

# Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

## Release 2010 – 646 Newsy Stuff

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

**October 5 2010**

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### **USA, WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 29 2010. MURPHY OIL USA TO PAY \$1.25 MILLION PENALTY TO RESOLVE CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS / COMPANY TO SPEND ADDITIONAL \$142 MILLION IN POLLUTION CONTROLS AT REFINERIES IN LOUISIANA AND WISCONSIN**

*stacy kika*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Justice Department announced that Murphy Oil USA has agreed to pay a \$1.25 million civil penalty to resolve violations of the Clean Air Act at its petroleum refineries in Meraux, La. and Superior, Wis. As part of the settlement, the company will spend more than \$142 million to install new and upgraded pollution reduction equipment at the refineries and also spend an additional \$1.5 million on a supplemental environmental project. "EPA is committed to reducing toxic air pollution from sources that have an impact on the health of communities," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "This settlement, which is the result of cooperative efforts by state and federal officials in both states, is good news for the residents of communities living near these refineries, who will be able to breathe easier knowing that the air in their communities will be cleaner." "The Justice Department is committed to vigorously enforcing our nation's environmental laws," said Ignacia S. Moreno, Environment and Natural Resource Division Assistant Attorney General. "Nationwide, many refineries are located in economically distressed or disadvantaged communities. Settlements like this one, that require the installation of pollution reduction equipment, result in cleaner, safer environments for affected communities." The new air pollution control technologies and other measures to be implemented at both refineries will reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>) by nearly 1,400 tons per year once all controls are installed. The settlement will also reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), particulate matter and carbon monoxide. These pollutants can cause serious respiratory problems and exacerbate cases of childhood asthma, among other adverse health effects. In addition to the new pollution controls at both refineries, as a supplemental environmental project, Murphy will install covers on two wastewater tanks at the Meraux refinery to reduce odors and control VOC emissions. Murphy will also install and operate an ambient air monitoring station in the community adjacent to the Meraux refinery, as well as other community-based projects to track emissions. Murphy had previously entered into a settlement at its Superior, Wis. refinery in 2002, after a 10-day trial in which the company was found to have violated requirements of the Clean Air Act's New Source Review program, among other Clean Air Act requirements. Today's settlement will replace the existing 2002 settlement. The settlement is the latest in a series of global multi-issue, multi-facility settlements being pursued by EPA in the refining sector. In March of this year, similar settlements were reached with Shell refineries located in Alabama, Louisiana and Puerto Rico. With today's settlement, 104 refineries operating in 31 states and territories are now covered by global settlements, representing more than 90 percent of the nation's refining capacity. The first of EPA's comprehensive refinery settlements was reached in 2000. The states of Wisconsin and Louisiana actively participated in the settlement with Murphy, which was filed with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin. The settlement is subject to a 30-day public comment period and approval by the federal court.

**More information on the settlement:** [www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/caa/murphyoil.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/caa/murphyoil.html)

**More information on EPA's Petroleum Refinery Initiative:** <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/caa/oil/http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/773b49028e6a990a852577ac0056880a?OpenDocument>

### **USA, TX, HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 29 2010. BP GETS BREAK OVER 2005 CASE**

*monica hatcher*

The U.S. Department of Justice will not seek to revoke BP's criminal probation for allegedly failing to make safety upgrades at its Texas City refinery following a deadly 2005 explosion, despite pleas from victims' families to reopen the case. The decision, explained in two letters to U.S. District Judge Lee Rosenthal earlier this month, follows a record \$50.6 million settlement between BP and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

#### **Allegations by OSHA**

OSHA last year alleged that the company failed to meet a 2009 deadline to make all of the safety upgrades required under an agreement forged shortly after the explosion at Texas City that killed 15 people and injured nearly 200. BP agreed in August to pay the fine and submit to inspections and other OSHA requirements but did not admit to violating the terms of the 2005 agreement. A company spokesman could not be reached for comment late Monday. Attorneys representing family members of the blast victims contended that last month's settlement showed BP had not complied with the original OSHA pact and therefore ran afoul of a separate plea agreement reached with the Justice Department in a criminal case related to the blast.

#### **Felony Violation**

In that deal, reached last year, BP pleaded guilty to a felony violation of the Clean Air Act. The company agreed to pay some \$50 million in fines and comply with the 2005 OSHA safety agreement as a condition of probation. Attorney Brent Coon, who

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represented several families, said the recent settlement was grounds for revoking BP's probation and seeking further prosecution. "At the very least, the DOJ should fine BP a significant additional amount for failing to comply," Coon said.

### New Agreement

Daniel Doohar, an attorney with the Justice Department's environmental crimes section, explained in letters to Rosenthal why prosecutors were not seeking to revoke BP's probation. Because OSHA had reached a new agreement, he wrote, the government would now accept those terms as the condition of BP's criminal probation. The letters to Rosenthal were first reported by Truthout.org.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=24160](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=24160)

### CANADA, B.C., KITMAT, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. TRAINING FOR RAILCAR DERAILMENTS

*Kitimat's Deputy Fire Chief Trent Bossence, centre, attended a railcar disaster training session at The Security and Emergency Response Training Centre (SERTC), a world-class training facility located at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colorado.*



Kitimat's deputy fire chief Trent Bossence was one of many emergency service professionals who attended a course focusing on railcar disaster training. Bossence and Terrace fire chief Peter Weeber attended the training session which took place at the Security and Emergency Response Training Centre (SERTC), a world-class training facility located at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colorado.

SERTC offers customized training programs to the chemical industry, public and private emergency response teams, government agencies, and military to counter terrorism in the rail environment. The SERTC training was sponsored by CN Rail and was attended by emergency services professionals from all over Canada and the United States. The training provided detailed technical information combined with extensive hands-on practice in responding to simulated large-scale dangerous goods incidents in a rail transportation environment. "With the ongoing potential of dangerous goods incidents in communities along the CN Rail network CN has been working hard to make specialized emergency response training more readily available to the emergency response community," says Weeber. For Bossence, this was the most realistic training accident scenarios he has experienced in his career. "It was five days of intense training in the classroom the laboratory, and in the field. We were immersed in the most realistic, full-scale accident scenarios I have ever experienced," says Bossence. The scenarios included a 45 railcar derailment with explosions and the simulated the release of toxic gasses and chemical spills. Participants worked as a team with CN dangerous goods officers to manage the emergencies. The extent of the training included a final scenario that began at 8 a.m. and concluded at 10 p.m. on the last day of the course. The training offered valuable insight into the risks involved how to manage them and how work effectively with CN during a rail emergency.

[http://www.bclocalnews.com/bc\\_north/northernsentinel/news/103894329.html](http://www.bclocalnews.com/bc_north/northernsentinel/news/103894329.html)

### USA, CO, BOULDER, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. DRY-CLEANING CHEMICAL IN DOWNTOWN BOULDER GROUNDWATER 460 TIMES STATE LIMIT >> CITY OFFICIALS NEVER TOLD ABOUT CONTAMINATION

heath urie

Toxic chemicals in the groundwater near the site of a former Boulder dry-cleaner are more widespread than city officials have been made aware of, with the level of one contaminant recently measuring 460 times the limit set by the state health department. The city of Boulder is beginning this week to test groundwater on city-owned property in the area of 13th Street and Canyon Boulevard, after being alerted in mid-2009 that nearby groundwater contained naphthalene and benzene. Experts believe the chemicals, which are common but potentially dangerous industrial agents, came from a coal gasification plant that operated in the area during the early 1900s. To find out for sure where the toxins came from, and how widespread they are, the city and Xcel Energy have commissioned a joint \$30,000 study. But a report provided by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment shows the area where the chemicals were first detected also contains high levels of perchloroethylene, or PCE, a contamination associated with spills from dry-cleaners. The chemical was first detected at 1717 15th St. in 2004, after Art Cleaners moved its dry-cleaning operation from the building. The company's landlord required the business to conduct an environmental assessment, which was performed by Wheat Ridge-based Terracon Consultants. The consultant reported to state health officials that it found high concentrations of PCE -- a typical dry-cleaning chemical that can cause liver and kidney damage and is a suspected cancer-causing agent -- and began monitoring a series of test wells that were dug in the area to see how far the contamination spanned. Dennie "Chip" Wise, owner of the property, said he's been

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working closely with state officials ever since that report and that he has spent a "significant" amount of money to clean the spill. But records show the levels of PCE near the building remain exceedingly high, despite six years of remediation work that has included extracting chemical vapors from the ground and injecting 165 gallons of CAP18, a compound based on vegetable oil that's designed to stimulate the natural decay of PCE.

#### 'Difficult to Remediate'

A sample taken from groundwater at the site in June showed PCE levels as high as 2.3 milligrams per liter. That's 460 times the state limit of .005 milligrams per liter. At the same time, the level of naphthalene measured up to 10 times above the state limit, while the level of benzene was about 1.8 times the limit. Other chemicals, mostly byproducts of the natural decay of PCE, were also detected at levels exceeding state standards. Rob Beierle, an environmental protection specialist with the state health department, is the case manager for the property. He said the plume of PCE has flowed with groundwater toward the southeast, stopping near the entrance to Boulder High School. Beierle said the plume doesn't present an immediate health hazard. "The plume is stable in size," he said. "It doesn't seem to be increasing." The city of Boulder does not receive its drinking water from the nearby Boulder Creek, so officials say there's no chance of the chemicals affecting the municipal water supply.

#### 'Nobody Ever Mentioned PCE to Us'

While the cleanup has been quietly ongoing for years, city officials said Wednesday they'd never heard about the spill. "Nobody ever mentioned PCE to us," said Debra Kalish, an assistant city attorney. The city learned from Terracon Consultants last year that naphthalene and benzene were found at the site. Kalish said the city was told so long after the discovery because the consultants eventually came to believe that those chemicals originated from property owned by the city that once was home to a coal gasification plant. The consultants did not report the PCE issue, she said. While there is no requirement that it do so, the state did notify Boulder County Public Health in March 2005 that PCE was detected in the area. A spokeswoman for the county health department said that information wasn't relayed to the city because it wasn't required to be. The county also probably didn't keep a copy of the letter it received, she said.

#### 'No Standard'

Walter Avramenko, who leads the state's Hazardous Waste Corrective Action Unit, said removing the PCE from the downtown location would take a lot of time and money. "The unfortunate thing is that, with this particular chemical, it is very difficult to remediate, especially once it's gotten into the ground," Avramenko said. He said the owner of the building has always cooperated with the cleanup, so the property owner hasn't been fined. Brian Hansen, owner of Art Cleaners since 1995, said the spill probably happened over decades. The company has been in Boulder since 1921 and operated out of the 15th Street location since the 1950s, he said. "The technology way back when, it wasn't a problem in the '50s," he said. "There was no measurement, no standard." The company has since moved to an environmentally friendly, silicon-based cleaner. Art Cleaners' new location is in the building adjacent to the spill site.

[http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci\\_16209691](http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_16209691)

#### **USA, CT, NORTH HAVEN, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO ACID EXPLOSION IN CONN >> OWNER OF THE BUSINESS TREATED AT THE SCENE AND TAKEN TO A LOCAL HOSPITAL**

*ann dematteo*

The owner of a Sackett Point Road business received severe burns on both hands and arms when there was an explosion in his laboratory Monday morning, Fire Chief Vincent Landisio said. Ji Dong Liu, 35, of New Haven, was treated at the scene by firefighters. He was taken to Yale-New Haven Hospital and then the Bridgeport Hospital Burn Unit. Liu was listed in fair condition with non-life threatening injuries later Monday, a Bridgeport Hospital spokesman said. AldLab Chemicals, 410 Sackett Point Road, and a business next door, Spectrics Analytical Chemicals, were evacuated after the chemical spill shortly before 9 a.m. Liu was alone in the laboratory when the accident occurred, authorities said. The Fire Department along with the Occupational Safety Health Administration and the state Department of Environmental Protection Haz-Mat Unit are continuing to investigate. Landisio said he is looking into whether the explosion and spill was caused due to an "accidental overhear" of acetic acid. The acid has a flash point of 200 degrees and is "very volatile and flammable," he said. Once it was determined that a hazardous materials incident occurred, and that it was contained in one room, DEP employees wore hazmat suits into the laboratory. DEP spokesman Dennis Schain said the department's assistance was requested at about 10 a.m. An inspector from the regional office of OSHA was also on the scene. Firefighters set up a decontamination station for DEP employees at the scene. After the DEP said the room was clean enough to enter, fire and OSHA representatives conducted an investigation. OSHA will now take the lead in the investigation. The DEP monitored the air and didn't detect the presence of acid fumes, Schain said. "Some sort of chemical reaction occurred in the lab," Landisio said. A woman who works at Spectrics Analytical

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Chemicals called 911. AldLab has served pharmaceutical, biotech and chemical industries over the world, according to the company's website.

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-ems/articles/886526-Firefighters-respond-to-acid-explosion-in-Conn/>

### USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. HIGH LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE FOUND IN SALON TREATMENT

*christina jewett*

A toxicology lab in Oregon uncovered a high-end salon treatment labeled "Brazilian Blowout" that contains 10 percent formaldehyde, raising serious safety questions about extremely high levels of the potent carcinogen. The solution is used in dozens of salons nationwide that advertise the popular hair-straightening treatment. The Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology at Oregon Health & Science University [found that the product](#) appears to come from a North Hollywood company called Brazilian Blowout. However, the company owner denies that the product came from his firm. More answers may be forthcoming, though, as California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health conducts a complaint investigation at the North Hollywood facility where Brazilian Blowout makes its solution, a spokeswoman said. Monte Devin Semler, [Brazilian Blowout company](#) president, said he's cooperated fully with OSHA by providing a sample of the product and expects no formaldehyde to be present. "We pay a premium to be sure that the product is in fact formaldehyde-free," Semler said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "I am unable to control every bottle that comes out of eBay or out of the back of someone's car." So what did the folks in Oregon find, exactly? Here's what I learned: DeDe Montgomery, an industrial hygienist with the toxicology center (who is, in the interest of full disclosure, related to California Watch's Michael Montgomery), said a concerned stylist sent her lab a bottle of the salon treatment, saying it made her eyes water and caused irritation. The lab sent the bottle labeled "Brazilian Blowout" to Oregon OSHA for testing. The test showed that the formula contained nearly 5 percent formaldehyde, a chemical that is regulated in doses far, [far, far smaller](#). Montgomery was aware of the controversy, documented in beauty blogs, about early reports of formaldehyde in the Brazilian Blowout product. So when she sought out another stylist who could help her test a more recently-shipped bottle that was labeled "formaldehyde free." That bottle, she said, had been opened when she received it. It came with a packing invoice that had no address but the phone number to Semler's firm. It tested at 10 percent formaldehyde, exceeding acceptable levels by orders of magnitude. Formaldehyde [is strongly believed to cause cancer](#) and also causes irritation to the eyes and nose. It can also trigger asthma attacks and cause rashes to people who are sensitive to it. Montgomery said her lab reported the issue to Oregon OSHA and the California Department of Public Health. California OSHA spokeswoman Krisann Chasarik said the investigation was based on a complaint and will determine whether any health or safety violations occurred at the site where workers bottle the Brazilian Blowout solution. The California Department of Public Health operates a [Safe Cosmetics program](#) that was put in place by a 2005 law. The law requires that cosmetic and beauty product makers report the presence of certain chemicals, including formaldehyde, that are present above certain levels. Department spokesman Ralph Montano said the Safe Cosmetics program staff did not get any information from Brazilian Blowout about the product before or since a reporting deadline passed. He said a program staff member called the company to remind them of the requirement. It remains to be seen, though, whether the Brazilian Blowout company has anything to report or whether a counterfeit product is setting off alarms. Chasarik said her agency's investigation should be complete within a month; I'll be sure to report the results.

<http://californiawatch.org/watchblog/high-levels-formaldehyde-found-salon-treatment-5183>

### USA, NY, INDIAN LAKE, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. OWNER SAYS INDIAN LAKES FIREWORKS FACTORY WASN'T A DANGER

*don lehman*

The owner of an Indian Lake fireworks factory filed a notice of claim Wednesday against Hamilton County, alleging that characterizations of his operation as dangerous were untrue. At issue were comments made about Meyer Fireworks, from which local, state and federal officials removed commercial fireworks last week that they claimed were improperly stored. Some were destroyed and others confiscated. Edward S. Meyer Jr. took particular issue with a claim made to The Post-Star that an explosion at the Route 28 business could have damaged the nearby Indian Lake Central School. Meyer was charged late Friday by State Police with a felony violation of state Labor Law that accuses him of improperly storing fireworks. The notice of claim alleges "interference, business interference, defamation and slander" and seeks between \$1 million and \$10 million in damages. It also asks that the county pay for full-page ads in The Post-Star and Hamilton County News retracting the statements. A notice of claim is the precursor to a lawsuit and is required when someone wishes to sue a municipality or municipal agency. It puts the agency on notice that a lawsuit could be filed if a settlement is not reached first. Meyer has taken issue with comments made by county Fire Coordinator Jay Griffin to The Post-Star that suggested that, had the fireworks on

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site ignited, the nearby school could have been damaged. But Meyer said an explosion took place at the plant decades ago, which he said was caused by improper handling of fireworks by local volunteer firefighters, and the school was not damaged. "No engineering opinion could or would ever prove that a deflagration of plaintiff's almost 30-year-old, accident-free facility could or would damage or destroy the Indian Lake Central School or harm the students of the Indian Lake Central School," he wrote in the claim, which he filed pro se. Griffin said Wednesday he had no comment on the matter. Meyer manufactured fireworks and accepted damaged fireworks for repair or destruction. He said the state Department of Labor inspected and signed off on the storage. "I gave them the material voluntarily to destroy after several days of harassment by the ATF. It wasn't worth it anymore," he said. He said he plans to instead manufacture casings for fireworks, instead of the explosives themselves. He said federal government scrutiny in recent years has driven many fireworks companies out of the manufacturing business. Neither the Department of Labor nor the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has returned phone calls on the case. Meyer, who twice ran unsuccessfully for Hamilton County district attorney, in the 1980s and 1990s, said he plans to represent himself during the criminal case and notice of claim, saying he has studied law at numerous schools. He said he works as a mediator in California when he is not in Indian Lake.

[http://poststar.com/news/local/article\\_44a65834-cbf9-11df-ab10-001cc4c03286.html](http://poststar.com/news/local/article_44a65834-cbf9-11df-ab10-001cc4c03286.html)

### **USA, FLA, PORT CHARLOTTE, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. PORT CHARLOTTE MAN ARRESTED FOR CONTAMINATING WETLANDS**

On September 11, 2010 at approximately 2:15 pm a white male identified as Aziz Obidov (DOB: 6-16-79) went to the Murphy USA gas station at 335 Kings Hwy, Port Charlotte, Charlotte County Florida, 33983 and filled his black, 2010 Mercedes SUV with unleaded gasoline fuel. Obidov was approached by the Assistant Manager and another employee; both witnessed two hoses extending from the black SUV's gas tank, clear fluid coming out of the hoses and an extremely strong smell/ odor of gasoline emanating from the hoses. Obidov explained to the two Wal-Mart employees he had put unleaded gasoline in his diesel engine vehicle. The hoses were described as a green garden type hose with no special markings. One hose was discharging the gasoline onto the asphalt approximately 30 feet from a storm drain; the second was discharging gasoline onto a grassy down sloped area that leads to a protected wetland area. There is a sign, advising the area was a protected wetlands area, approximately 6 foot away from where the gasoline was being discharged. The Wal-Mart Assistant Manager stated he pointed the wetlands signage out to Obidov who replied "I got to do what I got to do". Obidov continued the discharge of gasoline onto the asphalt and wetlands even after being confronted by the Wal-Mart employees and was told the Sheriff's Office had been called. The store Assistant Manager copied the tag number and provided this information to the first arriving deputy. A sample of the contaminated asphalt was collected and submitted into evidence. The sample contained the strong, unmistakable odor of gasoline. Aziz Obidov was later located and arrested for discharging a hazardous substance, mainly gasoline, a regulated hazardous waste product onto the ground and into a protected wetland. This is a felony in the third degree. Also probable cause exists for violation of Florida State Statute 376.302 (1a): Discharge of a pollutant or hazardous substance into or upon the surface or ground waters of this state. This is a misdemeanor in the first degree.

<http://www.winknews.com/Local-Florida/2010-09-28/Port-Charlotte-man-arrested-for-contaminating-wetlands>

### **USA, TX, JEFFERSON CO, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. BENZENE SUIT FILED AGAINST 15 CHEMICAL COMPANIES**

*david yates*

An area refinery worker has filed suit against Chevron USA and 14 other chemical companies, claiming they exposed him to benzene and caused a blood disorder. Henry Mires, along with his wife Patricia, filed their lawsuit Sept. 22 in Jefferson County District Court. Some of the defendants listed in the suit include Texaco, ExxonMobil, DuPont, Shell Oil and Motiva Enterprises. In his suit, Mires says that throughout his career he worked at the companies' Southeast Texas premises, where he was routinely exposed to benzene. "As a result of such exposure, Mires has developed the blood disorder Thrombocytopenia and Myelodysplastic Syndrome," the suit states. Myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) involves a group of disorders typified by peripheral cytopenia, dysplastic hematopoietic progenitors, a hypercellular bone marrow, and a high risk of conversion to acute myelocytic leukemia. Mires accuses the defendants of negligently manufacturing benzene products and placing them into the stream of commerce with no regard to human health, court papers say. He blames them for not warning him of the dangers. "The reckless and morally reprehensible conduct by these defendants calls for punitive damages in a sum sufficient to make them appreciate the gravity of their shortcomings and bad faith in dealing with their employees and neighbors," the suit states. Mires wife is also suing for loss of consortium and household services. Provost Umphrey attorney D'Juana Parks is representing them. The case has been assigned to Judge Bob Wortham, 58th District Court. Case No. A188-405

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/230013-benzene-suit-filed-against-15-chemical-companies>

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### USA, FLA, WINTER HAVEN, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. 3 CHARGED IN STOLEN FUEL INVESTIGATION TRANSPORTING TO WINTER HAVEN CHEVRON STATION

jeremy maready

**Watch the Video** <http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpp/news/local/polk/three-arrested-in-alleged-fuel-scam-09282010>



Polk County Sheriff deputy Mike Ison looks over the interior of a lawn service trailer that was caught selling stolen fuel to the Chevron station at 1200 6th Street SW in Winter Haven Monday morning. Monday, September 27, 2010.

Three men face charges of illegally transporting fuel after Polk County sheriff's detectives found them delivering nearly 400 gallons of suspected stolen diesel fuel to a Winter Haven gas station, according to investigative reports. The men, Ezkiel Johnson, 38, of Winter Haven, Perralyn Small, 60, and Myron Williford, 47, both of Auburndale, were charged with unlawful conveyance of fuel, a third-degree felony, according to the Sheriff's Office. They were being booked into the Polk County Jail on Monday night. Their bail was not immediately known. Winter Haven police received an anonymous tip about a suspicious red truck at the Chevron gas station at 1200 Third St. S.W. in Winter Haven. Police requested sheriff's detectives to

assist in the investigation. When detectives arrived at the station, they found a red truck a box trailer that contained two 250-gallon plastic bladders that held the fuel. The men had just finished unloading the fuel from the truck, reports said. It had not been determined Monday where the men got the fuel, but detectives suspect it was stolen, according to the Sheriff's Office. The store's manager, Bhavinkumar Soni, 37, told detectives he agreed to purchase the fuel for \$2 a gallon to resell at \$2.85 a gallon. Soni told detectives in a taped statement that he knew he was purchasing stolen fuel, according to sheriff's reports. He wasn't charged Monday. Officials said the case remains under investigation and more charges may be made.

<http://www.myfoxtampabay.com/dpp/news/local/polk/three-arrested-in-alleged-fuel-scam-09282010>

### CANADA, MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. SUNCOR STOPS SPREAD OF ST. LAWRENCE FUEL SPILL >> MONTREAL REFINERY LEAK DISCOVERED AFTER NEIGHBOURS REPORTED SMELL

**Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tk1b6dgTGQg>



Crews clean up Wednesday after a Petro-Canada refinery owned by Suncor Energy leaked oil and chemicals into the St. Lawrence River.

Crews wearing masks worked non-stop in Montreal on Wednesday to clean up diesel fuel that spilled into the St. Lawrence River from a Petro-Canada refinery belonging to Suncor Energy Inc. Suncor Energy said the source of the leak was found and that about 35 barrels of low-sulphur diesel made it into the river. There appears to have been a rupture on a pipe connecting the refinery to the dock. Suncor cut off the flow of diesel shortly after the leak was discovered, late Tuesday night. The company also said most of the product was contained inside floating

booms and the mixture of fuel and water was being recovered with the use of vacuum trucks. "Our emergency response team was activated immediately – assisted by the Montreal fire department – and containment booms were immediately deployed into the river," said Suncor spokesman Michael Southern. One estimate is that the slick covered about half a kilometre of shoreline.

#### Environmental Group Warns of Potential Disaster

One environmental group said the spill is a reminder of just how dangerous the refinery can be for the St. Lawrence River ecosystem. Cameron Fenton of Climate Justice Montreal said the Suncor plant could become an important component of Enbridge's proposed Trailbreaker pipeline, which would pump crude from Alberta's oil patch through Quebec. "Suncor wants to bring tar sands bitumen to this refinery," Fenton said in a statement released Wednesday. "I don't even want to imagine the potential disaster if the dirtiest oil on the planet reaches the St. Lawrence River." The seaway is the joint responsibility of the federal and provincial governments. Officials with Environment Quebec and Environment Canada are at the scene to ensure the cleanup operation follows guidelines. Firefighters arrived on the scene at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday after people living in the area reported a strong smell of fuel. The refinery is located at the corner of Marien Avenue and Notre-Dame Street East.

<http://www.cbc.ca/money/story/2010/09/29/montreal-oil-spill.html>

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### USA, TX, PASADENA, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. EXXON MOBIL PAYS FOR TOXIC WASTE ISSUES

Exxon Mobil agreed to pay \$150 million to dispose of hazardous materials at a fertilizer plant in Texas, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said. The EPA found Exxon Mobil stored more than 1 billion gallons of hazardous waste illegally at a fertilizer plant in Pasadena, Texas. The company in a settlement agreed to spend more than \$150 million to clean the site and monitor groundwater for the next 50 years. Agrifos Fertilizer bought the 509-acre facility from the Texas oil company in 1998. The site includes a processing facility to produce phosphoric acid from mineral ores. "Mining and mineral processing facilities generate more toxic and hazardous waste than any other industrial sector, based on EPA's toxic release inventory," the environmental regulator said in a statement. "If not properly managed, these facilities pose a high risk to human health and the environment." Exxon Mobil as the prior owner of the site retained responsibility for waste issues at the plant.

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/09/30/Exxon-Mobil-pays-for-toxic-waste-issues/UP1-85941285856161/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/09/30/Exxon-Mobil-pays-for-toxic-waste-issues/UP1-85941285856161/)

### UK, BRENTWOOD, SAEPTMBER 30 2010. CHEMICAL SPILL CAUSES CHAOS FOR A12 DRIVERS

*emily parsons*

A chemical spill caused major traffic problems for motorists. A tanker carrying 20,000 litres of the chemical linear alkyl benzene, which is an ingredient in detergents, was involved in a crash at the Brook Street roundabout, Brentwood, off the A12. The crash happened at about 10.50am yesterday as the lorry overturned on the slip road off the busy trunk route. The entire contents of the tanker flooded onto the road, with much of it pouring into a nearby stream. A man in his thirties, believed to be the driver of the vehicle, was treated by ambulance crews for minor injuries at the scene. Two fire crews from Brentwood, one from Harlow and the specialist foam appliance for Stansted were all sent to try to deal with the chemical spill. Divisional Officer Mark Samuels said: "The lorry was carrying 20,000 litres of the chemical and all of it was spilled. "Some was lost into a brook, but the Environment Agency is dealing with that. Linear alkyl benzene is flammable, but has a high flash-point. "We laid out two foam jet branches to be safe as the vehicle was righted, then put chemsorb grains on the road to soak up the last of the chemical. "The slip road on the roundabout was closed while this all happened." The incident was finally dealt with by 3.35pm and the slip road was reopened.

[http://www.basildonrecorder.co.uk/news/echo/8421422.Chemical\\_spill\\_causes\\_chaos\\_for\\_A12\\_drivers/](http://www.basildonrecorder.co.uk/news/echo/8421422.Chemical_spill_causes_chaos_for_A12_drivers/)

### UKRAINE, KALUSH, SEPTEMBER 30 2010. UKRAINE DRIVES TOXIC WASTES TO BRITAIN

*andrey volkov*



*There is still a great threat that the toxic wastewater could stream into nearby lakes as the chemical wastes in The Dombrovsky reservoir damages the dam that separates the toxic site from the aquifers.*

Ukraine early this week started transferring toxic waste, whose containers are starting to degrade, to England for treatment, before it leads to a large ecological catastrophe in Europe. The small town of Kalush is much like other ones in the Ivano Frankovsk region of the Western Ukraine, but in terms what is buried at its outskirts is a toxic time bomb created long ago by a former potassium-processing factory in the heart of Ukrainian chemical production. Although the factory has been closed for about 15 years, what is left on the plant's site is the Dombrovsky reservoir, which contains several hundred million cubic feet of toxic wastewater, and

a dump site where more than 11,000 tons of toxic sludge containing benzene hexachloride was buried. Ukrainian officials have recently given the area emergency status due to increasing concerns that spring flooding may have brought the tainted waste to nearby lakes, and eventually to the Dniester River that covers most of the Ukraine and parts of Moldavia. There is still a real threat that the toxic waste water could stream into nearby lakes which are the tributaries of the Dniester, as the chemical wastes in the reservoir are eating away the dam that separates the toxic site from the aquifers. The process of removing the benzene hexachloride started this week. It will be transported to Britain over the next 3 months, where it will be destroyed. Benzene hexachloride, which as been linked to cancer, is a persistent organic pollutant and highly dangerous material, and dissolves gradually over time. It has been documented by local authorities that people living in the area have higher rates of cancer, and other diseases. Thousands of water bags of the toxic material were buried into the nearby ground. The bags have long gone bad, and now the leaking toxin is penetrating into the earth. The last burial/disposal of the material took place in 2000. "Ecologists and medical doctors have already found it in the waste water and drainage systems," said Andrey Lubimov, the director of the state's "National Center for Hazardous Waste Management," New Tang Dynasty TV reported. "This says

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that water is washing away a part of this material [buried into the ground] so far and it goes to ground water aquifers," he added. Ukrainian authorities have allocated about \$40 million to help the waste be delivered to the United Kingdom. The window to deal with the leaking chemicals is limited. After mining in the region, there are a lot of empty spaces left—nkempt salt mines, and collapses take place from time to time. "If collapses reach this ground, it all falls down. So Europe just ... what happened in the United States when Gulf of Mexico was contaminated by oil, it will be a tale if compared to what may happen after benzene hexachloride's spread," Lubimov concluded.

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/43540/>

### USA, N.C, CARRBORO, OCTOBER 1 2010. CARRBORO OIL SPILL FROM UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP UNDERWAY

*jessica gaylor*

Although spilled oil from an underground fuel tank in Carrboro has been contained, the clean-up effort has just begun. Mark Powers, the underground storage tank supervisor for the Raleigh branch of the state's environment and natural resources department, said he has been communicating with the owner of a 275-gallon subterranean fuel tank that began leaking on Tuesday. "The property owner has hired an environmental consultant who is fixing up the booms," Powers said. "A geologist will be out there (today) to check the infected soil." "They got a vacuum truck to get most of the spill, and only the residual stuff is left now." The Carrboro Fire-Rescue Department responded to a call placed at 8:05 a.m. Tuesday when a nearby resident smelled a chemical odor. An underground fuel oil tank on the corner of Milton Drive and North Greensboro Street overflowed and had leaked into the surrounding area and a run-off ditch from Bolin Creek. Fire Marshal Robert Maddry, who was on the scene until 12:30 p.m., said the tank's fill neck was broken just above ground level, allowing rain water to build up at the bottom of the tank until the oil was pushed out. "We identified the source of the spill around 10:30 (a.m.), but there was no additional leakage occurring," Maddry said. He said he and the emergency response team put down booms, which are absorbent materials in round permeable sleeves. They float on top of water and soak up petroleum products. "And that's all we did," said Maddry. "We weren't able to remediate the tank. That's the responsibility of the owner." Maddry said the name of the oil tank's owner could not be released. He said the North Carolina Division of Water Quality will be involved with the owner in the process of cleaning up the remaining oil. While oil spills are not a common occurrence in Carrboro, there are state regulations on how oil tanks and their spills must be removed. Powers said crews must dig out contaminated soil and remove the leaking fuel tank. He said there are multiple fuel tanks on the owner's property, and those will probably have to be removed as well. "The surface is easiest to take care of, but depending on how far soil is soaked, it could take a while," Powers said. "The river is going to be okay. "Parking lots and streets are the bigger issue. But the vacuum truck will get the worst of it." Rob Crook, vice-chairman of Friends of Bolin Creek, said he believes the creek is not in danger from the spill. He said he is more concerned that the groundwater could be in danger of contamination. "As long as the oil doesn't have surface flow going to the creek, then it should be okay," Crook said.

[http://www.dailytarheel.com/index.php/article/2010/10/carrboro\\_oil\\_spill\\_from\\_underground\\_storage\\_tank\\_cleanup\\_underway](http://www.dailytarheel.com/index.php/article/2010/10/carrboro_oil_spill_from_underground_storage_tank_cleanup_underway)

### USA, PA, SUSQUEHANNA CO, DIMOCK, OCTOBER 1 2010. JUSTICE FINALLY ON THE HORIZON FOR DIMOCK VICTIMS

*kate sinding*



Residents of [Dimock, PA](#) who have been suffering the effects of gas drilling gone wrong may finally be getting some much-needed relief. Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary John Hanger announced yesterday that DEP was requiring the offending company, Cabot Oil and Gas, to pay \$11.8 million to connect affected residents with a new municipal water pipeline. Dozens of homeowners have been relying on weekly deliveries of water from Cabot since its bad drilling practices contaminated the underground aquifer that feeds their water wells. In making the announcement, Hanger stated: "We have had people here in Pennsylvania ... without safe drinking water for close to two years. That is totally,

totally unacceptable. It is reprehensible." This is welcome news, and demonstrates the seriousness with which the state regulators are now taking Cabot's misdeeds. (Earlier this year, DEP hit [Cabot](#) with a series of fines and consent decrees, though it misguidedly subsequently [lifted a ban](#) on Cabot's drilling operations in the state.) It also establishes an important precedent: when gas companies cut corners and ruin people's lives, they will pay the price. Because the oil and gas industry in this country enjoys more exemptions from environmental and other laws than any other industry in the world, this is an

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important first step to requiring companies to internalize the full costs of their operations, putting them somewhat closer to equal footing with other industries that are not exempt (including renewable energy). This is surely not the end of the story as Cabot's [comments](#) suggest it will fight back against DEP's directive. And residents still have a bevy of other gripes against the company - including strong-arm and dishonest leasing practices, loss of property value, and health impact claims - that will remain to be resolved through their pending [lawsuit](#) against the company. Nonetheless, this is a very encouraging development, and kudos are due to the brave residents of Dimock who have stood up to Cabot, as well as the untiring team of lawyers and investigators who are helping them vindicate their rights. In discouraging news, though, Cabot employees making water deliveries to Dimock residents have been accompanied of late by [armed guards](#), who come onto their property and fail to identify themselves. This is just the latest form of intimidation against innocent, peaceful people in what is becoming an extremely ugly trend - that includes government [monitoring](#) of non-violent activists - that must be made to end. [http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ksinding/justice\\_finally\\_on\\_the\\_horizon.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ksinding/justice_finally_on_the_horizon.html)

### USA, V.I, KINGSHILL, OCTOBER 1 2010. PROBLEM AT HOVENSA REFINERY TRIGGERS OIL BURNOFF

*charlotte amalie*

The Hovensa oil refinery in the U.S. Virgin Islands says a problem at one its processing units triggered a burnoff of heavy oil that sent up a plume of black smoke. Refinery spokesman Alex Moorehead says the oil was diverted to a safety mechanism known as a ground flare Thursday morning while the unspecified problem was corrected. He says there are no injuries. The U.S. Caribbean territory's natural resources department urges islanders near the refinery on St. Croix to protect water cisterns from possible falling soot. It says the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is sending a team from Puerto Rico to monitor air quality. Hovensa LLC is a joint venture of the Hess Corp. and Petroleos de Venezuela SA.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9IICUQG0.htm>

### USA, CA, CHULA VISTA, OCTOBER 1 2010. TANKER CRASH, FUEL SPILL SNARLS I-805 TRAFFIC >> AUTHORITIES CLOSE LANES, DIVERT TRAFFIC ON NORTHBOUND I-805 AT E STREET DUE TO CLEANUP

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.10news.com/news/25227543/detail.html>



The northbound lanes of the 805 freeway were closed for nearly four hours Thursday after a tanker truck jackknifed and plowed into a guardrail in the rain, spilling diesel fuel onto the roadway. The crash happened around 10:45 a.m. near the E Street exit in Chula Vista, according to the California Highway Patrol. It was first believed that volatile jet fuel spread across the lanes, causing emergency responders to act with extreme caution. All northbound lanes were closed and traffic diverted onto surface streets at Telegraph Canyon Road. However, it turned out that about 30 gallons of diesel fuel from the truck's own tanks spilled, CHP Officer Art Athans said. The truck, registered to Agri Comm Express, had dropped off 7,800 gallons of jet fuel at Brown Field and was returning to the Los Angeles area when the crash happened, Athans said. Authorities first thought the spill was the residual 40-50 gallons of jet fuel that remained aboard the truck, he said. Athans said Issa

Zeidan, 49, of Menifee in Riverside County, was taken to a hospital for treatment of cuts and bruises. Zeidan was not cited, though the cause of the crash remained under investigation, the officer said. The freeway lanes re-opened around 2:30 p.m.

<http://www.10news.com/news/25227543/detail.html>

### USA, N.J, WEST DEPTFORD, OCTOBER 1 2010. CLEANUP CREWS TACKLE GAS TRUCK LEAK IN WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP

A truck carrying 2,500 gallons of gasoline began leaking onto the interstate near Exit 22 Wednesday at approximately 1:30 p.m. Authorities say they quickly responded and contained the spill, minimizing what could have potentially been a disastrous leakage. "A fuel tanker lost a small amount of gas," said Trooper W. Ganzel of the New Jersey State Police. It was quickly contained and cleaned up. We used a crew specifically for cleaning up hazardous materials. Everything's fine now." The cause of leak is unknown, though authorities said it appeared the leak originated from a coupling problem just above the rear axle. "It's unknown at this time how the leak actually occurred," said Chief Jeff Bilger of the Verga Fire Company in West Deptford. "It wasn't much, and certainly not all 2,500 gallons. It was a 2,500-gallon compartment which was full at the time the leak started, and we had foam on standby, but the leak was stopped pretty quickly." Bilger said the incident didn't last very long and was an easily containable situation. "We covered (the spill) with sand and oil to keep it dry, keep the fumes down," he said. "It

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was vapor suppressed in that manner and then we were done. The State Police and county hazmat guys were handling the cleanup following the repairs."

<http://www.nj.com/gloucester/index.ssf?/base/news-16/1285833311209810.xml&coll=8>

### CANADA, ONT, ADJALA-TOSORONTIO, OCTOBER 1 2010. FUEL TANKER CRASHES INTO DITCH

A tractor trailer hauling a tank of fuel crashed into a ditch and flipped onto its side early Wednesday morning (Sept. 29). Sometime before 6 a.m., police report the vehicle was travelling on County Road 50 between 20th and 25th Sideroad when for unknown reasons it left the road and ended up in the eastern ditch. Police said the driver wasn't injured. A pump truck was brought on scene to safely unload the fuel from the trailer. Police aren't reporting if any fuel leaked out as a result of the crash. The cause of the accident has yet to be determined. County Road 50 remained closed until noon.

<http://www.simcoe.com/news/article/880823--fuel-tanker-crashes-into-ditch>

### SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, OCTOBER 1 2010. N3 SWIMMING IN DIESEL

*jp du plessis*

More than 250 litres of diesel spilt across the N3 in Johannesburg when a truck carrying an abnormal load slammed into a fuel tanker and several cars. Five injured motorists were rushed to hospital after the driver of the truck lost control and crashed into the six vehicles. The truck rolled on the N3 South near the Gillyool's Interchange and landed on the highway's middle island shortly after 1pm on Thursday, blocking off six lanes of traffic. Roadworkers had to work quickly to clean the spillage before the lanes could be re-opened. The Ekurhuleni Metro Police's Kobedi Mokgoseng said they managed to clear it by 3pm.

<http://news.iafrica.com/sa/677117.html>

### USA, KS, COFFEVILLE, OCTOBER 1 2010. RESIDENTS STILL ANGRY EVEN THOUGH THEY NOW KNOW WHAT CAUSED EXPLOSION THAT ROCKED COFFEYVILLE



More details about an explosion at a southeast Kansas fertilizer plant. Residents are telling us what they saw and what is left behind. "I heard a loud explosion, looked out the window, seen a big ol' cloud of yellow stuff flying up in the air," says Dana Calonder. Many like Dana immediately left the area in fear of their safety. Others came home to find out what happened. "After standing out here for a while you could feel it was just on your skin, it was just dirty, and then breathing it in - uh oh," says Christinia Calonder. The city says while it was not called to help Thursday, it is prepared to help and has responders who are trained to deal with hazmat disasters. The plant says the explosion came from a rupture in a high-pressure container during the liquid fertilizer process. Residents may now know the cause but they say they won't forget. "The scent stayed in the air most of the night - it was horrible," Christinia says. "Shortly after the blast the stuff was falling out of the sky. It was white. It started out as the small white specks -they're still inside of my window

in the creases. But when the heat hit my car, either that or it's the reaction it has on metal, it melted. It's like a film, where it is, it's crystallizing." Some residents say they are worried about the health of their children and plan have them seen by physicians. Others say they want to move out of the neighborhood or out of Coffeyville all together. Those living in the area who had the film from the explosion on their vehicles say they plan to send pictures to the plant.

<http://www.koamtv.com/story/13249082/coffeyville-boom>

### USA, WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 1 2010. BP PRODUCTS AGREES TO PAY LARGEST SINGLE-FACILITY CLEAN AIR ACT PENALTY FOR RELEASES OF HAZARDOUS POLLUTANTS AT TEXAS CITY REFINERY >> \$15 MILLION PENALTY RESOLVES FEDERAL CIVIL CLAIMS STEMMING FROM TWO FIRES, LEAK, AND REPORTING VIOLATIONS AT REFINERY.

*stacy kika*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Justice Department announced today that BP Products North America Inc. has agreed to pay a \$15 million penalty to resolve federal Clean Air Act violations at its Texas City, Texas petroleum refinery. The penalty is both the largest ever assessed for civil violations of the Clean Air Act's chemical accident prevention regulations, also known as the risk management program regulations, and the largest civil penalty recovered for Clean Air Act violations at an individual facility. "BP's actions at the Texas City refinery have had terrible consequences for the

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people who work there and for those in nearby communities,” said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Today’s settlement, in conjunction with other actions already taken by EPA and other federal agencies at Texas City, demonstrates the agency’s continuing commitment to actively and vigorously working to hold BP accountable and to make them comply with our nation’s environmental protection laws wherever the company operates.” “The Clean Air Act is intended to prevent not only accidents like the fatal March 2005 accident, it also penalizes accidents like these three that result from poor practices and cause air pollution,” said Ignacia S. Moreno, Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division. “This settlement emphasizes the serious nature of the fires and releases of hazardous air pollutants that occurred at BP’s Texas City Refinery and puts industry on notice that the Department of Justice and the EPA will aggressively pursue those who fail to comply with the laws that protect our environment.” The settlement, which is subject to court approval, addresses violations stemming from two fires that occurred at the refinery on March 30, 2004 and July 28, 2005, and a leak that occurred on August 10, 2005. During the three incidents, each of which resulted in the surrounding Texas City community to shelter-in-place, thousands of pounds of flammable and toxic air pollutants were released. The settlement also resolves allegations that BP failed to identify all regulated hazardous air pollutants used at the refinery in plans submitted to EPA. EPA identified the Clean Air Act violations addressed in today’s settlement during a series of inspections of the Texas City refinery initiated after a catastrophic explosion and fire on March 23, 2005 that killed 15 people and injured more than 170 others. In addition to the Clean Air Act General Duty Clause and risk management program violations resolved by today’s settlement, EPA also identified violations of other Clean Air Act requirements at the refinery relating to the control of benzene, ozone-depleting substances, and asbestos. Exposure to benzene can significantly harm human health and exposure to asbestos, a known human carcinogen, can cause two types of cancer: lung cancer and mesothelioma. These other violations were resolved in a February 2009 settlement that required BP to spend more than \$161 million on pollution controls, enhanced maintenance and monitoring, and improved internal management practices at the refinery, as well as pay a \$12 million civil penalty and perform a \$6 million on a supplemental project to reduce air pollution in Texas City and the surrounding area. With today’s settlement, the federal government will have recovered approximately \$137 million in criminal, civil, and administrative fines related to process safety violations at the Texas City refinery. In addition, BP Products has performed approximately \$1.4 billion in corrective actions and the company will spend an estimated additional \$500 million, to improve safety at the refinery as required by settlements entered into with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the criminal Clean Air Act plea agreement following the fatal March 23, 2005 explosion. The Clean Air Act General Duty Clause and risk management program regulations contain a comprehensive set of requirements to prevent accidental releases of hazardous air pollutants, an important objective of the Clean Air Act. These regulations require owners and operators of facilities, such as petroleum refineries, to, among other things, perform adequate and timely equipment inspections and repairs, train employees involved in the operation and maintenance of equipment, evaluate the consequences of changes to operating practices and equipment, and ensure that operating procedures contain clear and comprehensive instructions. BP’s Texas City refinery is the third largest in the United States, with a production capacity of more than 460,000 barrels of oil per day. The proposed settlement was lodged today in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas. The settlement is subject to a 30-day public comment period and final court approval.

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/rcra/bptexas.html>

### USA, AZ, PHOENIX, OCTOBER 1 2010. HUNDREDS OF GAS PUMP METERS NOT INSPECTED IN YEARS

joe ducey

 **Watch the Video:**

[http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/investigations/hundreds-of-gas-pump-meters-not-inspected-in-years](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/local_news/investigations/hundreds-of-gas-pump-meters-not-inspected-in-years)

The Arizona Department of Weights and Measures is supposed to inspect gas pumps to make sure they are accurate. But, the ABC15 Investigators looked through thousands of records and found a lack of inspections that could end up costing you money. Kevin Tyne is the Interim Director of the Arizona Department of Weights and Measures. Last year, Tyne said his department inspected a third of all gas dispensing facilities in the state for calibration and found the meters were 94 percent accurate. “The reality is we don’t have an issue or a problem,” Tyne said. Despite that, the ABC15 Investigators found hundreds of gas facilities where meters have not been inspected in years. The department’s records show 299 gas facilities – 14 percent of all facilities in the state – haven’t had meters inspected since 2007 – some even longer. According to the department’s data, 71 locations have had no meter inspection in four years, 41 have had no meter inspection in five years. And, 25 locations have not had meters checked in six years. We also found 21 facilities have not had meters checked for accuracy since 2003. That is seven years with no state inspection to guarantee you’re getting the gas you paid for. One of the

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facilities that has not been inspected for calibration since 2003 is a Superpumper gas station located at 15550 N. Thompson Peak Parkway in Scottsdale. Superpumper told the ABC15 Investigators: "We have no control over how often the state comes out to inspect. We have our own in-house, state certified employee that checks to make sure our pumps are accurate." Weights and Measures does surprise inspections and responds to consumer complaints. "Certainly we're still checking. We did 23,000 gas pumps last year. So, it's not that we're not checking," Tyne said. The ABC15 Investigators uncovered 11 gas facilities where the last inspection was sparked by a valid consumer complaint related to being overcharged. But, according to the state's records, Weights and Measures has not been back to inspect those meters in three, four, five – even six years. Weights and Measures is not required to inspect gas station meters on any regular schedule. "Arizona does not have a statute to annually check gas pumps," Tyne said. Nearby states operate differently. Utah and Colorado officials told the ABC15 Investigators, they inspect every gas meter once every 18-24 months. California, New Mexico and Nevada regulators said they inspect each gas meter every year. While some of these states have laws mandating inspections on a regular schedule, some officials indicated they do it because it's good consumer protection. "We're doing so much more," Tyne said. "Our inspectors are in our gas stations far more than the other states surrounding us, far more. Tyne said all the inspectors responsible for fuel inspections also cover everything from taxi meters to moving companies and scales at grocery stores. This means customers at stations like the Chevron gas station located at 1956 East Southern Avenue in Mesa have to hope they are getting what they pay for. According to the state's inspection records, the meters there have not been inspected in four years. The owner of that Chevron gas station, otherwise known as Southern Express LLC, told the ABC15 Investigators they can't control how often the state inspects gas pumps for calibration. They said they self-police their own pumps to make sure they are accurate. "We look at it in a business mold, which is where can we best serve our consumers," Tyne said. So, what about the 299 gas facilities that haven't been inspected in awhile? "The reality is it's not an issue," Tyne said. "They're likely accurate. We will hopefully get to those." [Click here](#) to read the entire letter Kevin Tyne sent ABC15. Keep in mind, just because a facility has not been inspected, that does not mean its gas pumps are inaccurate. And, an inaccurate meter doesn't always mean you're losing out on money; sometimes you may be getting more gas than you paid for.

- [Click here](#) if you would to look up a gas station to see its inspection history.
- [Click here](#) if you would like to file a complaint about a gas station.
- [Click here](#) to see the list of gas facilities that, according to the state's records, have not been inspected for gas pump calibration since 2007 – or longer. Remember, just because a facility has not been inspected does not mean its gas pumps are inaccurate.

[http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/investigations/hundreds-of-gas-pump-meters-not-inspected-in-years](http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/local_news/investigations/hundreds-of-gas-pump-meters-not-inspected-in-years)

### USA, ILL, HICKORY HILLS, OCTOBER 1 2010. TANKER TIPS IN HICKORY

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.southtownstar.com/news/2763396.TankerSpill-STIS-1001.article>



A tanker truck carrying approximately 3,600 gallons of sodium hydroxide tipped over this morning in Hickory Hills, west of Harlem Avenue. Police said the driver of a westbound tanker truck, owned by Federal Truck Lines, attempted a left-hand turn from 95th Street onto 76th Court around 6:30 a.m. The driver told police he was cut off by another vehicle. The weight of the liquid contents of the tank shifted and the tanker rolled onto its right side, on 76th Court parallel to the roadway. The driver of the tanker was not injured, police said. The tipped tanker snapped a power pole and while no lines or wires were cut, power to the surrounding businesses was shut off as authorities worked methodically to restore normality to the area. While traffic on 95th Street between 78th Avenue and Harlem Avenue was diverted, haz mat workers and emergency responders from several Mutual

Aid Box Alarm System Division 21 stations worked to secure the area and assist in the cleanup. Police from Hickory Hills and emergency crews from North Palos, Roberts Park, Bedford Park, and Evergreen Park responded to the accident. "A small amount of sodium hydroxide spilled from the dome of the tanker and from the vent when it overturned," North Palos Fire District Chief Daniel Russell said. For that reason, a sand-like absorbant was applied to the pavement beneath the truck, Russell added. Around 11:15 a.m., responders began the process of off-loading the chemical from the prone tanker by pumping it into another tanker. Off-loading the chemical was expected to take about three hours, according to Russell. ComEd crews were on hand, standing by to cut power lines and pull the power pole away from the truck while a wrecker righted the truck. Daniels said he hoped 95th Street would be re-opened before rush hour. The driver of the tanker was not issued a

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citation, Hickory Hills police officer Terry Murphy said. A full police report of the incident would probably be available Monday or Tuesday, he added.

[http://www.thereporteronline.net/atf.php?sid=22095&current\\_edition=2010-09-30](http://www.thereporteronline.net/atf.php?sid=22095&current_edition=2010-09-30)

### USA, ID, LEWISTON, OCTOBER 1 2010. TANKER CRASHES AND SPILLS FUEL ALONG US HIGHWAY 12

An estimated 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel from a crashed tanker has spilled into a ditch on the side of U.S. Highway 12 but has not yet seeped into the nearby Lochsa River, authorities said Thursday. On Wednesday, the driver of the tanker failed to steer through a curve and crashed into a hillside with rocks rupturing the fuel tank, according to Idaho State Police Investigators. The fuel has pooled in caverns underneath the two-lane highway, and authorities said cleanup crews have placed booms in the river to protect fish and the waterway. "There is definitely quite a bit of diesel in the ground that is seeping down, but they have said nothing is in the water yet," Fish and Game spokesman Mike Demick said. The Idaho State Police cited the driver, Brent A. Weber, of Missoula, for inattentive driving. He was driving a truck owned by Keller Transport Inc., of Billings. The highway cuts across northern Idaho from Lewiston to Lolo Pass and into Montana. It's a curvy, winding roadway that for much of the way traces the Lochsa River, a federally-designated Wild and Scenic river and blue ribbon cutthroat trout fishery that is also pristine habitat for protected bull trout, wild steelhead and chinook salmon. The tanker crash and fuel spill is not the first to occur along the highway. But it comes at a time of heightened concern about trucking and protecting the environment along the river corridor. On Friday, the Idaho Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in an appeal by ConocoPhillips of a judge's decision to block four shipments of massive oil refinery equipment along the highway. The oil company wants to haul the equipment from the port in Lewiston to its refinery in Billings. Later this year, ExxonMobil Canada wants to begin hauling the first of more than 200 oversized loads of refinery machinery along the highway and into Montana to the Kearl Oil Sands in Alberta, Canada. Those loads will take a year and force temporary closures of U.S. 12 five nights a week. But residents and environmentalists see the shipments as a threat to public safety and convenience, as well as a potential risk to the river and surrounding environment.

<http://www.greatfalls Tribune.com/article/20100930/NEWS01/100930014/1002/Tanker+crashes+and+spills+fuel+along+US+Hwy+12>

### USA, N.Y, SARANAC LAKE, OCTOBER 1 2010. FINE AND UPGRADES FOR UST VIOLATIONS

The owner of four gas stations around Saranac Lake, N.Y., will spend \$60,000 to improve how its gas stations detect leaks from their underground storage tank (UST) systems, and will assist another gas station and a hotel to do the same as the result of an agreement with EPA. The owner will also pay a \$16,000 fine under the agreement, which addresses the company's failure to properly test the leak detection equipment of UST systems for leaks at five gas stations in Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake, and Indian Lake, and a hotel in Lake Clear. The leak detection system upgrade is considered a supplemental environmental project (SEP) under the agreement. An SEP is an environmentally beneficial project that a violator agrees to undertake in settlement; it must be a project that a violator will not otherwise be required to perform. In this case, the company is replacing conventional leak detection devices with more technologically advanced electronic leak detection devices at the company's four area gas stations as well as another gasoline station owned by another company and a hotel in Lake Clear, Charlie's Wilderness Inn, which the company used to own. The leak detection violations were uncovered during routine EPA inspections.

<http://enviro.blr.com/environmental-news/EHS-management/EPA-and-state-environmental-compliance-enforcement/Fine-and-Upgrades-for-UST-Violations/>

### USA, OH, COLUMBUS, OCTOBER 2 2010. OSHA FINES HEARTLAND REFINERY FOR EXPOSING WORKERS TO FIRE HAZARDS

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Heartland Refinery in Columbus, Ohio, with one alleged serious safety violation for failing to control the release of flammable liquids and vapors resulting in a July 17, 2010, fire at the facility. The refinery also has been cited with two repeat violations for problems that existed in March 2010 and were found in July 2010 not to have been corrected, as well as one failure-to-abate violation first brought to the company's attention by OSHA in 2009. Proposed penalties total \$68,900. "Failing to follow proper procedures to prevent the unintentional release of flammable vapors and liquids in an area where a known ignition source exists creates a serious safety risk to workers, and as this case shows, a high risk of fire in the workplace," said OSHA area director Deborah Zubaty in Columbus. "There is no excuse for this type of complacency, and OSHA will do all it can to protect employees in the workplace." The fire occurred when a flange or fitting in the process area failed to contain flammable liquids, which then leaked

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to an ignition source. The serious violation carries a penalty of \$4,900. An OSHA violation is serious if death or serious physical harm can result from a hazard an employer knew or should have known exists. Heartland Refinery also has been issued two repeat safety violations for failing to identify piping containing flammable or combustible liquids, and to develop and document hazardous energy control procedures for refinery processes. A repeat violation is issued when an employer previously was cited for the same or similar violation of any standard, regulation, rule or order at any other facility in federal enforcement states within the last five years. Those penalties carry fines of \$14,000. The company, which re-refines motor oil through a hydrogenation process resulting in reusable clean base oil, also has been cited for failing to abate a 2009 violation, which required the development of an arc flash analysis program for workers exposed to energized electrical equipment exceeding 480 volts. The penalty accompanying this failure-to-abate violation is \$50,000. The company has 15 business days from receipt of its current citations and 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

<http://www.reliableplant.com/Read/26826/Heartland-Refinery-fire-hazards>

### USA, AKA, NORTH POLE, OCTOBER 2 2010. PROPOSED SOLUTION TO WATER CONTAMINATION COULD SPUR LEGAL ACTION

*dan bross*



**Click-2-Listen** [Download Audio](#) (MP3)

A proposed solution to well water contamination in North Pole could spur legal action against Flint Hills Refinery. A lawyer representing a North Pole resident suing Flint Hills for sulfolane contamination, says the company's offer of water treatment systems is not an adequate fix. Attorney Jason Weiner also says accepting one could mean giving up a sizeable legal claims. Weiner says the number reflects health and property value impacts. Sulfolane contamination has affected about 150 North Pole properties, and some property owners have accepted deals with the company including free hookups to city water. A judge recently turned down a request for a class action suit against Flint Hills. Weiner says the judge felt resident's potential claims would vary too much. Weiner says the judge also wanted to see additional plaintiffs come forward. So far only his client has filed suit, but he expects more to do so now that Flint Hills has presented the treatment systems, or installation of bulk water tanks, as its final solutions. Flint Hills spokesman Jeff Cook says a water treatment is the best fix. Cook says testing will continue before the water treatment systems are offered to residents. He says Flint Hills will cover all installation and maintenance. Cook could not comment on what legal releases residents might have to agree to. The refinery began providing bottled water to effected residents after sulfolane was discovered in local wells about a year ago. Sulfolane is a solvent used in the refining process. Historic spills that occurred prior to Flint Hills buying the facility from Williams are blamed for pollution that's migrated through ground water. Flint Hills is installing 2 new wells to feed the city of North Pole municipal water system, as a precautionary measure.

<http://aprn.org/2010/10/01/proposed-solution-to-water-contamination-could-spur-legal-action/>

### USA, KS, KANSAS CITY, OCTOBER 2 2010. MARATHON OIL COMPANY AGREES TO PROPOSE AND IMPLEMENT REMEDY FOR GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION AT SIDNEY, NEB.

*chris whitley*

Marathon Oil Company, of Houston, Texas, has reached an agreement with EPA Region 7 to conduct a cleanup study and implement a remedy for groundwater contamination at its former West Sidney Gas Plant in Sidney, Neb. Under an administrative order on consent, filed in Kansas City, Kan., Marathon will first conduct a study of alternative remedies for the groundwater contamination, and then recommend one or more preferred remedies for addressing the contamination. EPA would then review the proposed remedy or remedies, and if the Agency approves, Marathon would proceed to develop a plan to implement the work. Marathon will fund all costs associated with the study, the proposed remedy and the subsequent environmental remediation work, according to the order, which was issued under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Marathon owns the property at 2829 Road 111, southwest of Sidney, where beginning in 1954 it operated the West Sidney Gas Plant, a facility that processed natural gas. The plant produced a variety of waste streams, including used absorption oil, wet glycol, produced water and an unidentified hydrocarbon liquid. Those waste streams were recovered or recycled at the facility, or were disposed into an onsite injection well, or from approximately 1964 to 1982, were disposed into three unlined surface impoundments at the site. In 2003, EPA ordered Marathon to perform groundwater sampling, analysis and monitoring to determine the nature and extent of hazardous releases from the site. Sampling and monitoring have shown groundwater at the site to be contaminated with benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene, xylene and other light non-aqueous phase liquids (LNAPLs), which are organic substances that are relatively insoluble in water. Since

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2003, the dissolved phase contamination of benzene, ethylbenzene and xylene has steadily decreased to below drinking water standards, although LNAPLs are still present. Groundwater contamination from the former West Sidney Gas Plant has been identified in the Brule formation, an aquifer that serves as a source of irrigation water, livestock water and potable drinking water for farmers, ranchers and other rural users in the Lodgepole Creek drainage basin west of Sidney. The Brule formation also provides a portion of the municipal water supply for the City of Sidney, although municipal wells are not affected by the contamination.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8a3db17358acbf67852577ad005d0c03?OpenDocument>

### **USA, KY, WHITESBURG, OCTOBER 2 2010. CHILDERS OIL TO PAY \$500,000 IN SETTLEMENT FOR LETCHER SPILL >> LETCHER MISHAP AFFECTED 7,500**

*dori hjalmarson*

Childers Oil will pay \$500,000 to settle a state lawsuit over an October 2008 diesel fuel spill that contaminated the North Fork of the Kentucky River in Letcher County. The spill, followed four months later by a similar spill from a second Childers Oil site, damaged the Whitesburg water plant, shutting off service for days to 7,500 customers, including clinics, schools and a hospital. No injuries were reported, but dozens of people, businesses and the city sued the company for damages after dealing with oily water coming out of taps for days at a time. Whitesburg Mayor James Craft said Friday that he was surprised and pleased to hear the city would recover some of the costs it incurred after the 2008 spill and a second caused by old leaking storage tanks owned by Childers Oil in February 2009. "Did it make us whole? No," he said. "Settlements are always some give, always some take." The first spill, caused by the company's unpermitted disposal of diesel fuel waste into the North Fork floodplain about a mile upstream from the city's water treatment plant intake point, damaged the plant's carbon filtering system, Craft said. The city paid around \$125,000 to replace and upgrade it, Craft said. The city also sued Childers Oil over about \$50,000 in water testing laboratory bills; that suit was settled confidentially a few months ago, he said. Craft said he thought the crisis was eye-opening for the oil company and said he wanted to credit Childers for responding with charitable help, such as bottled water that was distributed to residents. An official at Childers Oil said Friday that no one would comment on the settlement. Last year, Childers Oil vice president Missy Childers, daughter of Whitesburg entrepreneur and company owner Don Childers, acknowledged in an interview that the company had taken a public relations hit. She said the company would never intentionally hurt its neighbors. "We are more conscious of things now, more aware of things now," she said in March 2009. Under a consent judgment signed by Franklin Circuit Judge Phillip Shepherd on Sept. 23, Childers Oil and its sister, Mountain Rail Properties, which owns dozens of Double Kwik gas stations across southeast Kentucky, agreed to pay \$240,000 to local governments for water plant rehabilitation and sewer line extensions; \$10,000 to River Sweep, an annual volunteer river cleanup project organized by the state; \$159,854.23 to the state Energy and Environment Cabinet for restitution of laboratory costs and overtime for testing Whitesburg's drinking water that was fouled in the spill; and \$90,145 in penalties to the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Fund, another state program. State officials said last year that a criminal investigation was pending, causing a delay in settling the 2008 citations. The status of that criminal investigation couldn't be determined Friday. It isn't being conducted by the state Division of Water, spokeswoman Allison Fleck said, and the state attorney general's office as policy does not confirm or deny ongoing investigations. Three other lawsuits were filed by individuals and businesses whose water was shut off for days or weeks after the two spills. Two of those suits have been consolidated in Letcher Circuit Court and are pending. Another, filed by a kidney dialysis clinic, is pending in federal court.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2010/10/02/1460212/childers-oil-to-pay-500000-in.html>

### **INDIA, LAHORE, OCTOBER 4 2010. TWO KILLED, SIX INJURED IN BLAST AT FIREWORKS FACTORY IN HARBANSPURA**

people died and six others were injured in blast at a fireworks factory in Harbanspura on Saturday. Police said that Iqbal had got a house on rent in Wara Sattar Harbanspura where he established a fireworks factory. On the day of the incident, a huge explosion took place in the factory, as a result of which Iqbal and another man Tanveer died while six others sustained serious burns. Roof of the building also collapsed due to the explosion. The blast created panic among the locals who came out of their houses. Locals and rescuers rushed to the scene and started rescue efforts. The injured were pulled out of the debris and rushed to the hospital. Fire fighters also reached the scene to extinguish fire after the explosion. Police said that Iqbal got the house almost three months back.

[http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C10%5C03%5Cstory\\_3-10-2010\\_pg13\\_5](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2010%5C10%5C03%5Cstory_3-10-2010_pg13_5)

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