected any free product or vapor in city sewer systems, residents near the station should call 911 if they smell gasoline in their basements, officials said. An estimated 3,000 gallons of gasoline leaked from the tank, officials said. The leak was reported to the DNR early Wednesday afternoon. The DNR said it will continue to monitor the situation.

<http://www.kcci.com/news/23225809/detail.html>

USA, IA, CHARLES CITY, APRIL 22 2010. FOUR FIREWORKS LAWSUITS CONSOLIDATED

mary pieper

Four of the lawsuits filed against J & M Displays by people injured in the Fourth of July 2008 fireworks accident have been consolidated and will be tried as one. Judge Bryan McKinley issued a ruling in favor of the consolidation Wednesday in Floyd County District Court following a hearing on April 16. The plaintiffs in the consolidated suit against the Yarmouth company are Kyle Anderson of New Hampton, Dacia Becker of Floyd, Seth Fitzgerald of Charles City and Megan Gebel of New Hampton. In his ruling McKinley stated Aimee Deetz of Charles City, who also had filed a lawsuit against J & M, was not part of the motion to consolidate because she is no longer represented by counsel and was not present at the hearing. A conference with the court administrator has been set for May 17 so a trial date can be determined. The suits seek damages for injuries suffered when a shell malfunction set off fireworks into the crowd, injuring at least 37 people during the annual Fourth of July display in Charles City. The State Fire Marshal's Office wrapped up its investigation of the accident in December 2008. The investigation report said one or more shells probably detonated in their launch tubes, which then caused secondary explosions. But the official cause remains undetermined, according to the fire marshal's office. Five other lawsuits filed against J & M by injured spectators were dismissed recently after settlements were reached. Barry Russell, attorney for Todd and Michelle Koenigsfeld of Floyd, Tamera Knecht of Charles City, Tiffany Knecht of Nashua, Brittany Dana (address unknown) and Brandon Fuerstenberg of Nashua, said the settlement amount cannot be disclosed due to a confidentiality agreement.

http://www.globegazette.com/news/local/article_5761a5a2-4d94-11df-8aa0-001cc4c002e0.html

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