

# Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

## Release 2010 – 645 Newsy Stuff

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

**October 3 2010**

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### USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. SAN BRUNO BLAST: MICROBIAL CULPRIT CONSIDERED

Jaxon Van Derbeken

 **Photo's** <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/object/article?f=/c/a/2010/09/24/MN961FG3BE.DTL&o=>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2010/09/24/MN961FG3BE.DTL>



*Federal investigators examine a 40-foot section of pipeline on Glenview Drive in San Bruno on Saturday.*

One August morning a decade ago, a dozen family members were camping near a bridge across the Pecos River when a natural gas pipeline ruptured, sending a fireball into the New Mexico desert. All 12 people, including three young children, were killed. The culprit turned out to be microbes that thrived, undetected, in a pool of stagnant water inside the pipe. The colony of bacteria released gases that eventually broke down the wall of the 5-decade-old, 30-inch gas transmission line, a phenomenon called microbiologically influenced corrosion. A decade later, the phenomenon is being looked at as a possible cause of the Sept. 9 disaster in San Bruno, in which a 5-decade-old, 30-inch gas transmission line ruptured, killing seven people and destroying 37 homes. The pipeline's owner, Pacific Gas and Electric Co., said in a filing with state regulators last year that there was "ongoing concern"

about the potential for internal corrosion on the 46-mile line running from San Francisco to Milpitas, which included the portion that eventually ruptured. This week, the utility acknowledged to The Chronicle that a "small amount" of water - the key ingredient for microbiologically influenced corrosion - had shown up in tests of the line and as many as four others that led to a terminal in Milpitas. However, PG&E officials said that despite the 2009 filing with the state, the utility's main concern had not been internal corrosion but the presence of another liquid in the lines - compressor oil - that was clogging filters and even getting into customers' lines. The utility blamed the oil for at least four incidents of spikes in pressurization on the lines near Milpitas, a problem that can also contribute to pipe failure. PG&E says it installed separators at the Milpitas terminal in November, and that the liquid has not reappeared in the pipeline's filters.

#### Found Anywhere

Pipe-corrosion experts, however, warn that once present, destructive microbes can lie dormant for years before springing to life and going to work on the metal. All it takes is a pool of water at the bottom of a pipe. Any pipe as old as the stretch running through San Bruno, which was installed in 1956, would be likely to have corrosion-causing microbes hiding inside it, said Laura Kentala, an environmental microbiologist who has studied the phenomenon. "There is a really high chance," Kentala said. "It is anywhere and everywhere." She added, "These guys are really, really tough organisms. They live in the soil. They can survive for years without a food source and they are perfectly fine." In standing water, the bacteria form a slime or biofilm, with an outer layer providing both protection and nutrients and an inner layer that releases gases that attack the pipe wall, Kentala said. Even a single contact with soil is enough to allow bacteria to thrive, she said. When older pipelines such as the one in San Bruno were constructed, she said, installation methods and intricate, bending pipeline design did not take biological corrosion into account. The key to fighting such corrosion is for pipeline operators to check for it regularly and control it with chemical agents or robots that scrape the microbes away from pipe walls, said Ed Ondak, a pipeline corrosion consultant and former Western regional director of the U.S. Office of Pipeline Safety. Ondak helped write the federal regulations dealing with corrosion in gas lines.

#### External Corrosion?

Ondak said he would be "very, very surprised" if the San Bruno explosion had been caused by microbes at work inside the pipeline. He said corrosion on the outside of the pipe, which could be caused by water infiltrating the protective wrapping surrounding the line, was a more likely cause. Although an internal microbial attack was responsible for the New Mexico explosion, such destruction is rarely found in pipelines, Ondak said. PG&E says it has found only seven leaks associated with internal corrosion on its network of 7,200 miles of lines since 2005. However, Susan Borenstein, a metallurgical engineer and microbial corrosion expert who worked for PG&E in the early 1990s, said she would look at microbes as a possible cause, among others, for the [San Bruno](#) disaster. She said controlling the corrosion caused by microorganisms is much like controlling bacterial film by brushing one's teeth. If it isn't done routinely, decay can spread. Borenstein said microbial corrosion keeps people in her profession awake at night, because utilities tend not to see it as a top priority. "It's buried in the ground, it hasn't failed so far," is a common attitude, Borenstein said. "If it's not broken, don't fix it."

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### How to Check

The surest way of checking for internal corrosion is to use an automated instrument, known as a smart pig, that uses either ultrasonic or magnetic field wave detection equipment to look for pitting or tiny cracking on the pipe walls. Another method is simply to run a scraping or cleaning pig that removes the gunk and sprays the walls of the pipe with chemicals that inhibit the growth of microbes. However, PG&E officials say the pipeline in San Bruno was too narrow and had too many bends to allow them to run either smart pigs or cleaning pigs. In such cases, Borenstein and Ondak said, the most widely recognized method for preventing a microbial attack involves mapping a pipeline to look for low areas where water might collect - then opening the pipe and treating it with microbe killers. PG&E spokeswoman Katie Romans indicated that the utility had not done this in San Bruno. She would not say whether PG&E had mapped the line looking for low spots, but she did say the area where the explosion occurred had not been treated with chemicals to combat any internal corrosion.

### What PG&E Did

Romans said PG&E had checked the pipeline from above ground for internal corrosion - but did not specify when - using various ultrasonic techniques, and that no corrosion had been found. Ultrasonic testing uses sound waves to check for corrosion sites. Experts say the technique PG&E apparently relied on, long-range guided wave ultrasonic testing, is a newer method that is dependent on skillful interpretation of the results, and they caution that the findings can be muddled by field conditions. "It's good for certain things," Borenstein said, but said she is skeptical about the track record to date. "It's a relatively new technology," she said. "It's one tool out of many." PG&E also relied on above-ground testing to monitor for external corrosion on the San Bruno line. It ran electricity through the line, most recently in November, and inserted devices at ground level to probe for spots where the current didn't register - a sign of possible metallic corrosion. No such corrosion turned up, the utility has said. Federal law has long required pipeline operators to check for internal corrosion. But that requirement failed to head off the deadly pipeline explosion Aug. 19, 2010, outside Carlsbad, [N.M.](#) Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board found pitting on the wrecked pipeline that was characteristic of a microbial attack. The corroded area spanned 21 feet of the pipe. At some points, as much as 72 percent of the pipe wall had been eaten away. The pipeline's operator, El Paso [Natural Gas](#) Co., had "failed to detect, prevent or control" the internal corrosion, the board said, and federal regulators didn't pick up on the company's flawed corrosion control program. Like the San Bruno pipeline, the segment that exploded in the desert could not be checked using smart pigs, the safety board said. El Paso acknowledged that it had neither treated the line with microbe-fighting chemicals nor used any other means to inspect for corrosion. The company could not produce 19 months' worth of data leading up to the explosion on how much water was in the line - the key ingredient in microbial corrosion.

### New Rules

The accident led to new rules governing corrosion monitoring in pipes that run through urban areas, but some experts fear that the regulations are still not enough to ensure the safety of the public. One odd twist, they say, is that pipeline operators must check twice yearly for internal corrosion only after it is found - there's no minimum requirement otherwise. "The Carlsbad accident is a perfect example where you had water that was at a low part of pipe and it settled there," said Jim Hall, who was chairman of the safety board when it investigated the New Mexico explosion. "Without internal inspection tools or digging, you are not going to find" such corrosion in time to prevent a disaster, he said. "That's why I have spent the last decade concerned about pipe safety," Hall said. "Essentially, each one of those is a potential bomb. I have seen the devastation that a pipeline explosion can cause. Having safety regulations and a regulator that has a strong safety culture is extremely important."

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2010/09/24/MN961FG3BE.DTL>

**USA, VA FAIRFAX, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. SECOND OIL SPILL REVIVES OLD FEARS ABOUT TANK FARM >> ELECTED OFFICIALS WANT MORE OVERSIGHT WHEN IT COMES TO FACILITY.**

julia o'donoghue



*A firefighter cleans up a creek near Picket Road and Route 236/Main Street after approximately 4,000 gallons of gasoline into a local creek on Aug. 28.*

For the second time in one month, a gasoline tank truck headed tied to a storage facility located in the City of Fairfax has been involved in a traffic accident that resulted in a local oil spill. The most recent incident took place on Sept. 19 after a church van hit an oil tanker on Little River Turnpike and Glenbrook Road. The overall spill was relatively minor, approximately 40 gallons and public safety officials blocked any of it from entering the sewer system, said City of Fairfax officials. But the most recent accident took place approximately 1 mile from of a more

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devastating spill, when an overturned tanker truck dumped approximately 4,000 gallons of gasoline into a local creek and tied up local traffic for about two hours on Aug. 28. "A tank truck with a little over 8,000 gallons of oil overturned at Pickett and Main Street. It turned too sharply and rolled over right at the intersection. There was gasoline escaping from the dome hatch and that leaking tanker was blocking the entire intersection," said Tim Butters, assistant fire chief for the City of Fairfax, who responded to the accident. Butters said environmental contractors and public safety officials were able to retrieve almost all of the 4,000 gallons of oil that escaped into the local watershed. "We have specialized equipment to deal with fuel spills like this. We can suppress the vapors. We have equipment for that," said Butters. Officials and contractors may have eventually gotten all of the oil but not quite before it made its way into a creek that winds through the Mantua neighborhood in Fairfax County. Mantua residents said they began to smell the oil fumes rising from the water shortly after the spill. "It was the worst case scenario. The tanker overturned near a storm drain and the oil went right into the stream," said Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence). Mantua is particularly sensitive to oil spills and the local tank farm in particular after a large scale leak in the early 1990s wreaked havoc on the community. "There are still houses in Mantua that are rented out because they are owned by the oil company as a result of that spill. The oil went to Mantua and away from the City of Fairfax then, so city residents aren't as sensitive to it as Mantua residents," said City of Fairfax Mayor Robert Lederer. In addition to the recent truck spills, Mantua residents may have another reason to be alarmed. In February, an oil pipe leak similar to the one that led to the 1990s contamination in Mantua sprung up again on the tank farm. The leak is contained to the farm's site, though Del. David Bulova (D-37) said approximately 14,000 gallons of diesel fuel has leached into the ground. "We usually have one to two incidents per year [with the tank farm] but the underground leak was of a higher order of magnitude than usual," said Bulova. In light of recent events, Lederer has called a meeting of all local, state and federal elected officials to see what might be done to tighten up restrictions or gain more control over the tank farms operations. According to the Lederer, Fairfax has little leverage over the tank farm. Most of the responsibility for regulation the facility falls to state government officials, he said. "Years ago, the state basically took away a lot of our ability to oversee the tank farm. We are doing what we can do when things happen, but I think it is time to reevaluate the role of the state verses localities on this matter," said Lederer. The City of Fairfax and Fairfax County do have to spend a considerable amount of money and resources preparing for the specialized problems associated with the tank farm. According to Butters, the City of Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department is simulating what would happen if a "full-scale" spill or fire took place the facility during a drill next month. "If we didn't have the tank farm, we would have the need to do specialized training around it," said Butters, who added that approximately 400 tank trucks travel to and from the facility every day. "We've had several of those overturned tank trucks in recent years," he said. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) said he county would likely join the city in advocating for more local control over the tank farm during the Virginia General Assembly's legislative session. "We are more than ready and willing to support that. We are on the same page in terms of concerns," she said. David Bulova is also looking an introducing legislation that would allow the city to charge higher fines to oil tank trucks that exceed the speed limit and engage in dangerous driving. "I have constituents who say they often see tank truck drivers speed through yellow lights," said the delegate. But some would like to see the tank farm shut down. "We wish the tank farm was not there," said Sharon Bulova. But it appears unlikely the facility, which serves gas stations across the region, will be moving any time soon. "As long as people in this area are driving cars, we are going to have those tank trucks in the area," said Smyth.

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=344553&paper=88&cat=104>

### USA, ORE, PORTLAND, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. OREGON FINES SCHOOL BUS COMPANY FOR SPILLING DIESEL INTO THE COLUMBIA SLOUGH

Oregon regulators have issued \$24,800 in penalties to [First Student Inc.](#), a school bus fleet operator, for spilling diesel fuel into the Columbia Slough in northeast Portland in April and failing to immediately clean up the mess. Diesel spilled at the company's school bus parking and maintenance yard, 6755 N.E. Columbia Boulevard, at 8 a.m. April 29, due to failure to secure a fuel tank cap on a bus, Oregon's [Department of Environmental Quality](#) said. Complaints filed later that day cited an oil sheen in the slough that extended for 13 blocks. The [Multnomah County Drainage District](#) responded and placed an absorbent boom across the slough to prevent the oil from moving downstream. Later that afternoon, Portland officials notified First Student about the spill. First Student failed to respond, so the city called a contractor to cleanup oil in the slough and on its banks. DEQ penalized First Student for negligently discharging diesel into the slough and for failing to immediately clean up the spill. DEQ also cited the company for failing to immediately report the spill to the [Oregon Emergency Response System](#). First Student appealed the penalties on Sept. 8. A company spokeswoman declined to comment, citing the potential for legal action. Appeals of Oregon environmental penalties can eventually be taken to court.

[http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2010/09/oregon\\_fines\\_school\\_bus\\_compan.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2010/09/oregon_fines_school_bus_compan.html)

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## USA, CA, CONTRA COSTA, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. CHEVRON BEGINS EAST BAY LAYOFFS

*george avalos*

Corp. will cut about 100 jobs in Richmond -- but the energy giant also said Thursday that it will ease the sting of employment cutbacks in San Ramon and Concord by reducing layoffs planned in those cities. Now, an estimated 275 Chevron workers in San Ramon and Concord will avoid layoffs compared with what the company had initially proposed. "The number of anticipated layoffs is lower than we originally estimated, and the layoffs will occur over a longer time frame than we expected," said Sean Comey, a Chevron spokesman. The shift in employment plans for Chevron is linked to the company's plans to sharply reduce its refinery, retail and transportation operations -- also known as its downstream business -- in a wrenching restructuring. San Ramon-based Chevron previously had sketched plans to reduce its downstream work force by 3,900 employees. That amounts to roughly 20 percent of that organization's staff, Comey said. The latest developments in the refinery, retail and transportation operations will eliminate some jobs and rescue others: -- In Richmond, Chevron will eliminate 95 jobs, primarily in the company's technology research center, which is located next to the company's vast refinery. Those layoffs are due to occur in October and November. These cutbacks were outlined in an official company filing with state labor officials.

- In San Ramon, the company will eliminate 500 downstream employees, Comey said. Previously, Chevron had planned to reduce its San Ramon work force by 620. The jobs saved in San Ramon total 120.
- In Concord, Chevron now intends to eliminate 150 employees. The original plan was to cut 305 jobs, a move that saves 155 jobs.

"The primary reason the number of employees affected is lower than we originally estimated is due to successful efforts to redeploy impacted employees to other open positions within the company," Comey said. Another hopeful sign: The job cuts are scheduled to be complete by the end of 2011. The original proposal was for the layoffs to conclude by this coming March. So far, about 50 East Bay employees have been laid off. The extended period of time will give Chevron greater flexibility to place more employees in open positions with the company. "The downstream business for Chevron and other oil companies has improved, but it's still on shaky ground," said Brian Youngberg, an analyst with St. Louis-based investment firm Edward Jones & Co. "Until the economy picks up and refining margins are better, it's hard to see a major improvement in downstream." During the April-June quarter, Chevron earned \$975 million on its downstream operations, much more than the profit of \$131 million in the year-ago second quarter. Demand for gasoline has increased after a two-year slump. "The second quarter marked a significant turnaround in refining margins," said Pavel Molchanov, an analyst with Houston-based Raymond James & Associates, an investment company. "Every refiner in the U.S., including Chevron, has seen a big recovery in its second-quarter downstream operations." Chevron's downstream units in the United States earned \$433 million during the second quarter. That contrasted with a loss of \$131 million for the year-ago quarter. The company's downstream business had struggled greatly before the spring, partly because gasoline prices had not risen nearly as quickly as crude oil prices. Lately, however, the gap between crude oil and refined gasoline has narrowed in favor of gasoline prices. Despite the improvements, Chevron's downstream woes are not over. "Chevron expects those challenges will continue for the next few years," Comey said. "We appreciate this has been a challenging time for many employees."

[http://www.contracostimes.com/traffic/ci\\_16156772](http://www.contracostimes.com/traffic/ci_16156772)

## USA, CA, ROSEVILLE, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. FIREWORKS BLAST BOY'S ARM, LEG >> NEIGHBOR NURSED BOY UNTIL PARAMEDICS ARRIVED

*lien hoang*



*The Placer County Sheriffs bomb squad blocked off a home in Granite Bay to investigate the fireworks that injured a boy Thursday.*

A 14-year-old Granite Bay boy is in surgery at Sutter Roseville Medical Center after fireworks blasted his right hand and leg Thursday. Kristen Strobridge said her mother, a neighbor of the boy, was in the laundry room when she heard an explosion, followed by "ungodly screams" across the street on the 5300 block of Olive Ranch Road. Debbie Ramos then rushed over with towels, compressed the teenager's wounds and kept his arm above his heart. "She can't get the image of what she saw out of her head," Strobridge said of her mother, who was too shaken to speak. Ramos saw blood on the walls and pieces of bone scattered about the boy's kitchen as she "held what was left of his hand," her daughter said. She tried to wrap up the wound to prevent further blood loss. Placer County Sheriffs got the call

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at 3:53 p.m. and then called in a bomb squad to investigate. They had removed their yellow caution tape by about 6 p.m. Bomb squad commander Lt. Mark Reem said there were no other explosives except the one that injured the boy. The firecracker, which left a burn mark and indentation on the floor, was larger than an average firecracker and might have been modified, he said. Strobbridge said her mother smelled sulfur inside the house while awaiting the ambulance and, a week earlier, her father heard fireworks there. She said the boy's family had lived there for two to three years, on a sprawling one-story property with a couple dogs, ducks and more than a dozen chickens. On the dying grass lay mattresses, a lawn mower, rollerblades and other yard sale items that could fill two rooms. Arriving around 5:30 p.m. straight from work, Strobbridge was still wearing her medical assistant's badge and uniform when she came to help her mom, who was in tears. "She's a hero, she saved this little boy," said Strobbridge, who does not live in the neighborhood. "It's incredible that she did that with no training. She did what her motherly instinct told her." As Strobbridge drove her mother to grab dinner and get away from the scene, Ramos stopped to put a word in. "My heart and prayers go with the family," she said, choking up in the passenger's seat. "We're hoping he'll be OK."

<http://rosevillept.com/detail/159470.html>

### USA, TX, HOUSTON, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. SAFETY REVIEW AT BP PLANT AFTER STEAM ACCIDENT

Personnel at a Houston-area BP refinery spent a day reviewing safety measure after a steam release injured two pipefitters this week. The review held Wednesday was part of a program implemented following a 2005 explosion that killed 15 workers and injured 170 more at the same refinery. No units were shut down during the "safety standdown" that followed Tuesday's steam accident, BP spokesman Michael Marr told The Galveston County Daily News. Marr did not immediately return a message from the Associated Press today seeking an update on the conditions of the injured pipefitters, who were transported to hospitals after the accident. They were injured Tuesday while working on a pipestill, a stack of pipes that carry steam and petroleum products through the refinery. One worker had burns over 30% of his body. BP says the refinery is the third-largest in the U.S. and produces 3% of the nation's gasoline supply.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100923/BUSINESS07/100923052/Safety-review-at-BP-plant-after-steam-accident>

### RUSSIA, UFA, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. RUSSIA NOVOIL REFINERY FIRE PUT OUT, NO CASUALTIES

*vladimir soldatkin & maxim nazarov*

Oil product output from Russia's Novoil NUNZI.RT refinery was not disrupted by a fire on Friday and there were no casualties, a company spokeswoman said. RIA news agency had said that Novoil, belonging to a mid-sized oil company Bashneft, was hit by an explosion. "The refinery is working as usual. There was a fire at a reservoir when it was being prepared for maintenance. The fire has been extinguished," a Bashneft spokeswoman told Reuters. A trader in Ufa, the Urals city where the refinery is located, said he saw fire at the refinery. "We saw how it flared at the plant, and then there was black smoke there. We were told there was nothing serious at the plant," he told Reuters. Novoil, which produces around 6.6 million tonnes of oil products, is one of four Ufa-based refineries owned by Bashneft BANE.RTRS, in turn controlled by oil-to-telecom holding company Sistema.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE68N10J20100924>

### USA, N.D, KILLDEER, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. OIL COMPANIES FINED IN DEATH OF HEBRON MAN

*lisa anne call*

After months of investigation following the death of a man on an oil rig near Killdeer in April, two area companies have been issued thousands of dollars in proposed penalties. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued citations to Black Hills Trucking, Inc. and Nabors Drilling USA LP, after Larry Due, 64, Hebron, was killed while assisting in the set-up of an oil drilling rig, according to OSHA on Friday. Due, an employee of Black Hills Trucking, Inc., was allegedly installing the rig's floor decking while the drilling contractor, Nabors Drilling USA, Inc., was hoisting a bridle line and equalizer to be secured in the rig's derrick, according to OSHA documents. "The rigging failed and dropped the load approximately 120 feet upon the employee below," according to OSHA documents. Violations are alleged and fines proposed until they become final order and the company has 15 working days from the citation's issuance date to try and resolve the matter with the OSHA office, said Tom Deutscher, OSHA area director. All citations were issued Sept. 14. Black Hills Trucking received one alleged citation with two items, totaling \$14,000 in proposed fines. The company was cited for employees allegedly not being kept clear of suspended loads or those about to be lifted by a sling, according to OSHA documents. Black Hills was also cited for allegedly exposing employees to fall hazards of approximately 18 feet by working on the rig floor without being guarded by standard railings, according to the documents. Deutscher said Black Hills has not responded. Nabors received one citation for \$7,000

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which it has contested, Deutscher said. The citation issued to Nabors alleges that on or about April 5, employees and subcontractors were exposed to falling loads and/or struck by hazards while working on the rig floor during a hoisting process, according to OSHA documents. "We really try to determine whether the accident or fatality was a result of noncompliance with our standards," Deutscher said. "So when we issue these citations, we're really saying, 'Had you had these in place, this person most likely would be alive today.'" John Blomstrom, in-house attorney for Black Hills Trucking, said the company received notice of the citations in the last few days and is still in the review process. "Really don't have anything further than that to say until we've got our heads totally around it," Blomstrom said Friday. Dennis Smith, director of corporate development at Nabors Corporate Services, Inc., was unavailable for comment. Due's wife, Kathryn Due, declined comment Friday evening.

<http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/article/id/40043/>

#### USA, ILL, GERMAN VALLEY, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. TRUCK CARRYING ETHANOL ROLLS OVER ON U.S. 20

jeff montgomery



*Veolia Environmental Services Emergency Response Unit arrives at the scene of a ethanol tanker truck that rolled over early Friday morning on U.S. Route 20 near Bunker Hill Road outside of Freeport.*

Portions of U.S. 20 were closed for approximately 12 hours after a truck carrying ethanol rolled over east of the Stephenson County Visitors Center shortly after 3 a.m. Friday. German Valley Fire Department Captain Randy Miller said the one-vehicle accident did not result in any serious injuries. However, concerns linked to an ethanol leak drew the attention of numerous local agencies and disrupted traffic throughout the morning and early afternoon. The Stephenson County Sheriff's Office first received a call about the incident at 3:08 a.m. After it became clear the truck was carrying ethanol, members of the Stephenson County Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) team were dispatched to the scene. Local HAZMAT

coordinator Scott Townsend said members of the HAZMAT team discovered minimal leaking when they arrived at the crash. "Once we saw no breach in the tanker and established that there was very little leaking, we turned the scene back over to the German Valley Fire District," Townsend said. While major leaking did not occur, the incident still prompted local authorities to evacuate three homes near the accident. The German Valley Fire Department was the primary responding agency on the scene throughout the day. The department received help from Illinois State Police District 16, the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Stephenson County HAZMAT team. Officers with the local Illinois State Police district primarily dealt with traffic control throughout the day. Following the accident, local authorities closed U.S. 20 between Cherry Hill Road and Rock City Road for both eastbound and westbound traffic. Motorists were directed on a detour until the road reopened at approximately 3 p.m. Miller said Friday afternoon that the driver of the truck was able to walk away from the accident. The driver was treated and released from FHN on Friday. The precise cause of the accident remains under investigation, Miller confirmed.

<http://www.journalstandard.com/features/x802538271/Truck-carrying-ethanol-rolls-over-on-U-S-20>

#### USA, IL, MADISON CO, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. SHELL CHEMICAL, TURTLE WAX NAMED IN NEW BENZENE SUIT

kelly holleran

A Madison County man claims he developed leukemia after more than 30 years of exposure to benzene. Jerry and Diane Crawford filed a lawsuit Sept. 13 in Madison County Circuit Court against Shell Chemical Co., Shell Oil Co., Turtle Wax and United States Steel Corp. The Crawfords claim that throughout Jerry Crawford's employment at Shell Wood River Refinery in Wood River from 1967 until 2000, he unintentionally inhaled volatile organic compounds -- chemicals found in cleaners, solvents and solvent-based fluids. In December 2008, Jerry Crawford discovered that he had developed chronic lymphocytic leukemia because of his exposure to the VOCs, according to the complaint. As a result of his disease, Jerry Crawford sustained disability and disfigurement, incurred substantial medical costs and experienced great physical pain and mental anguish, the suit states. Co-plaintiff Diane Crawford claims she lost her husband's support, devotion, care, society and consortium because of his disease. The Crawfords blame the defendants for causing Jerry Crawford's disease, saying the companies negligently included VOCs in their products when they knew that workers would inhale the dangerous materials. In addition, the defending companies included the VOCs in their products when alternative and safer materials were available, failed to warn people working around the VOCs of their dangers, failed to provide adequate instructions on how to safely work

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around the VOCs and failed to conduct tests on the VOCs, the suit states. In their nine-count complaint, the Crawfords are seeking compensatory damages of more than \$450,000, plus costs and other relief the court deems just. Timothy F. Thompson Jr. and Ryan J. Kiwala of Simmons, Browder, Gianaris, Angelides and Barnerd in East Alton will be representing them.

<http://www.stclairrecord.com/news/229947-shell-chemical-turtle-wax-named-in-new-benzene-suit>

### CANADA, OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. NEW BP SPILL ANALYSIS REVEALS THAT 185 MILLION GALLONS OF OIL HAVE LEAKED

michael graham richard



#### BP Oil Spill Post-Mortem

A team of U.S. scientists from Columbia University has just published a paper about a review of video footage from the BP oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico last Spring and Summer. Using a technique called "optical plume velocimetry" and other analysis techniques, they were able to estimate how much oil escaped the Macondo well between April 20th and the moment the leak was plugged on July 15th (with final confirmation that the well was stable only [on September 19th](#)). So what's the magic (tragic?) number?

#### Oil Spill Flow Rate Estimates

The analysis suggests that during the first part of the spill, before the riser pipe was removed on June 3rd, that the rate was of 56,000 barrels of crude per day. This increased to 68,000 barrels/day after the riser was removed, and the oil leaked at that rate until the well was finally plugged. All of this adds up to about 4.4 million barrels of crude oil (185 million US gallons) if you subtract the 800,000 barrels that BP captured. Otherwise, the total number would be 5.2 million barrels! Of course, this is an estimate. It's impossible to have a high degree of certainty: *The researchers stress their figures have a large uncertainty of perhaps 20%, but they compare well with the 4.1 million barrels estimate produced by the federal government's Flow Rate Technical Group (again, taking account of the 800,000 barrels recovered by BP).* Remember, the Exxon Valdez super-tanker spilled 260,000 barrels... So the margin of error of the BP spill is bigger than the whole Exxon Valdez disaster. This puts things in perspective.

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2010/09/margin-of-error-bp-oil-spill-bigger-than-exxon-valdez-spill.php>

### USA, MI, EVART, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. MICHIGAN WANTS OIL CO. TO PAY FOR GAS LEAK

Michigan's environmental agency wants the owner of a gas station to reimburse the state for the \$388,000 it spent cleaning up gas that leaked from underground storage tanks into soil and groundwater near the Muskegon River. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environmental claims the Blarney Castle Oil Co., which ran the Ralph's Marathon service station in Evart, Mich., from 1981 to 1995, repeatedly ignored requests to address the contamination. The agency claims that a 1995 break in a supply line caused the pollution, which released toxic benzene, toluene and other chemical components of petroleum into the groundwater and soil. Because the gas station lies just 550 feet uphill from the Muskegon River, this has caused surface and groundwater concentrations of toxins 190 times greater than what is allowed, the agency says. It claims that although the tanks were removed from the property in 1997, it continued to clean up the site through 2006, spending more than \$388,000 so far. The department wants Blarney Castle to pay it back. Represented by Michigan Assistant Attorney General John Mack in Lansing, the agency also wants the defendant to pay its legal costs, perform remediation and be subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per day

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/09/24/30572.htm>

### USA, IA, DES MOINES, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. TANK COMPANY SAYS NO SERIOUS INJURIES FROM LEAKS

American Welding & Tank says it isn't aware of any serious injuries or ruptures from small leaks in its anhydrous ammonia nurse tanks. The statement from the Mechanicsburg, Pa.-based company came Friday after the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship asked farmers to check their tanks for leaks or faulty welds. The department said it found several tanks from American Welding & Tank with leaks as it performed its yearly tank inspections at commercial fertilizer dealers. American Welding and Tank said Friday that it is concerned with customer safety and offered tips for making sure any leaks are immediately detected and treated. State agriculture experts say exposure to ammonia can cause lung damage or death.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-ammoniatanks-warn,0,5574250.story>

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## USA, UT, DUCHESNE, SEPTEMBER 25 2010. OIL-LIKE SUBSTANCE SPOTTED IN STRAWBERRY RIVER

geoff liesik



*Clumps of an unknown oil product sit in the Strawberry River in Duchesne on Friday. Officials believe someone may have intentionally dumped the chemical into the river.*

Authorities in Duchesne County are investigating what appears to be an intentional dumping of an unknown oil product into the Strawberry River. The substance was spotted in a stretch of the river just south of the Duchesne County Fairgrounds around 1:30 p.m. on Friday, by an individual walking on a path near the river, Duchesne County Fire and Emergency Management Director Mike Lefler said. He said there is currently no contamination past the junction of the Strawberry and Duchesne Rivers and there has been no exposure to culinary waters. Lefler said officials are not sure how the oil-like substance got in the river, however there are

indications that someone put a hose into the river and opened it. They believe it may be a water truck that has been mixed with oil and dirt from oil rigs. Officials believe the truck backed up to the river and dumped its load. Both the Myton and Duchesne fire departments have sent hazardous materials teams to the spill site to place booms at several points along the river to try and prevent spreading. Currently, there are large, black chunks of the oil-like substance along the shore of the river, some as large as footballs. An environmental clean up company from Salt Lake City is on its way to the area to begin clean up efforts. The Department of Environmental Quality was also at the site to take samples which will allow them to determine what the substance is. The Duchesne County Sheriff's Office has launched a criminal investigation.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700068379/Oil-like-substance-spotted-in-Strawberry-River.html>

## GHANA, TEMA, SEPTEMBER 26 2010. FIRE GUTS MIDLAND GHANA LTD AT TEMA PORT, 3 DEAD



Three persons are feared dead in a ruinous fire that gutted Midland International Ghana Limited at the Tema Port. The fire which started around 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 26, is believed to have started when a tanker which transports ethanol for alcohol production exploded whilst engineers were working on it. Eyewitnesses who spoke to Citi News said they were the first to enter the area of the incident where they retrieved one charred body. They said one of the victims who was severely injured was immediately conveyed to the hospital. Citi News' Correspondent in Tema Elvis Washington said the inferno has not been put under control as the alcohol in the tanker has worsened the situation. According to him, police officers at the scene had to fire gunshots to disperse angry workers at the port who were infuriated by the inability of fire personnel to quench the fire on time. The Public Relations Officer of the Fire Service in Tema, Mr. Affum said they were finding it difficult to put out the fire because there was not enough water to handle

the pressure from the fire as at 5:00pm on Saturday. He also said one of their extinguishers had developed a fault. Citi News has learnt that the Manager of the company is among the trapped persons in the building but it is uncertain whether he is alive or dead. Midland International Limited is West Africa and Ghana's leading importer and distributor of ethanol for alcohol production. Its terminal consists of 5 tanks, with a total capacity of 5,000,000 liters, office building, Ghana Excise office, and a drum loading station, with digital flow meters as well as a tank truck loading rack. Midland distributes ethanol to the Ghanaian market and exports to various West African countries as Togo, Burkina Faso, Benin, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Liberia as well.

<http://www.citifmonline.com/site/news/news/view/11876/1>

## USA, KS, LAWRENCE, SEPTEMBER 26 2010. ASPHYXIATION RULED CAUSE OF DEATH IN MAGNAGRO ACCIDENT

cory smith

**Watch the Video** <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2010/sep/25/asphyxiation-ruled-cause-death-magnagro-accident/>

The two men killed in an industrial accident at MagnaGro International on April 1 died of asphyxiation, official reports show. According to their autopsy reports, Brandon Price and Roy Hillebert were overcome by fumes while cleaning a storage tank containing cane molasses. The Douglas County and Shawnee County coroner's offices performed the autopsies. According to both reports, Price, 25, climbed down into the tank, then began to have trouble breathing. Andy Cooper, a nearby co-worker,

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heard Price fall and went into the tank to retrieve him. When he realized the air was impossible to breathe, Cooper climbed out of the tank and said he was going to get a fan. Roy Hillebert, 51, then climbed into the tank to rescue Price, but was also overcome by the fumes and fell in. When Cooper returned he noticed the two men lying at the bottom. Using a saw, he cut a hole in the side of the tank and went in to retrieve both men, but the fumes caused him to collapse shortly after he entered. Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical crews arrived shortly after and pulled all three men out of the tank. Price was pronounced dead at the scene and Hillebert died at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. A toxicology report found traces of methamphetamines in Hillebert's system, but the drug did not cause his asphyxiation and would have only played a minor role in the speed of his collapse. Hillebert also had a heart condition.

<http://www2.ijworld.com/news/2010/sep/25/asphyxiation-ruled-cause-death-magnagro-accident/>

### INDIA, PASHAN, SEPTEMBER 26 2010. TANKER WITH 17 TONNE LPG TOPPLES, LIES THERE 24 HOURS

pranav kulkarni



*BP officials said that that no crane service in the city was willing to cooperate citing the danger of explosion.*

A tanker carrying 17 tonnes of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) that toppled near DSK Toyota showroom near Pashan on the Mumbai- Bangalore highway on Thursday remained in the same position for over 24 hours. This, despite the police, Bharat Petroleum(BP) officials and the fire brigade squad reaching the spot within a short time after the accident. The tanker that overturned at 11 am on Thursday was lifted only at 1.30 pm on Friday. BP officials said the reason for the delay was that no crane service in the city was willing to cooperate citing the danger of explosion. Thankfully, there was no leakage and the tanker was safely mounted on another chassis. The BP officials who rushed to the spot from the nearest LPG Station

worked overnight to detect leakage and the need to shift the gas into another cylinder. "We called up crane services in the city but they all refused to come as there was a danger of explosion. We were here for the whole night but it was only by 9 am on Friday that three cranes agreed to come to the location. The taker was lifted and brought on the road after struggling for over four hours after that," said Nitin Mahatme, deputy manager, Operations, Shikrapur LPG Plant, BP.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Tanker-with-17-tonne-LPG-topples--lies-there-24-hours/687642/>

### USA, PA, SOUTH PHILADELPHIA, SEPTEMBER 26 2010. OIL RESIDUE FOUND ON CARS NEAR SUNOCO REFINERY



Sunoco officials are investigating an incident at its South Philadelphia refinery. The incident occurred around 2:00 a.m. at the refinery located in the 3100 block of Passyunk Avenue. Sunoco officials say there was a problem in a processing unit at the refinery, causing a mist of diesel fuel to be released into the air. The processing unit was quickly shut down with no injuries or environmental concerns. However, there was a clear oily residue found on some 150 vehicles parked in the Wilson Park area of the refinery. Sunoco officials have gone door to door into the neighborhood to inform residents of the situation. The refinery is operating normally except for the processing unit.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=7689175>

### USA, MISS, PASCAGOULA, SEPTEMBER 26 2010. CHEVRON SHUTS ISOMAX UNIT AT PASCAGOULA REFINERY

aaron clark & barbara powell

[Chevron Corp.](#) shut an isomax unit at its Pascagoula, Mississippi, [refinery](#), yesterday, after the unit was struck by a fire. "We still continue to supply products to our customers," [Steve Renfro](#), a company spokesman, said in a telephone interview. The isomax unit, or hydrocracker, is one of two at the refinery, according to Renfro. The units have a combined capacity of 58,000 barrels a day. No other units were affected by the fire, which was extinguished last night, and there were no injuries, according to Renfro. More than 1,200 pounds of sulfur dioxide was released, according to a filing with the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. The refinery has a capacity of 360,000 barrels a day, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The plant has the capacity to produce 130,000 barrels of gasoline, 50,000 barrels of jet fuel and 68,000 barrels of diesel fuel a day, according to the company's [website](#). The refinery ships about 65 percent of its products by water. Another 30 percent are sent by a pipeline to Collins, Mississippi, where it connects to two major pipeline systems.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-24/chevron-pascagoula-refinery-extinguishes-fire-in-process-unit.html>

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#### **USA, VIRGIN ISLANDS, ST THOMAS, SEPTEMBER 26 2010. HOVENSA SAMPLES WATER TO SEE IF IT MUST PAY TO CLEAN CISTERNS AFTER ACCIDENT**

*constance cooper*

The Hovensa oil refinery could be responsible for draining, cleaning and refilling as many as 300 St. Croix cisterns, depending on how much oil got in the water because of an industrial accident that took place Sunday. The refinery has been sampling water from cisterns in the affected areas and sending it out of the territory for testing. HOVENSA got its first test results back Friday but refused to release the data. Jeff Steigauf, a spokesman for HOVENSA, said company officials would not disclose the results until they spoke with the families living in the homes that were tested. The results came from two homes near the refinery that were sampled early in the week, he said. As of Friday morning, water samples had been taken from 71 homes, Steigauf said, and HOVENSA will test 150 more before Monday. "The plan is to sample enough homes to get sufficient data to get definitive results," he said. The refinery is cleaning up from an accident that occurred at about 6 a.m. Sunday. A line in the refinery's desulfurizing unit ruptured, spraying a mist of vacuum gas oil into the air for about 20 minutes. The V.I. Health Department issued a warning Sunday to Estates Barren Spot, Ginger Thomas, Sunny Acres and Strawberry not to drink water collected from rooftops. Steigauf said that HOVENSA waited until later in the week to do widespread sampling because the refinery did not have the sampling equipment it needed on St. Croix until then. V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner Robert Mathes said that if the water is deemed unsafe, HOVENSA will have to drain, clean and refill the cisterns of all homes that were affected by the spill. "They made the mess. They have to clean it up," he said. Hess Oil's material safety data sheet for vacuum gas oil says that the oil can cause eye irritation and skin irritation. If ingested in large quantities, it can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, dizziness, loss of balance and coordination, unconsciousness, coma, respiratory failure and death. If absorbed into the trachea or lungs, vacuum gas oil can cause severe lung damage, respiratory failure, fluid in the lungs and death, according to the data sheet. HOVENSA officials say they sampled the air around the refinery and found airborne pollutants to be within Environmental Protection Agency limits. For more information or to report problems related to the leak, contact HOVENSA at 692-3999.

<http://virginislandsdailynews.com/hovensa-samples-water-to-see-if-it-must-pay-to-clean-cisterns-after-accident-1.1029826>

#### **GHANA, TEMA, SEPTEMBER 27 2010. MANAGING DIRECTOR AND OTHERS DIE IN TEMA WILD FIRE**



4 people including the Managing Director of a construction firm at Tema Port were burnt to death in a fire outbreak that engulfed the Port city on Saturday. Mike Sarfo Mensah, Managing Director of M&B Engineering Company Limited along with an engineer, and two welders were consumed by the fire with the last three people burnt beyond recognition. Mr. Mensah died at the hospital after sustaining serious burnt. It took fire fighters several hours to bring the fire under control. The fire started at an alcohol storage facility located within the Tema Port late Saturday. The victims, according to an eyewitness, were entrapped following the intense fire which was suspected to have been started by sparks from one of a few welders hired by Midland International Ghana Limited, owners of the facility to do some welding works within the company. The highly combustible material exploded attracting residents to the scene. This latest fire incident, adds to several other fires that have ravaged the country within the last one-and-a half years, affecting public buildings and corporations. Apart from the welders, the engineer and the MD were

said to be in different offices within the storage facility working when the fire broke out killing them in the process and burning a tanker-truck with registration number GT2193 T, a forklift and a double cabin pick-up which were both parked at the storage. The welder, according to the eyewitness, arrived at the premises of Midland around 7am in the company of his other colleagues and started working on some of the metallic tanks in which the alcohol was stored and some of the metallic staircases of the main office building. The welders worked throughout the day and were just about finishing the day's job when the incident occurred around 4 pm. "Two of the welders were actually working on top of one of the tanks when suddenly we heard a loud explosion which came from the same tank they were working on. The explosion was so intense that it threw the two welders from the very top to the ground killing one of them instantly with the other one sustaining a deep cut at the back of his head," the eyewitness narrated. Shortly after the explosion, he (eyewitness) and some persons who rushed to the scene managed to carry one of the injured persons to safety after which he was rushed to the Tema General Hospital. But the fire quickly spread to other parts so they could not carry the body of the welder who died instantly after hitting the ground as "all we could do was to watch his body burnt beyond recognition from a distance." He stated that had the firefighters not arrived at

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the scene early, a different story would have been told about the fire outbreak. "My brother the fire people worked hard to ensure that the fire did not spread to neighbouring buildings. As you can see, more of the fire tenders arrived early to help control the fire," he remarked. When Daily Guide got to the scene, several fire fighters from the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS), Tema Oil Refinery (TOR), Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority (GPHA) and the Naval Base in Tema were at the scene struggling to douse the fire. A fire fighter told DAILY GUIDE they were overwhelmed by the fire but that did not deter them from fighting to put out the fire because there was not enough water to handle the pressure from the fire as at 5pm on Saturday. He also said one of their extinguishers had developed a fault. Midland International Limited, according to Citi Fm is West Africa and Ghana's leading importer and distributor of ethanol for alcohol production. Its terminal consists of five tanks, with a total capacity of 5,000,000 liters, office building, Ghana Excise office, and a drum loading station, with digital flow metres as well as a tank truck loading rack. Midland distributes ethanol to the Ghanaian market and exports to various West African countries such as Togo, Burkina Faso, Benin, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

#### Related Links

- [Death toll in Tema fire now four](#)
- [Tema Harbour fire leaves 3 dead](#)
- [3 burnt to death in Ghana port fire](#)

<http://news.peacefonline.com/social/201009/85805.php>

#### PHILIPPINES, DATU MONTAWAL, SEPTEMBER 27 2010. TANKER TRUCK EXPLODES IN MAGUINDANAO

A fuel truck belonging to SEAOIL Philippines, Inc. exploded in Datu Montawal, Maguindanao on Saturday night, police said. No one was hurt in the incident. The blast, however, caused a fire along the national highway in the town. Motorists were stranded for 8 hours as the burning truck prompted authorities to close the road. The local electricity company also cut the power supply of communities near the area. Firefighters put out the blaze after several hours. The truck, which was filled with 33,000 liters of diesel, was in a convoy that was heading from Surigao City to Cotabato City. Fuel tanker driver Eduardo Abelando and helper Amod Jeoline told investigators that the vehicle caught fire after one of its wheels "flared". The duo panicked and forgot to use the vehicle's fire extinguisher, police said. The Bureau of Fire Protection Office has advised gasoline company owners to have their delivery trucks inspected. SEAOIL has yet to issue a statement on the incident.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/09/26/10/tanker-truck-explodes-maguindanao>

#### USA, CA, SAN LUIS OBISPO CO., SEPTEMBER 27 2010. CREEK OIL SPILL CLEANUP ADVANCES >> PART OF NIPOMO SITE TO BE EXCAVATED, THEN RESTORED

mike hodgson



*A testing site for the oil in the ground sticks out of the brush growing around dried-up Nipomo Creek, located behind the Dana Adobe, on Tuesday. Conoco Phillips plans to excavate a 300-foot section.*

Permits now are being sought to clean up an old oil spill in Nipomo Creek after a corrective action plan was approved by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board staff. ConocoPhillips plans to excavate a 300-foot section of the creek four feet down to remove part of the contaminated soil, according to a water board report. "Some (of the oil) will remain in place, and they will excavate some," said Sheila Soderberg, senior engineer for the Regional Water Quality Control Board. "They will also replace the creek bank with geo-textile fabric so it won't erode." Just when that will happen is uncertain because ConocoPhillips will have to go through the California Environmental Quality Act process, then secure permits from county, state and federal agencies. "They'll have to get a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers because the spill is inside the creek," Soderberg said. "They'll also have to get permits from the

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water board, the (San Luis Obispo County) Air Pollution Control District and the (California) Department of Fish and Game.” The company also will have to obtain permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Water board officials believe the work could begin as soon as next summer, but if the permit process drags on, it could be as late as summer 2012. ConocoPhillips spokeswoman Janet Grothe said the company expects it to take a year to obtain all the necessary permits. Once those are secured, work will begin immediately and should take about three months to complete, she said. Grothe said she couldn't say how much the project will cost because, as a policy, ConocoPhillips does not reveal individual project costs. The spill is located below the Dana Adobe on property owned by the Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos, which has been involved in the evaluation and cleanup planning process. “ConocoPhillips has been quite receptive and willing to work with us on the corrective action plan,” said Marina Washburn, DANA executive director. She said the plan addresses most of the organization's concerns, including restoring the site to the highest standards, and DANA has submitted recommendations on what native plants should be returned to the site. “It's going to disturb the area quite a bit, so we're very concerned about the cultural resources as well as the environmental impacts,” Washburn added. “We know this is a very culturally rich area.” Under the plan approved in late July, the contaminated soil will be removed from the creekbed and hauled away. Then the excavation will be lined with an impermeable geo-textile fabric to prevent recontamination of the clean backfill material, and a concrete block system will be installed to prevent erosion. That will be buried by natural sand and gravel deposits, but biodegradable vegetation mats may be installed over the concrete cap to speed the growth of restored trees, shrubs and native grasses. No one is certain when the spill occurred, but a water board engineer previously said the crude oil apparently leaked many years ago from an eight-inch pipeline abandoned by then-owner Union Oil Co. and replaced with a new line now owned by ConocoPhillips. The company discovered the spill in July 2003 when a section of the new pipeline was excavated after an inspection indicated a possible problem. The total spill, located about one mile south of West Tefft Street, measures 330 feet long by 220 feet wide and extends from seven to 28 feet below ground level, although in some places the oil is near the surface of the creekbed. According to the latest assessment report, the oil has not contaminated the groundwater, probably because the soil below it is impermeable clay. Water board staff previously said the spill is in a swampy area where it appears soil is being deposited rather than eroding away. But removing the upper layer will reduce the possibility that future erosion could wash oil down the channel toward the Guadalupe Dunes and, eventually, the sea.

[http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/local/article\\_e00be432-c9fc-11df-8c63-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/local/article_e00be432-c9fc-11df-8c63-001cc4c002e0.html)

#### CHINA, URUMQI, SEPTEMBER 27 2010. FACTORY FIRE, EXPLOSION SHUT DOWN AIRPORT IN NW CHINA'S XINJIANG

 **Photo's** <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90882/7150403.html>

Firefighters work to put out a fire at a plastic factory near the airport of Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region Saturday night, September 25, 2010A blaze broke out in a plastic factory near the airport of Urumqi, capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Autunomous Region, late Saturday night, prompting authorities to temporarily shut down the airport, officials and witnesses said. There is no report of casualties yet. At least 15 flights were disrupted. Explosions were heard after the blaze engulfed Henglijji plastic plank factory located just outside the Diwapu International Airport of Urumqi at about 11 p.m.. Witnesses said blasts threw debris onto the airport ground. Officials suspended the airport operations for an hour to clear the ground. Flights resumed at mid-night Saturday. Firemen operating a dozen of fire engines

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-09/26/c\\_13529368.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-09/26/c_13529368.htm)

#### USA, TX, ARLINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28 2010. ARLINGTON MAN DIES AFTER GASOLINE FUMES SET OFF FLASH FIRE IN GARAGE

*kerry solan*

An Arlington man died Sunday after a flash fire ignited while he was working on his pickup at home. Fatal fire. The 28-year-old removed the truck's gas tank Sunday morning in his closed garage in the 400 block of Overhill Drive, near East Abram Street, officials said. The man, who was not identified, was under the tank, which still contained fuel, when a gas water heater ignited the fuel vapors, setting the man ablaze. The man, still in flames, ran through his living room, lighting it on fire, according to reports. A neighbor extinguished the flames on the man and called 911 at 9 a.m. Fire and rescue units arrived four minutes

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## Release 2010 – 645 Newsy Stuff

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

**October 3 2010**

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later and began treating the man, whose clothes were burned off. He was conscious and speaking to rescue workers, but in severe shock. The man was taken to [Parkland Memorial Hospital](#) where he later died from his burns.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/092810dnmetarfire.135449f18.html>

### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, ALEXANDRA, SEPTEMBER 28 2010. WELDING BLAST SPARKS SAFETY BOOST

- [Map: Alexandra 3714](#)

Safety improvements will be made at Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) depots as a result of an incident in Alexandra last year. A worker suffered second degree burns when the fuel tank he was welding exploded. WorkSafe says the worker was not told he would need to clean the tank or remove fuel before he started welding. The DSE has agreed to employ a health and safety worker for its regional depots, invest in safety leadership and advertise the dangers of welding fuel drums.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/09/28/3023979.htm>

### USA, MO, JEFFERSON CITY, SEPTEMBER 28 2010. ST. JOHN'S ONE OF THREE JASPER COUNTY BUSINESSES REFERRED TO MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK VIOLATIONS.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has referred 15 businesses to the Missouri Attorney General's Office for failing to meet financial responsibility requirements for underground storage tanks, a violation of Missouri's Underground Storage Tank Law and Regulations. Businesses referred to the Attorney General in August were:

- West Clay Mobil in St. Charles, St. Charles County.
- Downtown Corner Mart in Joplin, Jasper County.
- A G Edwards & Sons in St. Louis, St. Louis County.
- Wells Fargo Advisors L.L.C. in St. Charles, St. Charles County.
- Fuel Trip #2 in Kansas City, Jackson County.
- SEMO Gas Incorporated in Cape Girardeau, Cape Girardeau County.
- Bloomsdale Food Mart in Bloomsdale, Ste. Genevieve County.
- Clarksdale General Store in Clarksdale, DeKalb County.
- Hall's Food Mart #8 in Joplin, Jasper County.
- Phillips Quickmart in St. Louis, St. Louis County.
- Quick Stop in House Springs, Jefferson County.
- Royal Liquors Inc. at 801 Southwest Blvd. in Kansas City, Jackson County.
- Royal Liquors Inc. at 1301 W.103rd St. in Kansas City, Jackson County.
- St. John's Regional Medical Center in Joplin, Jasper County.
- The Station in Parkville, Platte County.

All of these facilities have been cited for operating petroleum underground storage tanks without a required financial responsibility mechanism. Petroleum underground storage tank owners and operators are required to have funds to pay for cleanup and damages that may occur as the result of a petroleum release from their underground storage tank systems. Ways to meet the requirements of financial responsibility could include:

- Pollution liability insurance (state fund or private insurer).
- Financial test of self insurance.
- Letter of credit.
- Trust fund.
- Surety bond.

Missouri's Underground Storage Tank Law and Regulations exist to protect human health and the environment and the department is responsible for enforcing the law and regulations. The department's enforcement actions help protect human health and the environment by encouraging facilities to maintain compliance. The main goal in any enforcement action is to work with a facility to successfully achieve compliance with the regulatory standards and then ensure it has the tools to remain in compliance. As part of that process, penalties may be assessed to ensure future compliance by removing the economic benefit of continued noncompliance. The department strives to work with owners and operators to fix problems before an issue is referred. In situations where the responsible party is unwilling or unable to cooperate to bring the facility into compliance and be protective of human health and the environment, the department will refer the case. For more information on financial

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responsibility, visit the department's website at [dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/tanks/ustfinresp.htm](http://dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/tanks/ustfinresp.htm) or contact the Hazardous Waste Program at 573-751-3176 573-751-3176 or call toll-free at 800-361-4827.

<http://www.carthagepress.com/news/x1165098151/St-Johns-one-of-three-Jasper-County-businesses-referred-to-Missouri-attorney-general-for-underground-storage-tank-violations>

### CAMBODIA, PHNOM PENH, SEPTEMBER 28 2010. CHARGES LAID OVER EXPLOSION



*Firefighters attempt to put out a blaze that resulted from the explosion of a petrol tanker in Prampi Makara district last Wednesday.*

Phnom Penh Municipal Court has charged the owner of a garage operating out of a petrol station with arson following the explosion of a fuel tanker near the station last Wednesday, court officials said. Deputy court prosecutor Heang Sophak said yesterday that Nuth Samoeun, 49, was charged on Friday in relation to the explosion of the Sokimex fuel truck, which destroyed around five homes and sent a plume of black smoke rising over the city. The driver of the truck, which was carrying around 8,000 litres of petrol at the time of the incident, faces similar charges, Heang Sophak said, but fled the scene following the explosion and is still on the run from the authorities. Arson, as defined under Article 53 of the UNTAC Penal Code, applies to

"any person who damages or attempts to damage the property of another through use of fire or explosives" and carries a punishment of between one and three years in prison. Witnesses said that last week's explosion, which occurred when petrol dripping from the Sokimex tanker was ignited by its exhaust, destroyed five homes and at least five vehicles parked in the area. No major injuries were reported at the scene of the blaze, which took more than 20 fire trucks and 60 tanks of water to extinguish. Heang Sophak said that around 10 people had also lodged had complaints to local authorities and the Phnom Penh Municipal court seeking civil compensation from Nuth Samoeun. He would not reveal the specific number of complainants or give an estimate of the total cost in damages incurred by the fire.

<http://www.phnompenhpost.com/index.php/2010092742290/National-news/charges-laid-over-explosion.html>

### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, HAZELBROOK, SEPTEMBER 29 2010. STATIC SPARKS HAZELBROOK PETROL FIRE



*Tragedy averted: Firefighter Robert Furner of Lawson Fire Station with the container at Hazelbrook after the fire.*

Quick thinking by staff and a nearby motorist prevented a potential disaster at Hazelbrook this week after static discharge sparked a fire at a local service station. NSW Fire Brigades Blue Mountains Duty Commander, Inspector Kernin Lambert, said a man had been holding a four litre metal petrol can off the ground while filling it up about 10.45am last Monday, September 27 at Hazelbrook service station when static discharge caused a spark. The petrol ignited and fuel poured over the ground, starting a much larger fire, he said. "Some very quick action by service station staff and by a motorist, who was also refuelling, with extinguishers has managed to help put the fire out," he said. "It started to spread very quickly and they were able to

attack the fire within seconds of it starting. "Had they not acted so quickly there could have been a very different result. "There were about half-a-dozen other cars there and numerous people, including children. "The potential for disaster certainly was there." Fire crews from Lawson, Wentworth Falls, Springwood and Katoomba were quickly on the scene because of the potential seriousness of the situation, Inspector Lambert said. "These fires can and do develop extremely rapidly, we have to get there fast," he said. "We were on the scene for about an hour making sure there was not any further spread or spillage." No one was injured in the blaze and it is believed the person originally filling the petrol can, who arrived and left the scene on foot, was uninjured. "When the fire ignited he dropped the can so he didn't sustain any burns that we know of," Inspector Lambert said. The incident has led to calls for people to be aware of earthing petrol containers while they are being filled. "Whenever fuel is being poured it releases static," Inspector Lambert said. "We always tell people drums need to be placed on the ground, containers need to be earthed, because if they are not placed on the ground the charge will build up and the spark will jump. "The correct method to fill these containers is they must be placed on the ground, otherwise there will be a fire." Police investigations into the incident were continuing on Monday.

<http://www.bluemountaingazette.com.au/news/local/news/general/static-sparks-hazelbrook-petrol-fire/1953991.aspx>

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### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, DARNUM, SEPTEMBER 29 2010. TANKER CRASH HAMPERS HIGHWAY TRAFFIC

[Map: Darnum 3822](#)

Two lanes of the Princes Highway in West Gippsland are still closed this morning after a B-double fuel tanker jack-knifed to avoid a collision last night. Two cars crashed on the highway between Darnum and Yarragon after 8:00pm (AEST). The driver of the B-double swerved to miss them, lost control and jack-knifed onto the median strip. A man driving one of the cars was flown to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the other driver was taken to the Warragul hospital. Traffic is being diverted down the west-bound lanes of the highway.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/09/28/3023634.htm?site=gippsland&section=news>

### USA, IN, MICHIGAN CITY, SEPTEMBER 29 2010. TWO FIREWORK EXPLOSIONS CAUSE DAMAGE IN MICHIGAN CITY AND KINGSBURY >. 2 APARTMENT BUILDINGS EVACUATED. POLICE BLAME LARGE, ILLEGAL FIREWORKS FOR EXPLOSIONS.

brandon lewis

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/Garbage-truck-explosion-caused-by-a-lot-of-fireworks--103959999.html>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/103976504.html>



Two separate explosions in LaPorte County caused damage on Monday. A Waste Management garbage truck was emptying a dumpster at the Normandy Village Apartments when the first explosion happened. "The driver thought possibly it was a canister of some type, maybe a propane tank or something, couldn't determine exactly what it was, so he called his company in Kingsbury Industrial Park," said Sheriff Mike Mollenhauer, who added the driver also attempted to look inside the truck to determine the cause. "I think it's lucky the truck driver didn't get injured." Waste Management instructed the driver to bring the truck to its garage 19 miles away in Kingsbury for inspection. While workers were unloading the contents a second, much larger explosion occurred. "The percussion from it damaged the building pretty severely. It knocked down, or damaged severely, an overhead door.

There was some upstairs offices that were damaged with ceiling tiles coming down, light bulbs all broken. In one bathroom a sink was blown away from the wall," said Mollenhauer. Fortunately no one was injured. As a precaution, Michigan City police evacuated two buildings at Normandy Village. Federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were also called to the scene to ensure the explosions were not a part of any malicious plot and help investigate. "We believe that this is an individual, isolated incident and that the public can rest assured that their local officials, along with the ATF are doing everything they can to discover the source of these devices," said Special Agent Kim Riddell with the ATF. Investigators determined the cause of the explosion was illegal fireworks in the dumpster. While the dumpster was being emptied into the truck some concrete, also in the dumpster, crashed together causing the gunpowder to ignite. ATF agents were unable to estimate how many fireworks were inside the dumpster because much of the evidence was damaged in the explosion. Mollenhauer said he saw evidence of approximately 50 large, illegal M-series fireworks at the Kingsbury facility. Waste Management declined a request for an interview. Spokesperson Lisa Disbrow said the company is not looking into changing any policies following the explosion. Mollenhauer recommends proper disposal of all fireworks, regardless if they are legal or not. "Even if they left them somewhere, but called immediately because I can't say they wouldn't be cited for this violation, but we'd certainly rather see that, and I think all agencies would rather, than disposing them like this and having the chance of someone being injured," said Mollenhauer. Police have not arrested any suspects, but said a multi-agency investigation is underway.

<http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/103976504.html>

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