



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2011 – 685 Newsy Stuff

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

**February 8 2011**



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#### **RUSSIA, MOSCOW, JANUARY 30 2011. PIRATE ATTACK ON TANKER THWARTED IN INDIAN OCEAN**

The New York Star tanker has been twice attacked by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean, but the attempts were thwarted, the Maritime Assistance Center said on Saturday. The pirates tried to board the Liberian-flagged tanker, carrying 55,000 tons of naphtha from Saudi Arabia to Singapore, on Friday. The vessel, with two Russians and three Ukrainians onboard, was escorted by the Russian Pacific Fleet's destroyer Admiral Vinogradov, but left the convoy on January 26. It was attacked by the pirates on Friday some 540 miles to the northwest of the Indian Island of Kavaratti, but escaped. The pirates later managed to board the vessel but were unable to get control over the 27 crew members who had locked themselves in the ship's 'citadel.' The attack was thwarted with the help of a Dutch frigate. No crew members were hurt in the incident

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20110129/162370126.html>

#### **USA, OH, MEDINA TWP, JANUARY 30 2011. GAS TANKER FLIPS AND SPILLS IN MEDINA >> ROAD RE-OPENED AFTER TANKER SPILLS FUEL**

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=172421&catid=3>



Crews worked in Medina Township where a tractor-trailer flipped on Fenn Road Saturday around 2:30 a.m. Fenn Road between Route 3 and Route 42 was closed to traffic until around 7 p.m. Medina Township police say the tractor trailer leaked fuel when it flipped. According to Medina Twp Fire, all residents who were evacuated had been given the all clear to return home around 5 p.m. Saturday. There were no injuries in this incident. It is unclear how much gas was spilled at this time. Medina Twp Fire crews had cleared the scene by 5 p.m.

[http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local\\_news/gas-tanker-flips-and-spills-in-medina](http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/gas-tanker-flips-and-spills-in-medina)

#### **INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH, GHAZIABAD, DHAULANA, JANUARY 30 2011. 2 DIE AS TANKER FALLS OVER A THREE-WHEELER**

Two persons, including a junior engineer from the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, were killed during an accident at Dhaulana area of Ghaziabad after a chemical tanker turned over a passing three-wheeler carrying around a dozen of passengers on Saturday morning, police said. The accident occurred near Sapnavat police-post area of Dhaulana near Chajjupur village when the truck-tanker driver was unable to control the vehicle and turned over a passing-by three-wheeler. "Seven others were injured who were crushed inside the three-wheeler. They were evacuated after the truck was lifted with the help of cranes and rushed to nearby hospitals," said Capt MM Baig, superintendent of police. Two minors and a woman were among the injured and were reported out of danger. The dead were identified as Ankur Kumar (25) and Noor Jahan (32), the police said.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/2-die-as-tanker-falls-over-a-three-wheeler/Article1-656260.aspx>

#### **UK, LANCASHIRE, JANUARY 30 2011. EAST LANCASHIRE OIL AND DIESEL THEFTS AS FUEL PRICES ROCKET**

*nazia parveen*



*Double Disaster: Anne Pickup at St Leonard's Primary School where the theft caused sediment from the drained tank to block up the heating system, requiring engineers to fix.*

People have been warned to be on their guard after a spate of diesel and heating oil thefts. Thousands of pounds worth of fuel has been stolen during a number of thefts across the area. It comes as the price of fuel has risen steeply in recent months, with heating oil up by up to 70 per cent. Raiders siphoned off 3,000 litres from an oil tank in the grounds of St Leonard's Primary School, Langho, worth £2,300 over the weekend. The theft was discovered by the headteacher, Anne Pickup, when she opened the school in Whalley Road on Monday morning. She said: "We found that the heating wasn't on and then when we checked we saw that

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the cap on the external oil tanker had been removed. "I thought I was going to have to close the school down but I managed to get some suppliers to arrange a delivery on the same day. "The tanker had been drained so low that sediment got into the heating system causing it to block so we had to have the engineers out. It is an expense that we could do without because the price of oil has gone up significantly since our last delivery." Now, school chiefs are considering introducing new security measures at the site including installing a cage around the tanker. She said: "We simply can't allow this to keep happening and it seems like it is going to become quite prevalent with the increasing prices of oil." Meanwhile, more than £14,200 worth of diesel was stolen from the Five Barred Gate Service Station, Spring Lane, Samlesbury, overnight on January 23 using a HGV. And on January 19, around 250 gallons of red tractor diesel worth £650 was stolen from a tank on the grounds of the Mytton Fold Hotel and Golf Complex, Whalley Road, Langho. Owner Carol Maher, said: "These thefts really effect staff morale and are costly for the business." Sergeant John Lyndsey of Clitheroe police, said: "These thefts are not always immediately noticeable either as people don't check their levels every day. "I would urge people to increase security and fit alarms if necessary."

[http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/8820632.East\\_Lancashire\\_oil\\_and\\_diesel\\_thefts\\_as\\_fuel\\_prices\\_rocket/](http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/8820632.East_Lancashire_oil_and_diesel_thefts_as_fuel_prices_rocket/)

### USA, KS, CUTLER CO, EL DORADO, JANUARY 30 2011. FATAL CAR/TRAIN COLLISION EAST OF EL DORADO >> TWO BURNED BODIES RECOVERED

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/114834019.html>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ksn.com/news/local/story/Two-dead-in-car-vs-train-crash/YBLdKcXskWP8S3ZlaBPkQ.csp>



At 4:41 PM 1-28-11 Butler County Sheriff Officers responded to the report of a car/train collision at NE Ellis and K177 highway. Upon arrival officers found a passenger vehicle fully engulfed in fire. Fire and rescue units were also dispatched to the scene. Sheriff Craig Murphy advises that a southbound BNSF train pulling ethanol tank cars was involved in a collision with the passenger car. The vehicle has been determined to have been northbound on Price Road, a mile north of the reported location. The Price Rd. crossing is an unprotected crossing. For unknown reasons after the collision the vehicle became entangled with the engine and was dragged to the Ellis and K-177 crossing where it was kicked out into the ditch and burned. The Sheriff confirms that they have recovered two burned bodies from the vehicle. The bodies are being taken to the Sedgwick County Forensic Center in an effort to determine identity, ages, and gender. At this time BNSF and the Butler

County Sheriff's Office are continuing to investigate the crash.

<http://www.augustagazette.com/topstories/x1868083072/Fatal-car-train-collision-east-of-El-Dorado>

### NORTHERN IRELAND, CO ANTRIM, NEWTONABBEY, JANUARY 30 2011. FAMILIES IN OIL TANK FIRE TERROR



*Three houses were damaged in the fire which police are treating as arson.*

A pensioner has spoken of how she and her husband made a terrifying escape from their burning home after an arson attack on children as young as ten. Maureen Ritchie lives in a row of houses in Newtownabbey, some of which were destroyed in the blaze - which broke out after a lit bin ignited an oil tank. Police said they are treating the incident as malicious, and confirmed that bin-lighting incidents in the area have been common, with three such episodes reported earlier this week. Mrs Ritchie added that she felt "devastated" for her neighbours - Edith Gaston, 82, and her daughter Karen - whose homes were completely destroyed. Recalling the night's events, she said: "It was around 6 o'clock on Thursday. My next door neighbour's

back garden was set alight and it travelled to her oil tank. It caught fire and it just continued to the house." She said she was certain that events would have taken a darker turn had the fire started later at night when people were asleep. "It just doesn't bear thinking about. My husband's disabled and I don't think I would have been able to get him out if he was upstairs in bed. The end result wouldn't have been what it is." David Hayburn, a senior officer with the fire service, said that his crew were faced with burning oil and potentially explosive gas cylinders. "By the time we arrived at the scene the fire was well established. Thanks to the swift and professional response of our officers we managed to save more houses from being destroyed," he said. "We had a situation where around 600 litres of heating oil was on fire, and there were also several gas

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cylinders which posed an immense risk and we had to establish an extensive cordon zone." Mr Hayburn also revealed that eight fire appliances were tasked to the scene, as the scale of the blaze became apparent. DUP MP Nigel Dodds, who visited the Rathfern area, described what he saw as an "appalling scene of devastation". He said: "To see good homes ruined by what appears to have been a senseless act of arson. I have met with the residents to express my sincere sympathy for the terrible ordeal thrust upon them and to ensure them of my full support. In the circumstances we must be thankful that no lives were lost."

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/Families-in-oil-tank-fire.6705126.jp>

#### USA, GA, PENDERGRASS, JANUARY 30 2011. A FUEL TANKER CATCHES FIRE IN PENDERGRASS FRIDAY

An eighteen wheel tanker truck caught fire in Pendergrass Friday evening. The tanker truck was hauling diesel fuel around 8:00 p.m. when the front cab of the truck burst into flames on Highway 129 and Wesley Way. Jackson County officials say it took over two hours to extinguish the flames and haul the crippled truck away. The fire was contained to the cab of the truck and never threatened the tanker carrying the fuel. No other vehicles were involved and no one was hurt.

<http://www.accessnorthga.com/detail.php?n=235718>

#### USA, WASHINGTON, JANUARY 30 2011. AMERICAN PETROLEUM INSTITUTE MAKES SAFETY STANDARDS AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC ONLINE

Re posted with permission of PC of the Hazmat 101 Group <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/hazmat101/> American Petroleum Institute Makes Safety Standards Available to Public Online. The American Petroleum Institute is putting 160 industry standards online for the first time, part of an effort to be more transparent about the standards under which many oil and gas companies operate. API, the country's oil and gas industry trade group, first announced back in August that it would put the standards online. Now, you can read them here. <http://publications.api.org/> (You have to register). The move comes as regulators have been criticized for adopting many standards written by the industry as federal regulations, both for offshore drilling and onshore pipelines. As part of my series on pipeline safety, I reported that API authored all or part of 27 standards on pipeline safety that were then adopted by a key agency that oversees pipelines, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. Many of the standards were not easily accessible to the public, as copies were kept at the PHMSA and API offices but were not released online. There have been similar reports of the now-defunct Minerals Management Service adopting the industry's offshore drilling standards. API makes quite a bit of money selling these standards, which is why the group originally didn't put them online. Now, the public can see a read-only version of the standard. Hard copies will still have to be purchased. The 160 standards that have been put online are just one-third of the standards authored by API, but the group says all of the safety-related standards have been put online.

<http://publications.api.org/>

#### CANADA, B.C, BURNABY, JANUARY 30 2011. DIGGING DEEPER FOR BEACH TOXINS

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.burnabynow.com/news/Digging+deeper+beach+toxins/4188935/story.html>



*How bad is it?: Workers from URS take samples on the beach of Burrard Inlet to determine how deep and wide contamination has spread from Chevron's refinery. The site has been leaching oil offsite since last spring.*

While they already know parts of the beach are contaminated from the ongoing oil seep, Chevron is conducting a detailed site investigation to figure out just how deep and wide that contamination has spread. A mix of oil, gas and diesel has been leaching offsite from the North Burnaby refinery since last spring, but the company has yet to pinpoint a source. The oil is showing up in a trench next to the railroad tracks and on the beach below the refinery. To date, the seep appears to be the result of contaminants leaching into the ground over time and migrating offsite through the groundwater. Chevron hired a crew from URS to conduct the detailed site investigation, which should wrap up by mid-February. On Wednesday, workers

were digging on the beach with a drill, taking samples for analysis. Mike Gill is one of the URS project managers. He said the investigation is to determine the extent of the contamination. When asked if there was any threat to human health, the environment or wildlife, Gill replied: "That's what we're trying to determine - if there's a risk." Once the fieldwork of the detailed site investigation is done, Chevron will install absorption mats underground on the beach to soak up the material. There's also

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a smaller seep, about 50 metres west of the larger seep, where oil is also showing up in the sand. Chevron has put soaker pads on the spot, but company spokesperson Ray Lord said there isn't enough material there to put another boom on the beach, like they've done to cordon off the larger seep. "That area is something we've been tracking closely," Lord said, referring to the smaller seep. "We will be dealing with it. We're aware of it, we will be keeping an eye on it." Chevron also plans to install an underground absorption mat for the smaller seep. URS has done sampling all along the beach to see if there are more oil seeps. "At this point in time, these are the two areas we know about and intend to deal with," Lord said. Longtime Chevron critic Judi Marshall lives close to the tank farm. On Dec. 2, Marshall was walking on the beach when she spotted the second, smaller seep and alerted Chevron, but she said they already knew about it. On Wednesday, Marshall visited the smaller seep and said there was more material on the beach than there was in December. "That leads me to believe it's getting worse," she said. Since spring, roughly 16 litres of oil have made it to the beach below the refinery. Chevron has also recovered 10,000 litres of oily material onsite, through a series of extraction wells, and about 800 litres have been recovered from the railroad trench. The material represents about 68 barrels' worth, but the vast majority has been captured in the cleanup, according to the company. While Chevron hasn't found a source, Lord said they've got a new specific "area of focus" around the effluent sewer system. Chevron is isolating the spot for further investigation. Lord said they will be excavating there and any oily material found will be recovered, and treated. The subsequent report will be available on Chevron's community advisory panel website in the coming weeks. For updates, visit [www.chevroncap.com](http://www.chevroncap.com), click on Resources and select "Burnaby Refinery Area 2 Seepage" under Current Issues.

<http://www.burnabynews.com/news/Digging+deeper+beach+toxins/4188935/story.html>

#### USA, TX, TEXAS CITY, JANUARY 30 2011. ALL CLEAR GIVEN FOLLOWING LEAK IN TEXAS CITY

*sonia azad*

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7927233>

A gas leak forced people from their homes in Texas City and some are questioning the warnings they received. We told you about the chemical leak at the Marathon Plant in Texas City this morning. The leak forced crews to evacuate some homes near the plant off Sixth Avenue and 11th Street. The gas that leaked was isobutene which is a hydrocarbon and potentially flammable if it comes in contact with an open flame. The alarm at Marathon Petroleum Corporation sounded before 8:30am. That's when Aurora Cadena jumped out of bed. "Nobody told us anything," said Cadena. "We just heard the alarm going off." Reports of a gas leak quickly spread. From their headquarters in Findley, Ohio, a spokesman said it happened inside the plant. Refinery workers were removed from the hazard zone, while the problem was isolated and the leak repaired. Texas City's office of emergency management called for residents within a three block radius to evacuate. That's about 12 homes. Lawrence Bookman's home was one of them. "I came out the house and looked around and I ain't seen anybody going nowhere so I didn't go nowhere," he said. Bookman and his neighbors said after the all clear was issued they didn't know about the evacuation because of an underlying problem with the plant's alert. They don't understand it. "You can't understand what they're saying," said Bookman. "You don't know if they're saying 'evacuate' or 'go back to the work spot' or whatever." "They should've told us something because we live right in front of them," said Cadena. With children and pets playing outside, these homeowners want a stronger warning, like a knock on the door or a courtesy drive-by. "They need to come out and tell us something, just don't have us stuck out," said Bookman. No one was injured in the gas leak and operations weren't interrupted. The city offered a shelter for evacuees but no one showed up. As for the evacuation order, Marathon spokesperson Robert Calmus told me over the phone he will make some calls first thing Monday and talk to officials at the Texas City plant to find out if anything can be done to address that and make the alert system more easily understandable.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=7927233>

#### USA, CT, FAIR HAVEN, JANUARY 30 2011. BLAZES KEEP CITY FIREFIGHTERS ON THE MOVE

 **Watch the Video** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4aVC\\_Oxalw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4aVC_Oxalw)

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vd-bJO-nxc>

An explosion and fire hit at a Fair Haven scrap yard Friday morning leaving one junkyard raccoon displaced and stranded in a tree. In the incident the Fire Department received a report of an explosion and fireball at about 11 a.m. at Regan Metal Corp., a scrap yard at 102 Chapel St. Assistant Fire Chief Ralph Black said the cause remained unclear and under investigation. What firefighters encountered was heavy smoke and a fire in a large metal filled container that had extended to another scrap metal heap. Fire officials were trying to determine exactly what was in the container, and whether it posed an environmental hazard from toxic fumes or water runoff. Nearby residents reported an explosion and fireball, but fire officials believe it was a

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cloud of gas released when the metal pile ignited. "The part of the fire we're trying to figure out is, how did it start," said Black. No workers were injured, but one firefighter was taken to the hospital. His injury was not believed to be serious. Workers at the scene declined comment and the owner of the company was unavailable. Other workers said he was operating heavy machinery in the scrap yard pulling apart the metal pile to help firefighters extinguish hot spots.

<http://www.firefightingnews.com/article-us.cfm?articleID=90103>

#### INDIA, UTTAR PRADESH, HARDOI, JANUARY 30 2011. 3 DIE IN UTTAR PRADESH BENZENE CHLORIDE GAS LEAK, FACTORY OWNER BOOKED



*Victims of gas leakage admitted at the community health centre at Sandila on Saturday. (Right) Members of the investigation team inspect the premises of the Amit Hetrochem Lab (I) Limited.*

Three people, including a woman, died and seven others were hospitalised following a gas leak at a chemical factory in HarDOI district, officials said Saturday. A magisterial inquiry has been ordered and a criminal case has been registered against the factory owner who is absconding. The gas has been identified as phosgene. A compensation of Rs.2.20 lakh has been announced for the families of each of the deceased. The gas leakage from Amit Hetro Chem factory of B.N. Lal in Sandila town is believed to have taken place early Saturday. The factory has been sealed and its adjoining areas have been evacuated by police as a

precautionary measure. 'Tests carried out by the technical team suggest it was phosgene gas. All the three, who died following the leak, were sleeping in a flour mill situated a few metres away from the factory,' HarDOI District Magistrate Awadhesh Kumar Singh Rathore told IANS. 'While a magisterial inquiry has been ordered into the case, a four-member committee has also been constituted to probe whether procedures were being followed by the owners of the factory,' he added. Rathore has asked the committee to submit its report within seven days. 'Whether the factory had a valid licence or norms related to safety were being followed and several such aspects will be probed by the four-member committee that would be headed by additional district magistrate,' Rathore said in HarDOI, some 110 km from Lucknow. 'We have been told that chemicals used in medicines were manufactured in the factory,' Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Santosh Kumar told IANS. 'We have detained a chemist of the factory in connection with the incident. He is being interrogated,' he added. Experts of the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow, believe that improper functioning of the water treatment plant in the factory may have triggered the gas leakage. 'Phosgene gets neutralized when it comes in contact with water. It appears the water treatment plant of the factor was having some problems, and therefore the gas could not get treated and people died after inhaling it,' said a scientist at the IITR. 'Phosgene is heavier than air and tends to come down if its by-products carbon monoxide and hydrogen chloride gases are not formed,' he added. HarDOI's Superintendent of Police Luv Kumar told IANS: 'On the complaint made by the family members of the deceased, we have filed a case under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code, including section 304 (causing death by negligence) and section 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide) against the factory owner.' Meanwhile, locals in Sandila town alleged that many residents had died due to gas leakages from the factory in the past as well, but no action was taken. 'I have also been informed about it. But as of now, I cannot say anything with confirmation. I have sought records and documents in this regard,' said Rathore. Locals said panic gripped the area after people complained of irritation in eyes and skin. 'Some of us started experiencing it at around midnight, and thereafter we started washing our eyes and the body parts. It was only in the early morning we came to know that the irritation was because of the gas leak,' said Pammu Kushwaha, a resident of the area.

<http://www.sify.com/news/three-die-in-uttar-pradesh-gas-leak-factory-owner-booked-news-national-lb3wkgggdac.html>

#### USA, MA, NORTON, JANUARY 30 2011. FUEL SPILLS NEAR NORTON RESERVOIR

*stu skerker*

Fire and state officials are investigating the possible environmental impact of a kerosene spill near the Norton Reservoir that leaked an estimated 250 gallons of the heating fuel into the snow and ground on Saturday afternoon. Fire Capt. Kent Campbell said he was called to investigate a spill at an outside storage tank at a mobile home park on Mansfield Avenue (Route 140), when a homeowner realized that an exterior 275-gallon kerosene tank that had been filled a week ago was empty. Campbell said he dug a couple of exploration pits to determine how far the kerosene had traveled in the snow, ice and underlying dirt and was trying to see if any of the fuel had made it to the Norton Reservoir about 20 feet away. He said he found kerosene about 3 feet from the mobile home, but didn't find any 6 feet away. He also said it's difficult to determine if any

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had made it to the water, because the reservoir is covered with snow and ice. The state Department of Environmental Protection was sending an environmental agent to inspect the spill Saturday night. Campbell said he also contacted the town's conservation agent. He said once the spill is reviewed by the state, the homeowner is usually asked to clean up the spill by hiring a licensed site professional who will replace any contaminated soil with clean soil. The scope of any cleanup won't be known until crews start digging up the ground, he said.

<http://www.thesunchronicle.com/articles/2011/01/30/news/8769999.txt>

#### INDIA, FARIDABAD, HARYANA, JANUARY 30 2011. CHLORINE LEAK: 17 FALL ILL IN HARYANA

At least 17 people complained of nausea, giddiness, sore throat and irritation in the eyes after chlorine gas leaked from a factory in Haripur village in this district, police said Saturday. 'Chlorine gas leaked from a factory late Friday evening. The situation is now under control,' a police official said here. 'At least 17 people complained of some medical complications. They were taken to a nearby hospital for first aid. All of them are fine now and discharged from the hospital,' he added. 'We are trying to find out the reason behind the leakage. The police will take strict action against those due to whose negligence it had taken place,' he added.

<http://www.sify.com/news/chlorine-leak-17-fall-ill-in-haryana-news-national-lb3pOfhbijhf.html>

#### USA, WA, CAMAS, JANUARY 30 2011. BARGE GROUNDED IN COLUMBIA RIVER STARTS LEAKING OIL >> IT WAS BELIEVED THAT SALVAGE CREW HAD REMOVED HAZARD

erik robinson

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fid=114869599&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10202>



*Ballard Diving & Salvage Oil leaking from the Davy Crockett, a World War II-era Liberty Ship, had spread from where the ship ran aground near Camas to the Port of Vancouver.*

A grounded barge sent a 15-mile-long sheen of oil drifting down the Columbia River early Thursday, just three days after the U.S. Coast Guard assumed the hazard had been removed. The vessel's owner had been ordered to remove onboard oil and garbage after the vessel broke its mooring and went aground Jan. 20. The condition of the 431-foot-long barge Davy Crockett, beached and broken on the north bank of the river between Vancouver and Camas, has deteriorated since the converted Liberty ship went aground a week ago. The stern and the bow now form a 'V' sticking out of the water with much of the midsection of the ship swamped by river

water. State and federal authorities were trying to assess the threat as dusk fell on Thursday. "We're trying to figure out how much oil is on it," said Curt Piesch, a spill response specialist for the state Department of Ecology. "There could be a lot of oil on it." He said about 2,800 feet of floating oil-absorbent boom line had been deployed around the ship. Piesch said a sheen was reported by an employee of Tidewater Barge Co. Thursday morning near the Port of Vancouver. He said a state spill-response boat traced the source 15 miles upriver to the Davy Crockett. "We've had ship spills on the river before," Piesch said. "The difference is this is so far upriver. The good thing on this one is it's not a heavy intermediate fuel oil; it's a lubrication oil. But oil's still oil, and we're going to aggressively respond to it." A representative of the salvage company working for the vessel's owner said Thursday's leak was discovered about 10:30 a.m. by an employee who had been checking the barge every 12 hours. A week ago today, the Coast Guard had ordered vessel owner Brett Simpson of Ellensburg to remove oil, old batteries and other detritus aboard the ship. On Monday, the Coast Guard reported that the task had been completed "and the vessel no longer poses a pollution risk to the public health or welfare or to the environment." Just one problem: It wasn't true. "We suspect that there's some kind of compartment under the water that just wasn't discovered during the first assessment," Coast Guard Petty Officer Kelly Parker said. Simpson, the vessel's owner, did not respond to requests for comment. Parker said the owner has been working cooperatively with the Coast Guard. "Right now, the owner plans on scrapping the vessel — basically taking it apart piece by piece," Parker said. "We don't have a timeline." Eric Muller, of Ballard Diving & Salvage, has been working with Simpson to address the ongoing hazard. "The ship appears to have essentially broken in two sections completely now," Muller said. "That has likely exposed some issues deeper into the ship." Maritime records indicate the ship was launched in 1942 in Houston. It was the same type of Liberty ship produced by the hundreds in Vancouver during World War II. It was converted to an offshore pipelaying barge in 1969, then converted to a flat barge with the removal of its superstructure in 1999 in Seattle. It has been moored along the north bank of the river in Vancouver since 2002, although its

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purpose in Vancouver remains hazy. "The owner has indicated that he is going to remove it," said Jane Chavey, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Natural Resources, which owns the aquatic land on which the Davy Crockett now sits. "The main issue is that it be removed in an environmentally responsible way."

### Other News sites

- [UPDATE: Source of oil leaking from grounded barge remains unknown](#)
- [Grounded barge sends oil sheen down Columbia River](#)
- [Report out on grounding of Tidewater barge](#)
- [Barge grounded in Columbia River starts leaking oil](#)
- [Authorities work to contain oil leaking from grounded barge](#)
- [Beached ship near Camas not threat, officials say](#)
- [Crews remove oil from ship beached near Camas](#)
- [Derelict vessel's structural problems complicate cleanup](#)

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/jan/27/ship-grounded-in-columbia-river-barge-starts-leak/>

### USA, IL, WILLIAMSON CO, JOHNSTON CITY, JANUARY 31 2011. MACH MINE FIRE >> OFFICIALS SAYS THEY'VE NEVER HANDLED A BLAZE WITH SUCH MAGNITUDE OF FUEL INVOLVED

christen craig

 **Watch the Video** [http://www.wsiltv.com/p/news\\_details.php?newsID=12285&type=top](http://www.wsiltv.com/p/news_details.php?newsID=12285&type=top)



-- Still no word what caused a massive fire at a local coal mine. A maintenance building ignited at the Mach Mine-- east of Johnston City Friday afternoon. Black smoke could be seen for miles. Firefighters say a specialized camera helped them perform their job safely. It took six fire departments, eight fire trucks and more than four hours to put out the Mach Mine Fire. Williamson County Fire Officials says they've never handled a blaze with such magnitude of fuel involved. "That was our first concern, those hazardous flammable materials," says Shawn Priddy. Inside the maintenance building were tanks and thousands of gallons of flammable liquid-- including diesel, gear oil and hydraulic fluid. Officials say their biggest fear was an auto ignition. "Auto ignition it doesn't require a spark or flame to start it. It just gets so hot it will finally burst into flames," says Priddy. The thermo imaging camera

showed crews how hot the liquids were inside the tank and how close they were to an explosion. "We kept applying water to cool the tanks down until we felt the temperature was at a safe level to where the fuel couldn't auto ignite," he says. Knowing there was still a couple hundred degrees before the fuel would ignite gave them a chance to go in and cool off the tanks safely. "We could actually still hear the liquid inside boiling," he says. Priddy says they've used thermo imaging before but never has it been so important. Mach Mine had no comment on the incident.

[http://www.wsiltv.com/p/news\\_details.php?newsID=12285&type=top](http://www.wsiltv.com/p/news_details.php?newsID=12285&type=top)

### USA, IL, CHICAGO, JANUARY 31 2011. ILL. OFFICER SIDELINES DANGEROUS TANKER

bob susnjara

Round Lake Park's police chief credited an officer for noticing problems with a tanker passing through the village that he said could have caused a serious crash involving other motorists. Truck driver Joel R. Pilbeam, 55, of the 35000 block of Egyptian Trail in Peotone, was ticketed for no rear suspension system, unsafe tires with steel ply showing and no warning device in the cab. Pilbeam was pulled over at 3 p.m. Wednesday on eastbound Route 120 at Porter Drive, police said. Police Chief George Filenko said officer Waymon Vela deserves credit for quickly recognizing serious safety defects with the rig and getting it off the road until repairs were made. Vela has specialized certification for truck inspections and in determining if they are overweight. Filenko and Vela said the problems with Pilbeam's truck could have endangered other motorists similar to a 1994 tragedy in which six children were killed in a van driven by the Rev. Scott Willis on I-94 in Wisconsin. In that crash, part of a truck's mudflap-tailight assembly dragged on the pavement and created a spark that ignited the Willis van's gas tank. Vela said an obstructed registration tag led him to pull over the tanker driven by Pilbeam, who was headed to Peotone from McHenry on Wednesday afternoon. Vela said the tanker typically is filled with chemicals for plastics, but it was empty when he stopped the truck. In examining the truck, Vela said, he discovered four leaf springs came loose and fell on a road somewhere before the driver reached Round Lake Park. He said the springs hitting the pavement would have been a hazard for other

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motorists. Vela said the lack of springs caused the trailer to bounce and began shredding the tires. He said there was a particular concern about the truck's worn-down rear retread tires, which can "shoot like missiles" and create a danger for other drivers when they blow out. "Those retreads could shoot up to 20 feet to 30 feet in the air, depending on how fast the rig is going," Vela said. Pilbeam's cab, registered to Act 2 LLC in Peotone, also was not properly equipped with a warning device that would have alerted him to the falling springs and the tire shredding, Vela said. Pilbeam waited at Round Lake Park police headquarters until the A-Tire County Service in neighboring Round Lake made repairs on his truck, authorities said.

<http://www.officer.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=56523>

### USA – JANUARY 31 2011. ERA OF LEADED GASOLINE STILL POISONING VEGETABLE GARDENS ACROSS AMERICA

*david gutierrez*

Vegetable gardens across the United States are contaminated with lead, even those using presumably safe soil from newly made compost, according to a study conducted by researchers from Wellesley College and presented at a meeting of the Geological Society of America. The most common sources of lead contamination in the United States are still leaded paint and gasoline used before those products were banned. Because lead is a chemical element, it never degrades. It is a powerful neurotoxin that can produce behavioral irregularities or permanent mental retardation. "Adverse effects from [lead](#) can occur at very low levels," warns Robert Ivker in his book Sinus Survival. "Early symptoms of lead [poisoning](#) -- such as nervousness, irritability, headaches, fatigue, muscular problems, constipation, and indigestion -- are hard to pinpoint as lead-related." Prior [research](#) by the Wellesley researchers in cooperation with The Food Project found [lead levels](#) above 400 micrograms per gram of [soil](#) in 81 percent of 144 backyard [gardens](#) tested in the Boston communities of Roxbury and Dorchester. Although there is no safe level of [lead exposure](#), the Environmental Protection Agency has set 400 micrograms per gram as the maximum acceptable threshold. To remedy the problem, The Food Project installed raised beds filled with freshly composted soil in community and backyard gardens across the area. Although these raised beds started with lead levels as low as 110 micrograms per gram, monitoring showed that over the course of four years these levels rose to an average of 336 micrograms per gram. In their most recent study, the researchers conducted detailed monitoring and chemical analysis of the raised beds to determine where the [lead contamination](#) was coming from. Based on that analysis, the researchers believe that wind and rain are transporting the lead from other contaminated sites. The good news is that the types of lead being found are poorly absorbed by the human body. More importantly, lead [exposure](#) can be dramatically reduced simply by discarding the top inch or two of soil from a raised [garden](#) bed every year.

Sources for this story include: <http://www.sciencecentric.com/news>

- **Articles Related to This Article:**
- [8,000 Toxic Waste Sites Ignored by EPA: Massive Lead Contamination at Shooting Ranges](#)
- [20-Year Study: Lead Linked to Violent Crime and Shrinks the Brain](#)
- [The Poisoning of America's Water Supplies](#)
- [FDA Finds Lead in All Lipsticks Tested](#)
- [ADHD symptoms caused by lead exposure, new study claims](#)

[http://www.naturalnews.com/031157\\_gasoline\\_poison.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/031157_gasoline_poison.html)

### UGANDA, KAMPALA, JANUARY 31 2011. KENOLKOBIL ACQUIRES PHOENIX PETROLEUM

*scola kamau*

Oil marketer KenolKobil has acquired all assets of Phoenix Uganda Petroleum Ltd as it seeks to establish a regional presence, while at the same time scouting for an entry into Zimbabwe's lucrative market. The firm will control the assets of Phoenix Uganda Petroleum Ltd including a depot, a modern three-storey office block and three service stations in Kampala, in a move aimed at strengthening KobilUganda's ability to tap into the recent oil discoveries in the country. KenolKobil is also scouting for a fresh entry route to Zimbabwe, after a previous attempt to invest in the Southern African country was thwarted in a tendering duel last year. Last week, officials at the oil marketer said the firm had sent a team of executives to Harare to identify potential investment opportunities, with an eye to setting up shop in the first quarter of 2011.

#### Acquisitions

KenolKobil also anticipates expanding its business presence in Uganda and the East, Central and South African regions, through acquisition of high potential assets in both existing and new markets. "While Zimbabwe's economy has declined sharply over the past decade, it still boasts good infrastructure and we believe that this will form the basis of renewed

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economic growth under the new government of national unity," said Jacob Segman, Group managing director. KenolKobil, Kenya's second biggest player by market share had planned to enter Zimbabwe's market last year by buying Shell's subsidiaries in the country but investment firm Masawara, which is listed on London's Alternative Investment Market won the tender. This threw a spanner in the works of the firm's expansion strategy, which it had hoped would give it a bigger presence in Southern Africa. Should Kenol succeed in gaining entry into Zimbabwe, it would give it a stronger competitive edge against its local rivals with operations in other African markets. Kobil's 17.9 per cent share follows Total's 27.4 per cent while Kenya Shell and Libya Oil hold 17.1 and 12.7 per cent of Kenya's market share respectively according to the Petroleum Institute of East Africa January-September report 2010. While Masawara is on the verge of buying the entire business of British Petroleum and Shell Marketing Services in Zimbabwe, through its wholly owned subsidiary, FMI Zimbabwe, Kenol together with South African petroleum products marketer Engen was locked out of Zimbabwe's BP and Shell buyout in line with Zimbabwe's Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act. It states that Zimbabweans should own 51 per cent of "strategic" businesses in the country. Kobil has resolved to go it alone because "While Zimbabwe's economy has declined sharply over the past decade, it still boasts good infrastructure and we believe that this will form the basis of renewed economic growth under the new government of national unity," said Mr Segman in a statement.

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/business/-/2560/1098028/-/cautd8z/-/>

#### **USA, CA, RODEO, JANUARY 31 2011. FIREFIGHTERS RESPOND TO LEAK AT CONOCOPHILLIPS REFINERY**

Firefighters responded to a leak at an oil refinery in Rodeo this afternoon, a dispatcher said. Crews went to ConocoPhillips Co. refinery on 1380 San Pablo Avenue at about 2:30 p.m. to monitor a leak reported by the company, according to a dispatcher at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. The dispatcher could not specify what substance the refinery was leaking. Two fire engines and a battalion chief were sent to the scene, and firefighters were still at the refinery as of 4 p.m. No injuries were reported. A spokesperson from the refinery was not immediately available.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/26670093/detail.html>

#### **CHINA, BEIJING, JANUARY 31 2011. FIREWORKS PUT CITY ON RED ALERT**

Against the backdrop of the capital's lengthy drought, which has continued for about 100 days, and the resulting elevated fire risk, firefighters have been ramping up their efforts to contain the danger. In a bid to keep the lid on the risk, 26 densely-populated communities outside the Fifth Ring Road will each be guarded by a fire truck throughout the Spring Festival this year. In addition, all 560 points of sale for fireworks will be monitored with the help of cameras, so rescue teams can be dispatched as soon as any problem arises. "Everything that is going on there at the fireworks stalls will be transferred to the bureau at once," said Liu Guozhong, director of the fire prevention division at the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Fire Prevention. The bureau knows it will not be easy to douse the risk from fireworks this year - some 910,000 boxes of pyrotechnics, 14 percent more than last year, are on sale in the city. Xia Chunlei, a press officer with the bureau, said firefighters want to keep everyone safe without spoiling their Spring Festival fun. "We must ensure everyone can have a whale of a time setting off fireworks," said Xia, who admitted that the dry city and the larger-than-usual amount of fireworks in it has put everyone on edge. "Fires are more likely to break out," he said. "And they will spread more easily once they start." The bureau was called out to more than 400 fires in January. "When Beijing first allowed people to set off fireworks and firecrackers six years ago after the earlier ban, there were 45 fires reported during the first five days of Chinese New Year," said Luo Yuan, deputy chief of the fire brigade. "The figure went down by five each year, reaching 25 last year, but we can't promise a continuous fall this year due to the dry weather." He said the bureau is doing all it can to minimize the risk. Liu Guozhong, head of the bureau's fire prevention division, said all police officers will also watch out for fire risks this year. In the past, the work was done entirely by firefighters. Also, because almost 90 percent of reported fires involved an accumulation of flammable materials, the bureau has cleaned up nearly 5,000 tons of combustible materials since December, said Luo. He said people are only allowed to store one box - or 30 kilograms - of fireworks or firecrackers in their homes. Larger stores of fireworks must be kept under guard in warehouses. Luo also addressed the risk of fire in high-rise buildings, emphasizing that flammable materials must not be stored in corridors and that fire-fighting equipment must be in good working order. "In case of fire, try to escape straight away, instead of waiting in the building for a rescue," Luo said. "Don't miss your best opportunity to evacuate the building, which is in the first 30 minutes." Luo said people setting off fireworks should also be aware of where such activity is banned, such as around historic buildings and gas stations. Fireworks and firecrackers went on sale within the Fifth Ring Road on Saturday and will be available until Feb 17. Large fireworks are only for sale outside the Fifth Ring Road. Since October, municipal police officers have seized more than 7,500 boxes of illegal and counterfeit fireworks, which are mainly transported to the city from Hebei province and Tianjin, Beijing Evening News reported on Sunday. The only three authorized direct distributors of

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fireworks are Panda Fireworks, Yanlong Fireworks and Doudou Fireworks. People are allowed to set off fireworks around the clock on Feb 2 and 3 and between the hours of 7 am and midnight on Feb 4 and 17.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90782/90872/7277415.html>

### VENEZUELA, MARACAY, JANUARY 31 2011. DEADLY BLAST AT VENEZUELA ARMS DEPOT

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.hispanicallyspeakingnews.com/notitas-de-noticias/details/venezuela-arms-depot-fire-explosions-kill-one/4804/>

 **Watch the Video** <http://globalvoicesonline.org/2011/01/30/venezuela-explosions-rocked-the-maracay-night/>



*Fire burns at a Venezuelan army ammunition depot in Maracay, Venezuela, on Jan. 30, 2011. A fire set off a series of explosions at a military arms depot, killing at least one person and leading authorities to evacuate about 10,000 people from the area.*

At least one person was killed and three others injured in northern Venezuela on Sunday, when a series of powerful explosions shook an arms depot. The arsenal is located in the city of Maracay, in Aragua state. All residents living within five kilometres of the munitions dump, about 10,000 people, were evacuated, state governor Rafael Isea said. Because the first large blast triggered a chain of explosions, it was several hours before emergency equipment and personnel could reach the site and bring the situation under control. "Now comes the investigation stage. We cannot conclude anything yet, but all scenarios and theories will be evaluated," Venezuelan vice president Elias Jaua told state television VTV. Mr Isea verified the fatality. "Sadly, a woman was exposed to the blast and died," he said. The governor initially said about 40 people were injured by shrapnel or bullets.

Officials later said only three people had been admitted to nearby hospitals. The explosion at state military arms firm CAVIM occurred at about 4:45am (local time), and the resulting blaze was visible for several miles. Residents were not allowed to return to their homes until authorities had completed a search for grenades and other arms and explosives that may have been propelled into the surrounding neighbourhoods.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/01/31/3125315.htm?section=world>

### USA, FLA, PORT CANAVERAL, JANUARY 31 2011. FOAM IS THE WEAPON FOR FUEL FIRES AT PORT >> SITTING ON MILLIONS OF STORED GALLONS, FIREFIGHTERS READY

john a. torres



*Firefighter-medic Ric Reyes lays down foam on propane tanks at Canaveral Fire Rescue in Port Canaveral.*

Millions of gallons of fuel are stored, transported and pumped every day at Port Canaveral, making fire safety one of the biggest concerns at the second-busiest cruising port in the world. With the Disney Dream looming in the foreground, a barge slides by and starts fueling another cruise ship. One tanker truck after another leaves loaded with gasoline bound for Central gas stations. Everywhere you look, fuel is moving. Some even moves out of sight, through an underground line used to fuel some of the cruise ships. And safety measures are almost as prevalent. Just about anywhere a fuel fire could start at the port, you'll find foam. Most fire trucks at the [CapeCanaveral](#) Fire Rescue station directly behind the Port Authority building are equipped with six five-gallon containers of it, while a larger truck carries 300 gallons. More is kept in storage and the \$126 million Seaport Canaveral fuel depot has a 3,800-gallon tank filled with the foam -- which is like a highly concentrated dishwashing soap. "The fuel is very well protected," said Fire Chief David Sargeant of Cape Canaveral Fire Rescue, a private company

that responds in the city and at the port. "The tank farms are as safe as can be." Despite the station's close proximity to a fiery crash on Jan. 21 at State Road 528 and Courtenay Parkway involving a tanker truck and a pickup that claimed the lives of both drivers, Cape Canaveral was not asked to respond. It came down to a matter of accessible water. The foam needs water to be effective in suppressing fire. The county relied on Kennedy Space Center's crash trucks, designed to carry large amounts of water along with a foam tank and high capacity pump to fight fire. Most departments that have an airport in their jurisdiction like Melbourne, Patrick [Air Force](#) Base, KSC and the Air Force station at Kennedy Space Center have such trucks. These are the only such trucks in Brevard. Stan Payne, chief executive officer of Port Canaveral, said the facility boasts "state-of-the-art equipment" and everything is being done to ensure safety now and in the future. "Literally millions of dollars

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have been spent and will be spent in protection from everything from spills to fires," he said, adding that port safety will be further augmented with a new fireboat and a North Side fire department facility later this year. The largest tanks of the 24 already in place at the Seaport Canaveral fuel tank terminal contain 155,000 barrels of fuel, or 6.5 million gallons. The plan is to eventually have about 32 tanks at the facility that would fill 150 tanker trucks a day. Each storage fuel tank is equipped with foam-spraying systems that are supposed to put out a fire within 59 minutes. According to Assistant Fire Chief John Cunningham, Seaport Canaveral has installed many safeguards that go "above and beyond the fire code." For example, he said there are two huge water pumps on site, adjacent to the "foam house," when only one was necessitated by code. "It's a redundant system," Cunningham said. "They could have done with one. They also have people monitoring the tanks 24/7." Additionally, with fire hydrants spread out every 300 feet, the chances of a fire spreading or causing extensive damage in the area is slim, Sargeant said. And with several foam suppliers throughout the state -- including Orlando -- more foam is only an hour away. "It is important to remember that the primary markets for both of the port's facilities are local -- whether it be providing bunker fuel for ships within the port or gasoline and diesel fuel for area service stations," Payne said. The foam, costing between \$20 and \$25 per gallon, has a supposed limitless shelf life. "If you keep it sealed it should last," Sargeant said. "It also shouldn't freeze or be subjected to high temperatures." He said training was an ongoing process and that administering the foam is simple. When training, the firefighters typically use dishwashing soap or colored water.

### Lots of Progress

About 118 million gallons of fuel can be stored at Seaport Canaveral, which started operations last April. The fuel arrives on huge barges sailing into the port's main channel from the Atlantic Ocean. A major accident could disrupt the Carnival, Disney, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean cruise lines, who use the channel, as well. The cruise lines are the top source of revenue for the port. With the added precautions added by Seaport Canaveral, additional training for his firefighters and strict code in place for fuel tank facilities, Sargeant said most of the calls his crew responds to are medical or to examine small fires on pleasure boats while out at sea. "We've come a long way since 1983," he said, referring to a three-day fire that engulfed a gambling ship -- the Sea Escape -- nearly sinking it at the dock. "That fire taught the port a lot of things" Improvements include the fire protection systems now on the docks and tools like the high-powered Daspit portable foam-sprayer that can shoot out 2,000 gallons per minute and hit a target 300 feet away. Also starting this month, underground fuel lines from Seaport Canaveral have started fueling the cruise ships, something that pleases Cunningham. "Barges fueling ships is just an added hazard," he said, adding that there are discussions to eventually run an underground pipeline to Orlando International Airport. Bob Lay, director of Brevard County's Office of Emergency Management, has said people living and working near Port Canaveral should not worry about the increased amount of fuel. He said officials from various agencies at many levels reviewed and cleared the project at every step. "(Seaport Canaveral) has been involved in planning and a table-top exercise with most of the major response agencies in the county, and more importantly, they have built a state-of-the art plant," Lay said when the plant became operational. "The plant is located in and around one of the most secure areas in this county. Having said all of that, no, I do not think there should be any elevated level of concern." In six months, Sargeant expects to have another fire-fighting weapon in his arsenal -- a \$1 million fireboat, courtesy of a grant from the Department of Homeland Security. The four-person boat will allow firefighters to combat boat, bridge and dock fires from the water and will be equipped with foam as well.

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20110131/NEWS01/101310320/1006/Foam-is-the-weapon-for-fuel-fires-at-port>

### USA, IN, INDIANAPOLIS, JANUARY 31 2011. INDIANA EXPERIENCES UNUSUAL UPTICK IN WATER-GAS CITATIONS >> 4 STATIONS CITED THIS MONTH; 'POOR MAINTENANCE' SUSPECTED

*tom spalding*

This month, the state has cited four gas stations after finding water in fuel stored in their underground tanks. What's surprising about that number is that it totals just one less than the state agency responsible for monitoring the fuel has received in the past two years. Customers experiencing engine trouble in their vehicles led to four complaints to a state agency. Water in the tank can negatively affect engine performance. So what's tainting the stations' underground tanks? State authorities only identify the contamination. Rain or snow can enter tanks when they are opened for refilling, but that may not be the cause. "In my estimation, it's just a poor maintenance," said Larry Stump, director of the fuel inspection program at the Indiana State Department of Health. Two Department of Health employees investigate fuel tanks at 3,007 Indiana stations. Their investigations show no evidence to prove filling stations are diluting the product purposely, Stump said. Some independent station owners are struggling in the tough economy, trying to balance rising gas prices, customers' demand and the costs to keep their stations running. Scot Imus, with the Indiana Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, said companies that pump tens of thousands of gallons of gas per year have no reason to shortchange customers. "It's just an unfortunate situation that happens infrequently," Imus said. "Like anything that's mechanical, there can be hiccups in the

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system, and those can be addressed." Two weeks ago, inspectors found the first problem of the year in tanks at an Indianapolis station: a high concentration of water in more than one pump of premium unleaded gas at a Marathon station at 982 N. Tibbs Ave. The Department of Health forces stations with problems to close until they are resolved. Thursday, two more Indianapolis stations were cited: a Village Pantry station at 9601 N. College Ave., which dispenses Marathon fuel; and a Marathon station at 3511 S. Post Road. Again, the fuel contained a high concentration of water. Also Thursday, a Marathon about 30 miles southwest of Indianapolis, off I-70 at Ind. 243 in Putnam County, was found to have water in the fuel. Skip Powers, chief of the underground storage tank section of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, said the Village Pantry station suffered an equipment malfunction. "Village Pantry prides itself on providing quality fuel to our customers, and we follow detailed procedures every day to monitor our equipment to ensure this quality," said Mike Emmons, the convenience store's vice president of operations. "We are now in the process of cleaning all of our tanks and lines." Emmons said customers who experience mechanical problems with their vehicles due to Village Pantry's fuel can call (800) 348-3430. at (317) 444-6202.

<http://www.indystar.com/article/20110131/LOCAL/101310333/Reports-water-gasoline-rising?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|IndyStar.com>

**USA, CA, DANVILLE, FEBRUARY 1 2011. ARE SOME LOCAL GAS STATIONS BREAKING THE LAW? >> ALMOST 1,000 STATIONS IN CALIFORNIA ARE NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH A STATE ORDER FROM OCT. 15 INVOLVING GASOLINE PUMPS.**

*david mills & erika conner*



If you use one of those clips that lets you automatically pump gasoline into your car, there's a one in 12 chance the gas station you're patronizing is breaking the law. State officials estimate almost 1,000 of California's 12,000 service stations have not complied with an Oct. 15 order from the [state fire marshal](#) to remove the hands-free pumping clips from so-called VST nozzles. About 3,000 California stations had those particular nozzles last fall. State officials estimate 70 percent of those stations have complied with the order. That leaves almost 1,000 that haven't. Stations with the VST nozzles must remove the clip or install new nozzles that are allowed to have that piece of equipment. The cost of the new nozzles runs from \$180 to \$300, plus installation in some cases. Stations that don't comply face fines or even closure. The issue came to the forefront last fall when the [California Air Resources Board](#) reported to the fire marshal that the clips were to blame for 13 spraying

incidents last year. A few people were doused by gasoline because of clip malfunctions. The concern was that the clips could pose a fire hazard or contribute to smog. It's unknown how many stations in this region might be out of compliance. A check of two gas stations in Dublin and one in San Ramon, all Chevron stations, revealed the clip had been removed from VST nozzles. The manager of a Chevron station in San Ramon that still had the clips said the nozzles do not fall under the fire marshal's order. The manager of a Union 76 station in Walnut Creek said he removed the clips last fall and reinstalled them after replacing the nozzles. Dimitri Stanich, a public information officer for the air resources board, said station owners are aware of the order. "It's not like they don't know," he said. "Some of them just aren't doing it." The state fire marshal's office is responsible for enforcing the order sent lists of non-compliant stations to local fire districts. Christina Jamison, fire marshal for the [San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District](#), said the region has fewer than 10 stations believed to be non-compliant. She said district code enforcement officers are checking the businesses, but she wasn't sure how many had been inspected. "It's our intention to have gas stations in question replace the nozzles. We don't want to put gas stations out of business," she said. Jay McKeemon, vice president of government relations for the [California Independent Oil Marketers Association](#), said he believes the stations that haven't complied haven't done so because of the expense. "My educated guess is they haven't replaced the nozzles because they can't afford the replacement cost," he said. McKeemon added that industry officials believe there is a hazard now from service-station customers using other items to brace the nozzles and keep gas flowing. He said that some seniors and disabled people aren't strong enough to hold the nozzle lever for an extended period of time. He also said the order was made after 13 spraying incidents occurred in a state in which there are 1 million gasoline fill-ups every year. "It's a strong irritant to us," he said.

<http://danville.patch.com/articles/are-some-local-gas-stations-breaking-the-law-2>

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### UK, HAMPSHIRE, FEBRUARY 4 2011. OVERTURNED TANKER SPILLS KEROSENE NEAR FISHERY

matt smith



#### *Overtaken tanker spills kerosene near fishery*

A fuel tanker has overturned spilling up to 2,000 litres of kerosene near to a popular fisheries lake. The tanker rolled onto its side in a gully along Coombe Road outside East Meon. Firefighters and an Environment Agency pollution team are battling to contain the spill and prevent it from running into surrounding water courses. A spokesman for Hampshire Fire Service said the kerosene had leaked from a roof vent on the tanker which is believed to contain a further 5,000 litres of the highly flammable liquid. Part of the road has been blocked and police have put road closures in place at Coombe Road and Coombe Cross. Police are warning drivers to avoid the area. The crash happened on the hill near Coombe Cross at 9.50am. A police spokeswoman said the driver of the tanker was not hurt and no other vehicles were involved. She added the road closures could remain in place until 10pm and several homes may need to be evacuated. The scene of the accident is near to the Meon Spring Fly Fishery lakes at Whitewool Farm, which are stocked with rainbow and brown trout. Residents have been notified. Hampshire

County Council and Environment Agency officers are at the scene. Environment Agency spokesman Joe Giacomelli said: "Our emergency pollution teams were called into action to limit any environmental impacts of kerosene entering local watercourses or sensitive groundwater. "Environment Agency officers are responding to reduce the harmful effects of the kerosene, working with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to minimise any damage done. "At this point, there is a low risk of immediate harm to the River Meon, however, we will continue to closely monitor the situation to determine whether there will be any longer term impacts on the groundwater and the watercourse."

[http://www.thisishampshire.net/news/8830693.Over turned tanker spilling kerosene near Hampshire fishery/](http://www.thisishampshire.net/news/8830693.Over_turned_tanker_spilling_kerosene_near_Hampshire_fishery/)

### USA, CA FRESNO, FEBRUARY 4 2011. LAWYER SAYS PLANT OWNED BY MERCK EXPOSED RESIDENTS TO TOXIC CHEMICALS

A company once owned by pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co. exposed residents near its now-shuttered Merced plant to cancer-causing chemicals, then covered up the contamination for years and downplayed its severity, a lawyer said Thursday. Fresno attorney Mick Marderosian made the allegations in opening statements in U.S. District Court in Fresno. Marderosian is part of a legal team representing more than 2,000 residents of Merced's Beachwood subdivision, who claim the air they breathed and the water they drank were contaminated by the cancer-causing chemical hexavalent chromium - which gained attention after the movie "Erin Brockovich." The result, many of the residents say, has been a high number of deaths and sicknesses for those who were exposed. In his own opening statement, an attorney representing Merck - as well as Amsted Industries of Chicago and Baltimore Aircoil Co. - acknowledged the plant site was contaminated by arsenic and hexavalent chromium. The plant used industrial chemicals to pressure-treat wood that was used to make cooling tower frames. But attorney John Barg disputed that any contaminants escaped the confines of the plant. He said no hexavalent chromium - also known as chromium 6 - entered the groundwater, an adjacent canal or got into the air. "No one has been exposed to contamination from this wood-treating site," he said. The trial that began Thursday is just the first phase. It will determine if the residents were contaminated. If the federal jury agrees, a second jury will be convened to examine if the residents were harmed by exposure to the chemicals. The entire matter - which is being heard by U.S. District Judge Oliver W. Wanger - could take a year to resolve. Merced County, the city of Merced, the Franklin County Water District and Merced Irrigation District settled before the trial. The plant's history stretches back to the early 1960s, but it didn't start pressure-treating wood until around 1969. In 1975, BAC Pritchard was created. It was owned by Baltimore Aircoil, then a Merck subsidiary. In 1985, Merck sold the company to Amsted. The contamination was discovered in 1984, but the plant continued to pressure-treat wood until 1991. It was shut down in 1993. Marderosian said the hexavalent chromium seeped into the groundwater, where it was picked up by a pump operated by Meadowbrook Water Co., which is also a defendant. In addition, he said, the chemicals would drip onto dirt that in turn was kicked up into dust by forklifts at the site and carried by air to the subdivision. Also, a stormwater pond on the site was drained after it was found to be contaminated. The water was sent into an irrigation canal that runs near the subdivision where residents swam and fished. Nobody was notified, Marderosian said. The problem was exacerbated, he said, because state officials relied on the company to self-report on the extent of the contamination and clean-up efforts. Barg dismissed the claims in his opening statement, and said he will have experts, as well as state officials, testify

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that contamination did not occur in wells, canals or in the air. He said area wells - including the one operated by Meadowbrook - were tested and found to be clean, and a state report generated after an inquiry by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., found no contamination. In addition, Barg said, the stormwater pond water wasn't contaminated and there is no data to support the air pollution charge. He also said residents were notified and offers were made to test any well they might own. Only one took up the offer, and that well tested negative for contaminants.

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/02/03/1850263/lawyer-says-plant-owned-by-merck.html>

### USA, PA, CLARKS GREEN, FEBRUARY 4 2011. DEP LOOKING INTO POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION NEAR CLARKS GREEN GAS STATION

Crews checking water beneath closed gas station. Crews have begun drilling groundwater monitoring wells that will tell officials more about whether petroleum contamination at a former gas station in Clarks Green has spread. The three monitoring wells are the next step in an ongoing project to obtain more information about contamination at the former Hawk Oil Co., 101 N. Abington Road. Starting in 2009, contractors hired by the state Department of Environmental Protection drilled beneath the asphalt to sample soil and groundwater at the site to get a better idea of where contamination lay. In 2002 and again in 2004, removal of underground storage tanks led to the discovery of contamination at the former gas station. Last year, DEP's contractors removed contaminated soil and a storage tank discovered on the property. Now, the agency is hoping to find out whether contamination has spread to groundwater beyond the site, spokesman Mark Carmon said. He had no information on when the monitoring wells will be ready to use or how long they will be in use. "The wells have to ... stabilize and we have to make sure they were drilled properly" before they can be used, he said. The work is being funded through federal stimulus money, Mr. Carmon said. Clarks Green Borough Council President Marie King said she noticed work being done near the gas station last week but said she had little information on what was being done at the site. "We haven't heard from the DEP," she said. "It has nothing to do with (the borough)."

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/dep-looking-into-possible-contamination-near-clarks-green-gas-station-1.1099350>

### USA, FEBRUARY 4 2011. ETHANOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING INTRODUCED TO 9 SELECTED CITIES



Safety is the top priority for America's ethanol industry and those who transport and bring [ethanol](#) to the marketplace. It is with this commitment in mind that the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) and numerous Clean Cities Coalitions (CCCs) are hosting a series of [Ethanol Safety](#) Seminars at several locations throughout the United States. These seminars are free. While primarily targeting first responders, hazmat teams, safety managers, and local emergency planning committees; they are also open to the general public. As a part of the Alternative Fuels Trade Alliance, the RFA and CCCs are able to hold these Ethanol Safety Seminars

through the \$1.6 million grant received from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This grant has been used to raise public awareness and foster understanding of alternative fuels and advanced vehicle technologies across the country. The goal of these seminars is for attendees to gain a full ethanol emergency response [training](#) experience that they can put to use immediately in the field, as well as pass along to other first response teams. A majority of this training is based on the Complete Training Guide to Ethanol Emergency Response, a training package created by the Ethanol Emergency Response Coalition (EERC) that has been distributed throughout the United States and to several countries worldwide. "America is nearing a 100 percent saturation point with E10 in our nation's fuel supply," said RFA Market Development Director, Robert White. "As ethanol continues to flow across the country through railways and trucks into fuel retail stations, it is important for first responders in these areas to be well prepared and trained for ethanol related emergencies." Already underway, the Ethanol Safety Seminars have been held in Harrisburg, PA and will be held at eight more locations in 2011 including Boston Metropolitan area, MA; Charlotte, NC; Houston and Beaumont, TX; Portland, OR; Stockton, CA; Indianapolis, IN and in Northeastern, OH. As over 50 percent of fire departments in the United States are volunteer based, each location will have a morning and afternoon session in order to accommodate schedules and reach as many participants as possible. Each safety seminar is conducted with the local Clean Cities Coordinator and is taught by a professional trainer with a background in firefighter/[hazmat](#) materials response. The RFA has been working diligently with the State Fire Academies to offer certificates of training or participation that can be used toward their local department's training requirements. For more information or to sign up for the Ethanol Safety Seminars, visit [www.rfa.traincaster.com](http://www.rfa.traincaster.com)

<http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/display/5828401685/articles/fire-engineering/training-tips/2011/02/ethanol-training.html>

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#### **TURKEY, ANKARA, FEBRUARY 4 2011. TWO EXPLOSIONS KILL 12 IN TURKEY**

 **Photo Gallery [24 photos in Turkish]:** <http://fotogaleri.hurriyet.com.tr/galeridetay.aspx?cid=44171&rid=2>

 **Photo Gallery:** [http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/\\_news/2011/02/03/5980965-factory-explosion-in-turkey-](http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/02/03/5980965-factory-explosion-in-turkey-)

 **Photo Gallery:** [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-02/04/c\\_13718519.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-02/04/c_13718519.htm)



*Rescue workers search for survivors among debris after an explosion at Ostim Mega Center in Ostim Industrial Area in Ankara, on February 3, 2011.*

Two explosions have left 12 people dead and dozens of others wounded within hours in Turkey's industrial park, officials say. The first blast ripped through a paint-production plant in the Turkish capital city of Ankara on Thursday morning, collapsing two stories of a four-storey building, where generators were produced. At least eight people were killed and 34 others were injured. There were still five workers buried under the debris. In the second blast, four people were killed at the same plant and eight were injured and 12 more were trapped, Governor Alaaddin Yuksel told reporters, Hurriyet daily reported. Officials suspect that both blasts were

due to gas explosions. Toxic chemicals and fire have made it difficult to rescue those trapped in the premises, Yuksel said, adding that the plant lacked a proper license for paint production. The blasts, which were heard several kilometers away, also shattered windows of a nearby building and parked cars. Television footage showed firefighters were battling flames as black smoke poured out of a building. Yuksel said that around half of the factory's 80 workers had escaped the blast unharmed.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/163503.html>

#### **USA, KS, CHERRYVALE, FEBRUARY 4 2011. TRAIN DERAILMENT NEAR CHERRYVALE SPILLS 3,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL**

A locomotive spilled around 3,000 of diesel fuel following a train derailment near Cherryvale, Kansas. Andy Taylor of the Montgomery County Chronicle tells us the spill is now contained. He says the locomotive and five tankers derailed but there were no injuries. Taylor says the tankers were empty. The train is owned by a Watco subsidiary.

<http://www.koamtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=13965945>

#### **AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, INGHAM, FEBRUARY 4 2011. MAN FOUND DEAD IN CYCLONE AFTERMATH >> ASPHYXIATED ON FUMES SPEWED OUT BY A GENERATOR**

 **Watch the Video** [Small towns reeling from Yasi \(ABC News\)](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Man dead after Cyclone Yasi's onslaught \(The Midday Report\)](#)

 **Click-2-Listen** [Queensland begins the post cyclone cleanup \(ABC News\)](#)

The first confirmed fatality of Cyclone Yasi is a man who asphyxiated on fumes spewed out by a generator he was using while sheltering from the devastating storm. Queensland Premier Anna Bligh says the 23-year-old was overwhelmed by diesel fumes in a small room of a house in Bambaroo, near Ingham. Authorities are still searching for a man near Port Hinchinbrook, while another reported missing in the Cardwell area has been found safe and well. The category five storm destroyed homes and shredded crops as it roared ashore south of Innisfail on Wednesday night. The State Government is coordinating the massive clean-up in the battered far north, focusing on Cardwell, Tully and Mission Beach. Power is still out to more than 150,000 properties and constant rain and piles of debris are making the roads inaccessible and dangerous. This morning police said initial assessments showed 20 homes had been destroyed by the cyclone and another 400 had suffered moderate to significant damage. Assessment teams will continue to assess hard-to-reach communities like Lucinda, Halifax and Forest Beach by air. Emergency Services Minister Neil Roberts says everything is being done to restore essential services to ravaged communities. "Restoring these services will be a key focus [today]," he said. But flooding at Ingham has delayed the arrival of soldiers in areas north of Ayr. The Bruce Highway is cut at Ingham and so far only a small contingent of troops has been able to get to the hard-hit town of Tully. Police are concerned more rain could cut the highway north of Tully, further delaying the recovery effort. Fire and police crews are still trying to get to isolated communities to ensure the safety of residents.

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/02/04/3129837.htm?WT.mc\\_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/02/04/3129837.htm?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

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