



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 680 Newsy Stuff

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January 24 2011



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KUWAIT, KUWAIT CITY, JANUARY 18 2011. \$3BILLION ALLOCATED TO CLEAN UP CONTAMINATION

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990 caused great damage to Kuwait's environment, the result of which is still witnessed today. The oil industry has also had an impact on the environment and KOC has worked successfully with various groups in the past to deal with the environmental consequences of war to improve the environment. KOC has carried out environmental resuscitation projects in parts of Kuwait and successfully brought back areas of the damaged desert. While the cleanup continues, there is still much work that needs to be done. Just within the State of Kuwait there is an estimated 60 million cubic meters of contaminated soil that needs to be remediated," said Dr Sami Al-Rsheid, Chairman and Managing Director of KOC during the announcement of the prequalification of the oil lakes remediation project that was held at the Hubara Centre in Ahmadi yesterday. Almost \$3 billion were designated to the clean-up of Kuwait. "According to UNCC decision 258, the list of environmental remediation projects of Kuwait include the remediation and restoration of terrestrial resources and terrestrial environments (oil lakes)," added Al-Rsheid. "The various projects listed will require much planning and enormous international cooperation. KOC is a key partner of the Kuwait National Focal Point (KNFP) and they have worked closely together in the past. "I would like to announce the prequalification of a project management consultant for a one-of-a-kind project that is on a scale and of a magnitude that has not been seen before," he continued. "The PMC will have the important role of working with the KNFP and KOC in an open and transparent manner to arrange all the tender activities as well as manage this huge project. They will fulfill the role KOC outlined in a memorandum of understanding signed in August, 2010 between KOC and KNFP," he pointed out. The deadline for the application is set for February 14, 2011. "We welcome international participation in this endeavor and all interested parties are encouraged to apply for pre-qualification according to KOC's processes," Al-Rsheid added. Meanwhile, Dr Ridha Al-Hasan, KNFP Program Manager, representing the Central Committee for Rehabilitating the Environment, praised KOC's high quality work toward rebuilding the oil utilities following all the damage and fire that was caused to it. "We took joint responsibility to rehabilitate oil lake areas and soil remediation areas, which is almost 70 million square meters," Al-Hasan said. "The role expanded to include the remediation of pollution outside of the concession areas, which are the trenches that were full of oil in the north of Kuwait. According to Al-Hasan, the total value of the environmental rehabilitation projects that will be executed by KOC exceeded \$2 billion. The Central Committee also worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Defense. "The Ministry of Defense took the responsibility of detecting exploding materials in all the areas where environmental rehabilitation operations needed to take place. They also rehabilitated the Um al Ras location, which was used as a waste area for war materials," stated Al-Hasan. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Electricity and Water is working on rehabilitating underground water wells. "These projects are done in cooperation with the Environmental Public Authority. Also, the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) played a leading role by replanting rehabilitated areas and preserving protected areas on Bubyah Island. Kuwait University also contributed by providing qualified staff members to prepare a feasible work plan," Al-Hasan said.

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/view/StockNews/articleid/4814333>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, EMIGRANT CREEK, JANUARY 18 2011. FLOODING WASHES AWAY FUEL SPILLAGE

jacklyn wagner



Diesel spill: The burnt petrol tanker near the intersection of Old Bangalow Road and the Pacific Highway.

Flooding over the past week will avert any threat of environmental tragedy caused by the explosion of a fuel tanker on the Pacific Highway next to a wetland. Wetland Care Australia regional co-ordinator Adam Gosling said he went to the Sandy Flat to inspect the accident site on the day Ballina was lashed by flash flooding as the skies opened up over the town. The rain flooded the wetland and the neighbouring Emigrant Creek. On the downside, Mr Gosling said, it would have over-run booms intended to hold back thousands of litres of diesel and unleaded fuel that poured into the wetland when the tanker ruptured and exploded. On the up-side, the volume of water going through the area meant that contamination would have been swept away and diffused as it was washed downstream. Mr Gosling said diesel fuel, in

particular, was toxic and long-lasting once spilled into the environment, however, he said it also would have been diluted to such a degree as to be immeasurable. That meant it was also unlikely to impact on the thriving mudcrab fishery at the mouth of Emigrant Creek. "It's never going to be a positive thing, but how much immediate impact it would have would be difficult to tell," he said. "It's unlikely to have any major noticeable impact – it's just part of the continual degradation of the estuary." You could compare the degradation of water quality in the estuary to the difference in air quality between Brisbane and the

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Northern Rivers. Brisbane's air was more heavily polluted than the Northern Rivers', by virtue of a higher population, more cars and heavier industry. However, that didn't mean people living in Brisbane were necessarily less healthy than those living here.

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/story/2011/01/18/floods-lismore-fuel-crash/>

USA, WA, KELSO, JANUARY 18 2011. KELSO MAN SENTENCED FOR 2009 FIREWORKS EXPLOSION

tony lystra

Dennis Carl Keslar said he had been modifying fireworks "to make a bigger boom." He got a big boom alright — and now he has a big prison sentence to go with it. Keslar, who pleaded guilty Dec. 1 to an explosives violation and two counts of reckless endangerment, was sentenced Jan. 5 to 23 months in prison. Police said that on New Year's Eve 2009, Keslar was drinking in his triplex in the 1200 block of North Second Avenue, Kelso, when an explosion blew his door into the yard and forced a rear wall to bow out and detach from the house and roof. The occupants of the building's two other units were not home at the time, and no one was injured. Keslar, 39, told authorities that just before the explosion, he, his wife and a friend were in the kitchen lighting alcoholic beverages called "Flaming Dr. Peppers." He said he saw a large fireball and heard a loud noise, but couldn't remember anything else. He also said there may have been an 8-inch cardboard tube filled with a flash powder solution on top of the refrigerator drying when the explosion occurred, police said. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Portland Bomb Squad found jars of powder and other materials used to make fireworks, along with instructions. Authorities also seized homemade fireworks, including pingpong balls that Keslar said he injected with flash powder and water.

Related Stories

- [New Year's Eve apartment blast leads to charges for Castle Rock man](#)
- [Explosion damages Kelso home](#)

http://tdn.com/news/local/article_f547c41c-22ab-11e0-b611-001cc4c03286.html

USA, ILL, EDWARDSVILLE, JANUARY 18 2011. BIG OIL CONTAMINATION CASE SETTLED

joe harris

Apex and Sinclair will pay \$4 million to settle complaints that their refineries contaminated groundwater in the Village of Hartford. BP, Shell, Equilon and Premcor previously settled similar claims. Apex and Sinclair were the last oil companies to defend the contamination claims. Of the \$4 million, \$1.6 million will go to property damage, \$1 million for loss of enjoyment and use and \$1.3 million to legal fees. The settlement involves two class actions from 2003 and 2004. Madison County Judge Daniel Stack granted preliminary approval of the settlement. A fairness hearing for the settlement is set for April 28.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2011/01/17/33354.htm>

USA, FLA, TAMPA, JANUARY 18 2011. CAMP LEJEUNE VICTIMS MEET IN TAMPA TO SHARE STORIES AND FIND SUPPORT

tracy woolrich

What does breast, prostate and bladder cancer have in common? What about neurological disorders that causes vision problems, fatigue and headaches? How about stillbirths or birth defects? If you lived at [Camp Lejeune in North Carolina](#) the common denominator could be the water. This weekend the nearly 250 people shared their heart wrenching stories in Tampa. They are not alone. Federal scientists indicate that up to a million Marines, sailors and their families were [exposed to toxic carcinogens](#) for at least 30 years ending in 1987. Scientists and advocates are now claiming that this is the worst incidents of drinking water contamination in the nation's history. Corps officials, who did not attend this weekend's meeting, have insisted they closed wells immediately upon confirming contamination. But leading advocates for the alleged victims presented the case that the corps ignored warnings about pollution and waited four years to close those wells. Jerry Earls, a Largo resident, told of his son dying at Camp Lejeune in 1962 when he was only 2 days old. His son is buried in a in a section of a cemetery near the Camp where there are row after row of headstones for the stillborn or the babies who died days after birth. His devastation did not end there. His wife was later diagnosed with breast cancer, and then ovarian cancer which ultimately killed her. Bob Kahaly has battled non-Hodgkins lymphoma for a decade and lost a Marine comrade to cancer. His military career included a stint at Lejeune. He is one of the few Florida residents who have won a monthly benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs because it says his cancer was probably caused by polluted water. More than 170,000 Marines or family members have signed up for a [Marine health registry](#). Of those, more than 14,000 are from Florida, the second-highest total nationally behind North Carolina. The decision in Buckley's may give them renewed hope. Anyone who lived or worked at

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Camp Lejeune in 1987 or before can register with the Marine Corps for a planned health study. To register or to get more information call toll-free at (877) 261-9782. There is also <http://www.tftpf.com/> which is unaffiliated with the Marines and offers a wide variety of information.

[Related Links](#) [ATSDR Home Page](#)

<http://www.examiner.com/wellness-in-st-petersburg/camp-lejeune-victims-meet-tampa-to-share-stories-and-find-support>

USA, MN, WINTHROP, JANUARY 18 2011. DRIVER SAYS THICK VAPOR FROM ETHANOL PLANT CAUSED CRASH

josh someone

[Watch the Video](#) <http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S1929036.shtml?cat=10151>



A Minnesota woman says the vapor from an ethanol plant in Winthrop was so thick last week, she wasn't able to see a semi-truck entering Highway 19 until it was too late. Barb Bertrand says she totaled her car when it hit the rear wheel of a semi truck last Thursday on Highway 19, just east of Winthrop. According to the Minnesota State Patrol accident report, vapor from the ethanol plant hampered visibility. The Heartland Corn Products plant sits on Highway 19 in Winthrop. Drivers we talked to say if the conditions are just right, wind from the south can cause the plant's vapor to cross over the road, causing a thick cloud similar to what you would find in a blizzard. "You could just see a bright fog that I was driving into and then all of a sudden it was

a total whiteout," driver Barb Bertrand said. Bertrand and the driver of the semi truck were both treated for their injuries and released. Bertrand says she suffered some neck pain and some bumps and bruises. She showed 5 Eyewitness News more than a dozen pictures of the conditions similar to what she drove in. Bertrand says the vapor from the plant makes for a dangerous drive in the stretch of highway where the plant sits, which spans less than a half of a mile. "It definitely was a total whiteout, a total whiteout, there's no way that you would be driving in that and know whatsoever," Bertrand said. 5 Eyewitness News asked for accident records for the stretch of Highway 19, but the Sibley County Sheriff's Office could not provide them on Monday. Minnesota State Patrol's District Office was closed for the holiday Monday, according to a spokesperson. The CEO of Heartland Corn Products, Ben Brown, did not want to appear on camera, but spoke to 5 Eyewitness News over the phone and emailed us a statement, saying: "We do not believe that the presence of the plant had anything to do with the surface conditions of the highway. Despite everyone's best efforts mother nature has given us ice and snow packed road shoulders everywhere. We do know that when the weather conditions are just right, and they are occasionally, it does affect the visibility by the plant exit." Bertrand says she only wants the company and other drivers to be aware of the dangers when conditions are right to cause vapors to freeze over and drift onto the road.

<http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S1929036.shtml?cat=10151>

USA, ORE, COOS BAY, JANUARY 18 2011. OYSTERS AWAIT OIL SPILL EFFECTS

[Watch the Video:](#)

<http://www.kmtr.com/news/local/story/South-Coast-oyster-farms-face-damages-from-oil/s9L2QlBaP0Omh48lvTDq4w.csp>

Wind and rain helped dissipate a Friday morning oil spill in Coos Bay, but local oyster producers won't know for days whether their harvest will be contaminated. Lilli Clausen, owner of Clausen Oysters, 66234 North Bay Road, North Bend, said this morning that she didn't know if the spill had strayed into her oyster beds. Tomorrow, after the holiday, she'll send mature oysters to a lab in Portland to be tested for oil in their meat, but doesn't expect results till the end of the week. Damage to sensitive oyster "seed" might take a couple of weeks to show up, she said. "I'm hoping it stayed in the channel," she said. "I'm hoping for the very best." Clausen's business suffered in 1999 when oil from the wreck of the New Carissa wiped out 3.5 million of her oysters -- about 70 percent of her stock. "Of course this is nothing like the New Carissa, but I'm very, very concerned," she said. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, about 6 gallons of diesel fuel spilled during a transfer at the Carson-Davis Oil Company facility at U.S. Highway 101 and Newmark Avenue. The sheen of oil extended for two miles along the bay, and booms were deployed to contain it. No manager at Carson-Davis was available for comment this morning.

http://theworldlink.com/news/local/article_c40e3868-40e3-525e-a0de-b0e87533499b.html

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, JANUARY 18 2011. COPS TO BE TRAINED TO HANDLE EXPLOSIVES...DIPLOMATS >> TRAINING PROGRAMME INCLUDES TEACHING PASSENGER BODY LANGUAGE

vm sathish

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The International Civil Aviation Organisation, Dubai Civil Aviation Avsec Center and the Regional Center in the Middle East will jointly train more cops in handling airport and aviation safety, especially in handling explosive devices hidden in cargo and how to negotiate with plane hijackers and pirates. In view of the recent challenges facing the UAE civil aviation sector, especially a major plane crash involving suspicious cargo and other international concerns, the training programme would equip Dubai cops to tackle such crimes. Dubai Police sources revealed to 'Emirates 24|7' that the General Department for Airport Security under Dubai Police Headquarters' annual training plan for 2011 includes courses for handling Mass Destruction Weapons and radioactive substances, explosives and arms crimes at airports. Dubai Police pavilion in Intersec 2011 displays various training programmes for airport safety. Ahmed Mohammed bin Thani, Director-General, Department of Airports Security, Omar Hassan Al Attar, Deputy Director-General, Department of Airports Security and Mohammed Ahmed bin Dylan Al Mazrooei, Director, Dubai Civil Avsec Center have prepared the 2011 training programme for cops manning the airports. This training programme includes basic aviation security training for the existing airport personnel to specialists accepting and handling mail and cargo and body language courses and teaches cops working in airports even how to handle diplomats and other people with legal immunity. According to Ahmed Thani, Brigadier Pilot, 2011 training programmes are prepared in anticipation of the new challenges and security responsibilities for airport safety, especially in view of the expanded Terminal 3 and the Jebel Ali Airport, which has received cargo planes and will receive passenger planes soon and many security officials will be trained to handle sophisticated equipment and ensure security. "The course will equip Dubai Police officials to identify radiological weapons and teach them how to prevent and treat radioactive weapons. The course will also train them how to identify biological and chemical weapons and the type of organisms, chemicals and their conditions and how to treat biological and chemical weapons," the official document says. The training programme for officers, non commissioner officers police woren and individuals within airport security staff include dealing with dangerous goods to the civil aviation security. The training programme will equip officials to inspect and detect dangerous goods hidden in various formats using sophisticated technology. A hostage negotiation Course meant for Senior staff and their deputies will equip officials how to understand and handle a crisis situation and the fundamental techniques and negotiation tactics to be followed during an act of piracy or hijacking. This will also help them cops understand how to analyse different phases of negotiation, and the nature and behaviour of hostage takers. Other training programmes for airport cops and employees prepared by the DubaiPolice are X-Ray screening for cargo operators to spot drugs and other forbidden items and checking various organs. It also offers intensive training to refine the skills of workers on the inspection of human organs. A course on dealing with explosives for airport security officers and aviation safety officials will teach them how to spot military and civil explosives, types and constituents of bombs, explosions and other dangerous crime. The course content will equip the officials cope with crime situations involving explosives and arms crimes in airports and sudden evacuation operations. A special course on dealing with Diplomats is open for all ranks and levels of airport security and customs officials, airline officials by listening to group of experts and ministers. The course participants will learn how to establish diplomatic relations, diplomatic privileges and immunity, how to deal with diplomats, Vienna Convention of 1960 and other international conventions and diplomatic Pouch. A course on body language will train officials about basic principles of body movement, types of non verbal behaviours, dealing with systolic personality and pleasant personality so that they can best handle airport users and passengers. The cargo handling training will help participants how to protect cargo, courier and express parcels, mail and operators supplies and apply proper security controls to cargo consignments. Dubai Civil Avsec Centre is the first of its kind in the country and second in the Middle East specialised in training the civil aviation security sector. It is the Regional Centre for the International Civil Aviation organisations in the Middle East.

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/cops-to-be-trained-to-handle-explosives-diplomats-2011-01-18-1.343818>

USA, PA, SOMERSET, JANUARY 18 2011. SUICIDE BY CHEMICAL POSES RISK TO MANY

vicki rock

When police and emergency medical responders arrive on the scene of an unconscious person in a vehicle, their first thought is to help the person who may have suffered a heart attack. That can be deadly for the first responder. Somerset Borough police and the Somerset Volunteer Fire Department responded on Saturday to a suicide attempt by chemical. The person had mixed household chemicals to create hydrogen sulfide. Fortunately, that man had posted a sign on his truck that read, "Call hazmat." He survived. State police Sgt. James Shaw, Somerset station commander, said he learned in training that suicides by chemical began in 2008 in Japan. Hydrogen sulfide is a toxic acid that is colorless and smells like rotten eggs. While it only causes eye and skin irritation at low levels, at high amounts it is deadly. "First responders are in grave danger," Shaw said. "They have to practice safety. They must survey the scene from afar. Look inside the vehicle. Are there any containers?" If the person inside the vehicle is still conscious, first responders should have him open the vehicle door and come outside. They must still be careful because the person could have chemical residue on his clothing. If the first responders know that it is a

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detergent suicide attempt, they must call the hazardous materials team. "There is risk in everything we do," Shaw said. "If we had rolled up to a vehicle along the side of the road, we would think: 'Break the glass. Someone's having a heart attack.'" The Associated Press reports that a Japanese girl mixed chemicals in April 2008, releasing fumes that sickened 90 people. At least 500 people in Japan committed suicide that year by mixing two common household chemicals. Closer to home, two people in Chester County committed suicide last year by mixing chemicals that create hydrogen sulfide. Paramedic Mark Miller, manager of the Somerset Area Ambulance Association, said the organization has posted memos warning emergency responders about the hazards. "We're always concerned about safety," he said. "When responding to an emergency, you have to think and try not to put blinders on. Scene safety includes the responders." Somerset Borough police Chief Randy Cox said his officers handled the call well, but there are some lessons to be learned and applied. The police, fire department and hospital staff are going to have a joint meeting to review training. "Obviously, this is the first we've experienced, but according to the literature this is a national trend," Cox said. "We're not the first place that has responded to a situation like this." Ed Krenzelok, director of the Pittsburgh Poison Center, said a lot of suicide by chemical attempts are unsuccessful, but the issue is still a concern. What is even more common than suicide attempts using chemicals are accidental poisonings in the home. The center is called on an almost daily basis because someone has tried to clean his bathroom and mixed bleach with toilet bowl cleaners. "Most of the time it causes irritation of the eyes and throat," he said. "Personally I haven't heard of any deaths that way, but people have been knocked down by it." Emergency responders must also be careful when responding to a carbon monoxide poisoning in a car parked in a garage. Once the person is out of the garage and in the air, there is little risk to the first responder, other than some residue on clothing. "You can do CPR on the person and you're not in danger unless there are chemicals around the mouth," Krenzelok said. "Everybody using chemicals for cleaning or anything else should always read the label on the products." The Pittsburgh Poison Center is available to provide emergency advice by phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The toll-free number is 1-800-222-1222. In addition to endangering emergency responders, the person who attempted suicide caused a significant expense to the departments, Cox said. The hazmat team used supplies that can't be used again and the police officers had to be examined at the hospital, which is a worker's compensation expense. The hazmat team's role is to contain the situation, not to remediate, meaning a commercial company had to be called in to seal and remove the vehicle because the inside was contaminated. "We will go to the individual or his insurance company for restitution, which will be in the multi-thousand dollar range," Cox said. "Taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for it."

<http://www.dailyamerican.com/articles/2011/01/17/news/local/news114.txt>

USA, VT, MONTPELIER, JANUARY 19 2011. VERMONT GROUP CATALOGS HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

john curran

Vermont's scenic vistas and unspoiled natural assets get lots of attention. But there's also plenty of hazardous waste and pollution, according to a nonprofit group that released a town-by-town listing of the state's toxic threats Monday. "Toxics in Vermont: A Town-by-Town Profile," issued by the Toxics Action Center in Montpelier and available online, says the state's 1,421 hazardous waste sites, 477 hazardous waste generators and 215 illegally operating salvage yards are only some of the polluters. The list, developed using government data, gives town-by-town breakdowns of air pollution point sources, electricity generators, hazardous waste generators, hazardous waste sites, EPA Superfund sites, active and inactive landfills, facilities that discharge contaminants into waterways, underground storage tanks and salvage yards. It was released in hopes of making Vermonters more aware of the pollution around them and urging [government officials](#) to be more aggressive in curbing pollution, according to Brendan Gallagher, community organizer with the Toxics Action Center. Not all are current threats. Underground storage tanks, for example, are no harm until they breach, leaking contents. And many of the facilities listed in the report are permitted by state or federal agencies for the pollutant they emit. But many have the potential to — or already do — taint the environment and harm human health, according to Gallagher and Steve Dickens, health and environmental director for The River Network, who appeared with him at a news conference releasing the report. "Some people say 'Well, I don't live near one of these hazardous waste sites,'" Dickens said. "One of the problems with environmental contaminants is that they rarely stay in one place." Rain carries contaminants into groundwater, surface water and drinking water supplies, and they sometimes taint fish that are later eaten, he said. Vermont has toxic pollution all over, according to the group:

- 272 industries release pollutants into the air under state permits.
- 477 hazardous waste generators produce approximately 2.5 million pounds of hazardous waste each year.
- 13 plants generate power from fossil fuels, wood waste, or nuclear power
- of the 1,421 hazardous waste sites in Vermont, 102 are on a "high priority" list.
- 11 toxic sites are serious enough to make the EPA's National Priority List, or Superfund.
- 33 facilities discharge water into rivers and lakes, under state permits.

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- 88 active and inactive landfills are currently tracked by the state.
- approximately 3,500 underground storage tanks hold gasoline, oil, and other fuels.
- 215 illegally operating salvage yards pose environmental threats and bring down property values.

Among the group's recommendations: close Vermont Yankee nuclear plant when its license expires next year, improve water quality, phase out the use of pesticides, reduce the use of industrial toxic chemicals and clean up polluted salvage yards.

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20110117/NEWS02/110117017/Vermont-group-catalogs-hazardous-waste-sites>

USA, LA, VIVIAN, JANUARY 18 2011. VIVIAN, LA GAS STATION SAYS IT SOLD "CONTAMINATED GASOLINE"

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=13858108>



Alena Stevens' Chevy Tahoe was filled with diesel gas and is now in the shop.

The price of gas is going up, but for some drivers in Vivian, Louisiana, that's the least of their worries. A mishap at a local gas station has left some drivers stranded and their cars in the shop. It's not exactly clear just what was in the gas at the Cash Magic gas station in Vivian, but what is clear is drivers who filled up on Saturday are having some serious problems. Cash Magic representatives are calling it "contaminated gasoline." Mechanics are saying it's diesel. Either way the cars that are filled with it aren't running. Alena Stevens drives a new Chevy Tahoe, and filled up at Cash Magic on Saturday. But Sunday, the SUV stopped without any notice. "It just stopped going," said Stevens. "It wouldn't crank. It would just go and stop, go and stop. I would press on the gas, it wouldn't go, and then it wouldn't crank." Cash Magic tells us they plan to reimburse all customers experiencing problems in full.

Take a look at the video to see KSLA News 12's Erin Stevenson explain just how much the repairs are going to cost customers.

<http://www.ksla.com/Global/story.asp?S=13858108>

BANGLADESH, SITAKUNDA, JANUARY 18 2011. 4 WORKERS KILLED IN CTG SCRAPYARD BLAST



Smoke billowing from the ship after it exploded at a ship-breaking yard in Sitakunda, Chittagong on Tuesday killing four workers.

Four workers were killed and another sustained burn injuries in an explosion at a ship-breaking yard in Sitakunda, Chittagong on Tuesday. Miraj, 18, and Rubel, 25, died from their burn injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The cause of the fire at 'Mac Corporation Ship Breaking' could not be ascertained. Firefighters rushed to the scene in the morning hours and doused the fire. Although Master Kashem, the owner of the ship and also the vice-president of the Ship Breakers Owners Association, said the ship in which the accident occurred was not being cut, our special correspondent on the spot reported that cutting activities were

seen amid billowing smoke. "There are reports that the night guards lit a fire to keep warm in the bitter cold that caused the fire," Kashem continued, "there are also reports of a cylinder exploding." "We cannot say until the fire service and civil defence members give us the report." Kashem claimed all the three ships 'awaiting cutting' on his yard have valid authorisation from relevant departments, including the Department of Environment. Before their demise, doctors at the hospital said Miraj, who hails from Barisal, was admitted in a critical condition with 100 percent burn and Rubel with 50 percent of his body burnt. Another victim was released after first aid, they said. Injuries and fatalities at the ship-breaking yards in Sitakunda are frequent and many remain unreported. According to records and reports, at least 28 people were killed and scores injured in the last twelve months. Despite High Court orders the owners are yet to take any workers' safety measures at the yards which constantly expose hundreds of laborers to fatalities and injuries

http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/latest_news.php?nid=27999

USA, PA, GREENSBURG, JANUARY 19 2011. LIGONIER MAN FACES CHARGES FOR USING GAS IN SUICIDE ATTEMPT

michelle ganassi

A Ligonier man faces charges of risking a catastrophe after police in Somerset County said they found him trying to kill himself with a deadly gas created from household chemicals. Somerset Borough police Chief Randy Cox said the man, who he

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declined to identify, created hydrogen sulfide by mixing two unnamed household cleaners together. The man parked his truck in the parking lot of Somerset Industrial Park about 9 a.m. Saturday, in front of the Department of Public Welfare. He placed a sign on his truck that said "call hazmat." When police arrived the man had a jug of the chemical and was outside the vehicle. "He was in the process of attempting suicide when officers took him into custody," Cox told the Somerset Daily American. The man was transported to a Pittsburgh hospital to be treated for exposure to the gas. Cox said officers were treated at Somerset Hospital for brief exposure to the gas. "They had secondary exposure," he said. Cox said police plan to charge the man, who has a Ligonier address, with recklessly endangering another person and causing or risking a catastrophe. "At the point that charges are filed his name will be released," Cox added. The truck was decontaminated early Saturday afternoon by the Somerset Volunteer Fire Department's hazmat team and a private company approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. It has since been towed and remains in police custody. The act is known as "detergent suicide." According to published reports, there have been several incidents where people have attempted or succeeded in killing themselves by mixing the chemicals then posting signs on their vehicles warning first responders of the deadly gas that filled up their car. Cox credited state police and Somerset County 911 with giving valuable assistance in handling the situation. Cox could not be reached for additional comment on Sunday. No one answered the phone at the borough's police department. A check of online criminal charges indicated the Ligonier man has not yet been charged.

http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/Wire_News_Display/1341214810.html

USA, N.C, FORSYTH COUNTY, JANUARY 19 2011. TANKER CARRYING PROPANE OVERTURNS, LEAKS >> OVERTURNED TANKER SHUTS DOWN SECTION OF GRIFFIN ROAD, DRIVER ESCAPES



An overturned tanker carrying propane shut down a section of Griffin Road in Forsyth County Monday. According to emergency officials, the tanker overturned just before Noon. A witness told WXII he heard the loud crash from his kitchen window. "The propane vapor was escaping from the back so I called it in to 911 and ran out to see how the driver was," said Kelly Newsome. According to Newsome, the driver climbed out of the truck on his own. Newsome tried to help shut off the valves to stop the leak, but was unsuccessful. The driver was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment. Officials have not released the cause of the crash.

<http://www.wxii12.com/news/26519376/detail.html>

USA, N.Y, QUEENS, JANUARY 19 2011. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUEL EIGHT-ALARM FIRE IN QUEENS IRONWORKS FACTORY

grant greenberg

 **Watch the Video** http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/132359/eight-alarm-queens-fire-under-control/



More than 250 firefighters were needed to battle a 7-alarm blaze in Queens - the temperature was so cold that they had to work in rotations.

Firefighters spent more than half a day at the site of a massive, eight-alarm fire at an ironworks company in Queens that burned overnight. The call came in shortly after 6 p.m. Monday at the one-story JSJ Iron Works at 150th Street and 95th Avenue in Jamaica. The building was filled with hazardous materials, causing the fire to grow rapidly overnight. Fire officials say insulation and melting tar may also have fed the flames, which spread to an adjacent building. They are still determining exactly what was stored in the building. Firefighters were pulled from the building when it became too dangerous to fight the flames from inside. "We pulled everyone out due to structural concerns, the fire spread, we put on our exterior operation and the depth of the building caused some issues...", said New

York City Fire Department Deputy Chief Vinny Mandala. "It was difficult for us to get penetration with our large-caliber streams." Seven firefighters were injured when a ceiling came down on top of them. One was taken to Weill Cornell Medical Center with facial burns and the others were taken to nearby hospitals with minor injuries. All are expected to recover. After more than 10 hours, the fire was brought under control shortly before 5 a.m., but small pockets of flames still burned in the building. "We have pockets of fire that because of structural concerns, we're having a difficult time reaching those little pockets. They may be covered with debris or roofing materials," said Mandala. Fire officials said no people or buildings were in

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imminent danger, other than the neighboring structure that caught fire. While the snow and sleet this morning did not necessarily slow down the firefighters, officials said it did not help. "Especially when you have guys in the tower bucket, it's colder, it's windier, it makes the conditions very nasty," said Mandala. Red Cross representatives were also called to the scene. Officials are still investigating the cause of the fire, but do not believe the blaze was suspicious.

http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/132359/eight-alarm-queens-fire-under-control/

USA, FLA, TAMPA, JANUARY 19 2011. NAPLES BLAST VICTIM RELEASED FROM TAMPA HOSPITAL >> VICTIM OF RESTAURANT PROPANE GAS EXPLOSION

denes hustly iii

A man burned in a propane gas explosion at a Naples restaurant last week has been released from a Tampa hospital. Don Kingston, according to fire department officials, was at the Mangrove Cafe Jan. 10 servicing the restaurants beer taps. Kingston, officials said, left his car idling in an alley in back of the restaurant at the same time that Tom Smith, a driver for Balgas, was filling an underground tank with propane. The idling car triggered an explosion from some propane that leaked out, injuring Kingston and Smith and a cook inside the restaurant, officials said. Kingston and Smith were taken to Tampa General Hospital's burn unit. Kingston has been released from the hospital, spokesman John Dunn said today. Meanwhile, Smith remains in critical condition at the hospital, Dunn said. The cook, Bill McCauley, was treated for burns at Naples Community Hospital and has been released. The restaurant on Fifth Avenue South remains closed. The damage was estimated at more than \$1 million.

<http://www.news-press.com/article/20110118/NEWS0119/110118014/1075/Naples-blast-victim-released-from-Tampa-hospital>

CANADA, ALBERTA, CALGARY, JANUARY 19 2011. FAMILY MOVING DUE TO GAS STATION LEAK >> CLEANUP COULD TAKE MONTHS OR YEARS

kelly cryderman



A number of families on Bow Crescent have been forced from their homes after a gas leak at a Gas Plus station last year raised air quality concerns.

Background

- Up to 9,000 litres of gasoline leaked into the soil from a Gas Plus Station.
- John Hillier said air quality testing in his home revealed benzene levels up to 20 times more than what is considered safe.
- Gas Plus president Sal Handel has said it could take up to three years to fully clean up the leak.

Another family living next to a Bowness gas station that sprang an underground leak last year is moving out of their home, saying they will not risk the health of two daughters who have basement bedrooms. "We're just not feeling confident with respect to the way it's being handled," said Monica Skrukwa, a family physician who has been catching whiffs of a "sickly sweet odour" in her Bowness house since October. "I won't come back until I'm confident it's really cleaned up." Skrukwa said she's worried a full cleanup will take many months, if not years. The owners of the Gas Plus station have appealed an order issued by Alberta Environment last year, and are asking for a number of changes to the government order -- including that the timelines be extended. Alberta Environment said it has been working with Gas Plus since the company reported the gas leak at 6336 Bowness Rd. N.W. last May. Gasoline vapours were detected in the basement of a bungalow immediately north of the gas station three months later. Owner Sal Handel said the process of cleaning up the leak of up to 9,000 litres of gasoline was held up for several months as he worked to get city approvals to drill into the ground. He said the line leak was about 60 centimetres underground and is now fixed. But the Alberta Environment order issued in December still required the company to map the extent of the leak and submit plans for cleaning up the contamination. The order said remedial work needs to be completed by the end of August. The Gas Plus owners were not available for comment on Tuesday. However, their lawyer's letter to Alberta's Environmental Appeals Board said the timelines imposed by the order are unreasonable and "not realistic in light of the availability of contractors and the time required to fully remediate the hydrocarbons released." The letter said environmental consultants have estimated the full cleanup may take five years. The appeals board will attempt to mediate the dispute, but in the meantime, the deadlines for Gas Plus remain in place. Based on air quality tests, Alberta Health Services has recommended three nearby homes be vacated. At least one resident has decided to stay despite the warning. Air quality tests done in December in the home shared by Skrukwa and husband Augustine. Yip found that contaminants were present, but below a threshold for concern, she said. Due to those results, she and Yip will cover the costs to move their family in the weeks ahead. Skrukwa has concerns about the way the testing was

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carried out and still believes her daughters aged 4, 10 and 13 might be affected by the fumes. She is also concerned about the health of the Bow River, which flows less than 150 metres north of her property. "The gas of course moves with the groundwater and the groundwater flows to the river," Skrukwa said. Alberta Environment spokeswoman Cara Tobin said the health of the waterway is another reason the government department is pushing for the quick completion of a clear map showing how far the spill has spread underground. "The results will show us how far out the plume has gone in every direction, which homes are affected, and if the river is affected," she said.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Family+moving+station+leak/4130325/story.html>

CHINA, LIAONING PROVINCE, FUSHUN CITY, JANUARY 19 2011. 30 INJURED IN NE CHINA OIL REFINERY FIRE



Heavy smoke can be seen after a blast at an oil refinery in Fushun city of northeast China's Liaoning Province on Wednesday, January 19, 2011.

An explosion at a northeast China oil refinery Wednesday injured at least 30 workers, officials have confirmed. The blast at about 9 a.m. ignited a blaze at the refinery in Fushun City, Liaoning Province, said a spokesman for the Publicity Department of the Fushun Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China. The workers were injured by broken glass and other debris, said an official surnamed Wang at the Information Center of the Fushun Petrochemical Company. All of the injured had been taken to hospital and most were only slightly injured. No fatalities have been reported so far. Firefighters have brought under control the fire at the No.2 plant of Fushun Petrochemical Company, a subsidiary of China

National Petroleum Corporation. The explosion occurred at the heavy oil catalytic cracking unit, part of an automated production line. Thick smoke was hovering over the refinery, blotting out most of the sky, witnesses said. "I ran out and saw flames several meters high at the refinery plant," said a witness. "As few people were in the plant and the control room had blast-proof facilities, there might be few severe casualties." The municipal government initiated an emergency response to the incident. The cause of the explosion is under investigation. Fushun Petrochemical Company, with total assets of 20.9 billion yuan (3.2 billion U.S. dollars), has a crude oil processing capacity of 10 million tonnes annually. A blast happened at Fushun Petrochemical Company's No.3 oil plant, on Sept. 7 last year, but no casualties were reported and the fire was put out in an hour.

 **Other News sites** [PetroChina Refinery Explosion Injures 30, Fire Under Control, Xinhua Says](http://english.cri.cn/6909/2011/01/19/189s616334.htm)
<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2011/01/19/189s616334.htm>

USA, MA, BOSTON, MATTAPOISETT, JANUARY 19 2011. LOCAL PLAINTIFFS IN BOUCHARD OIL SPILL CLASS ACTION GET FAVORABLE RULING

chris regale



A cluster of tugboats and U.S. Coast Guard boats surrounds the leaky Bouchard barge in April 27, 2003 to contain oil spillage into Buzzards Bay.

After more than eight years of waiting, some Mattapoisett residents may receive compensation for property damaged caused by the April 27, 2003 Bouchard Transportation Company barge oil spill in Buzzards Bay. After 16 months of negotiations, Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Raymond Brassard has granted the plaintiffs' motion in a class action suit against Bouchard for preliminary

approval of a settlement agreement with the oil carrier and related entities, which will resolve the class action brought against Bouchard on behalf of more than 1,000 Mattapoisett homeowners affected by the oil spill eight years ago. This class action lawsuit is separate from several others settlements against Bouchard, include a \$13 million settlement with 27 Buzzards Bay communities, and \$6.2 million settlement with NOAA finalized last year for beach and environmental restoration. Under the agreement reached Jan. 7, Bouchard Transportation will provide up to \$12.375 million to settle the class claims. The funds will be made available to persons who owned the affected Mattapoisett homes April 27, 2003, which is the date the Bouchard Barge B-120 spilled up to 98,000 gallons of oil into Buzzards Bay, fouling approximately 90 miles of shoreline. Martin Levin, lead counsel for the plaintiffs, estimated that the remuneration available for each home will range from \$1,500 to \$30,000, depending on such factors as the severity of the oiling and whether the affected property included a private or shared beach. Eligible homeowners will have to submit a simple claim form to receive payment. The funds will also be used to pay the fees and costs of the litigation, but Levin stated that these payments do not affect his estimate of the recoveries most homeowners

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can expect under the settlement. The case, filed in 2004 in Plymouth County Superior Court by Mattapoisett homeowners Kim DeLeo, Frank Haggerty, and Earl Cornish, was the first environmental class action ever to be certified in Massachusetts. At a "test case" trial that concluded in April of 2010, a 13-person jury determined that eight Mattapoisett homeowner's sustained damages ranging between \$1,575 and \$22,650 per property as a result of Bouchard's negligence in causing the oil spill. "We are pleased that the court granted preliminary approval to the proposed settlement, which we believe will provide fair compensation to Mattapoisett homeowners who suffered interference with their right to use and enjoy their beaches as a result of the oil spill," Levin, attorney at Stern, Shapiro, Weissberg & Garin, said. "Ms. DeLeo, Mr. Haggerty and Mr. Cornish deserve all the credit in the world for initiating this case and then seeing it through many hard-fought battles to get to this agreement." The court scheduled a final hearing on the proposed settlement for April 25, at which time Judge Brassard will decide whether to grant the settlement final approval.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/mattapoisett/features/x104372939/Local-plaintiffs-in-Bouchard-Oil-Spill-class-action-get-favorable-ruling>

USA, MI, CHEBOYGAN, JANUARY 19 2011. MAN CHARGED IN CHEBOYGAN COUNTY BEACH OIL SPILL

A man whose leaky boats are believed responsible for a Lake Huron oil spill has been charged with breaking anti-pollution laws. Fifty-year-old Scotland Stivers of Superior, Wis., surrendered to Cheboygan County Sheriff's Department last week and was released on bond. He's charged with violating the Water Resources Protection Act, a felony. He also faces three misdemeanor charges. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment says Stivers moored three vessels on Lake Huron's Duncan Bay near the tip of the Lower Peninsula. 1 of them sank last August. The other two ran aground during storms, causing oil to wash onto the beach at Cheboygan State Park in October. A preliminary examination is scheduled for Feb. 9. Stivers doesn't have a listed phone number in Superior.

<http://www.wqow.com/Global/story.asp?S=13863918>

USA, TX, HARRIS CO, JANUARY 19 2011. MAGELLAN PIPELINE REPORTS GASOLINE LEAK AT HARRIS COUNTY, TX

Magellan Pipeline reported a release of 250 barrels of gasoline from an underground pipeline onto the ground on Monday, due to unknown causes, at Harris county of Houston, Texas, in a filing with regulators. The local fire department had been notified, the company said in the filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Magellan pipeline carries gasoline, diesel and ultra-low sulfur diesel from the Gulf Coast to Group Three Midwestern markets.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE70H12T20110118>

CANADA, B.C, DEEP BAY, JANUARY 19 2011. SHIP SINKS, SPILLS OIL AND FUEL INTO DEEP BAY

neil horner

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUbgT20H9OM>



The stern of the Irene W rises out of the waters dockside in Deep Bay.

The waters of Deep Bay were fouled with oil and diesel fuel on the weekend when a 60-foot fishing vessel sank at dockside. Deep Bay Harbour Master Bill Falkiewicz said the Irene W sank without warning — and quickly — at about 3 p.m. Saturday. "The boat came in December after it broke its mooring out in the bay and required a little bit of work," Falkiewicz said. "The boat was towed into the harbour and some repairs were initiated, but we had an incident where two commercial boats came in Tuesday of last week and ended up disconnecting the power to the boat so they could use it on their boat to do a repair of some kind and they didn't plug the Irene W back." Despite numerous sets of eyes on the dock and Falkiewicz taking his usual dock inspection tour Saturday morning, there were few visible signs of trouble. "We didn't notice any

water at all going into the boat," he said. "Just before 3 p.m. she goes down like a rock, without warning. There was one fellow working 80 feet away and another working about 50 feet away and they couldn't believe how quickly it went down." Falkiewicz said he was informed of the sinking by 3:08 p.m. and by 3:15 workers had installed two sets of booms around the stricken vessel to contain any pollutants that might escape. However, the boom didn't catch all of it and a sheen of oil could be seen Monday over much of the water dockside. "In the large scheme of things, it's not a huge oil spill, by virtue of the fact we got to it immediately and we stopped potential further damage," he said. "However, there are a great many hydrocarbons on a boat, such as grease, oil, diesel and hydraulic oil. We have to try to contain that as much as we can." A commercial diver was sent

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down on Sunday and reported that while the hull appears to be sound, there are a number of areas near the water line where the caulking is non-existent. "What probably happened was there was water in the boat and when the water level came up to where the caulking was out, the water must have just rushed in," Falkiewicz said. A barge has been hired to raise the Irene W and it was scheduled to arrive some time today (Tuesday). "We don't like this sort of stuff, but sometimes it gets thrown our way and we have to deal with it," Falkiewicz said.

<http://www.bclocalnews.com/news/113980574.html>

NIGERIA, WARRI, JANUARY 20 2011. OIL HEARING TO CAST SPOTLIGHT ON WEST AFRICA >> WIDER CONCERNS OVER ENVIRONMENT ARE EXPECTED TO SURFACE WHEN DUTCH PARLIAMENTARIANS QUESTION SHELL ABOUT NIGERIA SPILLS

benoit faucon & will connors



Villagers pointing out oil in a river in the Ogoni region of Nigeria's Niger Delta last summer. Oil firms blame spills on militant groups that divert oil.

Olubunmi Akindele mans the shaky front line of West Africa's losing battle with its oil spills. Sitting in his small office here on a recent day, Mr. Akindele, a regional head of Nigeria's National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, fielded two calls in 45 minutes from villagers reporting different spills nearby in the oil-rich delta. Finishing one call, he telephoned a Western oil company's local office to pass word of a leak at its facility, asking them to follow up themselves. With a small budget and access to a single oil-dispersement plane based in another country, his agency has almost no means to respond to near-daily spill reports. "You can't just go out to the creeks every time someone calls," Mr. Akindele said. International

environmentalists and lawmakers are looking nervously to West African oil-patch countries including Nigeria and Angola, where watchdog groups say a near epidemic of unaddressed spills is the result of either lax regulation, pipeline vandalism by groups seeking to divert oil for their own profits or an underprepared spill-response effort. Some of these people fear the situation could worsen as oil exploration moves from the swamps and shallows of places like Nigeria's Niger Delta. In deeper water, security concerns are lower, replaced by the risks that come with the more complex techniques required for these larger, deeper reservoirs. On Jan. 26, lawmakers in the Dutch Parliament are preparing to question [Royal Dutch Shell PLC](#) about years of spills in the Niger Delta. The exchange is expected to highlight West Africa's lack of preparedness for almost any kind of spill, much less a huge accident like the one at a [BP PLC](#) deepwater well in the Gulf of Mexico in April. "BP has shown a giant spill in the Gulf of Mexico is possible in deep water," said Joseph Croft, executive director of Nigeria civic rights organization Stakeholder Democracy Network. In West Africa, he said, where "health, safety and the environment are not at the forefront [of government priorities], it is not only possible, but more likely." West African countries have some of the world's least rigorous regulatory schemes, watchdog groups say. In Angola, which has large deep-water reserves, local fishermen complain that companies are left to handle spill oversight. The country, which has had an offshore oil industry since the 1960s, adopted a national response plan two years ago and critics say it hasn't adapted its regulations in the aftermath of the U.S. Gulf disaster. Ghana, which just started oil output from its massive offshore Jubilee field, is a relative newcomer with unclear offshore oil and gas regulation, said Alex Vines, head of Africa Program at U.K. research institute Chatham House. "I don't see that Ghana is ready for production," he told a recent oil conference. Angola says it is considering increasing inspections and fines on foreign oil companies. An official with Ghana's Environmental Protection agency says the country has the capacity to respond to an emergency. The acting director of Nigeria's National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency didn't respond to requests for comment. The Minister of Environment in Nigeria, John Odey, didn't respond to requests for comment. West Africa's oil production has historically been from onshore or shallow-water fields that call for exploration methods that have been tested since the oil industry's early days. For decades, swamps in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta have been beset by thousands of spills. Last year, the spill-response agency said it had recorded about 2,405 oil spills involving all the major international oil companies operating in Nigeria between 2006 and June 2010. Nigeria doesn't disclose the overall amount of oil spilled. Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell says the vast majority of the pollution in its Nigeria operations in recent years has been caused by oil theft and militant attacks. For its Nigeria operations, it says an equivalent of 102,000 barrels of oil were spilled into the Niger Delta in 2009 as a direct result of sabotage or theft. That is close to half the equivalent of 257,000 barrels spilled in Alaska's 1989 Exxon Valdez spill. West Africa's appeal has grown since BP's troubles with the Deepwater Horizon, as some rigs idled by last year's temporary U.S. drilling freeze departed the Gulf of Mexico for Africa. [Transocean Ltd.](#)'s Marianas rig—which preceded the ill-fated Deepwater Horizon on BP's Macondo well in the Gulf—recently moved to offshore Nigeria. Big regional producers Nigeria and Angola together held 50.7 billion barrels of proven oil reserves as of end 2009, nearly twice as

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much as the U.S. and its 28.4 billion barrels. A large share of those reserves are deep offshore. While BP says it and the U.S. government marshaled an armada of 6,000 ships and 100 aircraft to battle the Gulf spill, West Africa's standing response team consists of a single small plane, based in Ghana, and a few boats, according to the Global Initiative for West and Central Africa, an international partnership of oil companies and watch groups. The plane is positioned to immediately disperse the equivalent of 280 barrels to 560 barrels on each flight, said Archie Smith, chief executive of Oil Spill Response Ltd., an industry body financed by the industry to respond to spills. Mr. Smith added that his own company could mobilize four larger aircraft coming from outside Africa. In Mr. Akindele's office in Warri, the oil hub of the Western part of the Niger Delta, one of the calls fielded on a recent day by the official was from a citizen reporting oil pollution from a nearby [Chevron Corp.](#) facility. Mr. Akindele replied that the government would send a team "as soon as Chevron does a flyover and confirms it." Chevron later said it did reconnaissance flyovers but that spills were issuing from another company's pipeline. Fines and penalties for spills in West Africa are relatively modest. In the U.S., any company failing to notify authorities of an oil discharge is given a one-time fine of \$500,000, and other penalties may accrue. Egypt levies a one-time fine of at least \$52,000 if a spill isn't disclosed "promptly." The fine in Nigeria is about 500,000 Nairas (\$3,200) per day of delayed disclosure. Regulators in West Africa are often badly paid, unskilled and unmotivated. The budget for Nigeria's National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, which is in charge of pollution inspections, was \$3.39 million in 2007, the latest year available for approved expenditures. That's roughly 3% of the amount budgeted for audits and inspections at the agency's U.S. counterpart. The agency is a "watchdog without teeth," said Ben Amunwa, a researcher at U.K. environmental group Platform. "People in Nigeria are outraged that in the U.S. there is such [a comprehensive] response to oil spills," said Geert Ritsema, the international coordinator at Friends of the Earth Netherlands. "Show me where an oil spill has been properly cleaned. There is no such place in Nigeria."

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703730704576065823774382768.html>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 20 2011. OBAMA ORDERS REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS >> US PRESIDENT ASKS FOR COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF AGENCIES AND RULES AFTER ACCUSATIONS WHITE HOUSE IS ANTI-BUSINESS

suzanne goldenberg



Barack Obama says regulations affecting business have gone unchecked for too long.

[Barack Obama](#) ordered a broad review of environmental, health and safety regulations today to try to pre-empt Republican charges that he is leading an anti-business administration. [In an executive order](#), the US president instructed government agencies to ensure all regulations are cost-effective, science-based and transparent, as well as promoting economic growth, innovation and job creation. The move was seen on both sides of the political divide as an attempt to counter accusations from the main business lobby, the Chamber of Commerce, that Obama has unleashed a "regulatory tsunami" on business, and to head off a campaign by

conservative Tea Party Republicans to strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its authority to act on [climate change](#). "It's a review that will help bring order to regulations that have become a patchwork of overlapping rules, the result of tinkering by administrations and legislators of both parties, and the influence of special interests in Washington," Obama wrote in today's Wall Street Journal. Many of the Tea Party conservatives taking their seats in the new Congress were elected on a promise to shrink government. Several incoming Republicans – as well as Democrats from coal states – have specifically pledged to block EPA's actions on climate change, which they call a "job killer". Darrell Issa, the powerful new head of the house energy and commerce committee, earlier this month sent letters to 150 business leaders asking what government regulations they found too onerous. Administration officials said the review would apply to EPA regulations on greenhouse gas emissions, which began coming into force in 2011. However in his Journal piece, Obama held up the administration's new fuel economy standards as an example of the "commonsense" regulations he said were needed. "The EPA and the Department of Transportation worked with automakers, labour unions, states like California, and environmental advocates this past spring to turn a tangle of rules into one aggressive new standard," he said. "It was a victory for car companies that wanted regulatory certainty; for consumers who will pay less at the pump; for our security, as we save 1.8bn barrels of oil; and for the environment as we reduce pollution." Even so, a number of liberal groups said Obama had gone overboard in assuaging Republican concerns about government over-reach. "The president swallows the GOP's frame for the debate hook, line and sinker," Rena Steinzor of the Centre for Progressive Reform said in a statement. Obama insisted that he did not intend to neutralise the EPA and other regulatory agencies, such as the Food and Drug Administration, and that necessary safety

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provisions would stay in place. "But we are also making it our mission to root out regulations that conflict, that are not worth the cost, or that are just plain dumb," he said. The Chamber of Commerce, while claiming to welcome the order, said Obama should extend the review to the recently enacted financial reforms and healthcare law. It also encouraged Congress to continue its challenge of the administration's regulatory authority. "Congress should reclaim some of the authority it has delegated to the agencies and implement effective checks and balances on agency power," the chamber said in a statement. Republicans meanwhile argued Obama had not gone far enough. "Today's executive order from President Obama shows that he heard the same message I did in the last election – that Americans are sick and tired of Washington's excessive over-reach and overspending," the house majority leader, Eric Cantor said. "We must go further."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jan/18/barack-obama-review-epa-agencies>

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, BALHANNAH, JANUARY 20 2011. MAN HURT IN BLAST, NOT FAR OFF TDU ROUTE

MAP: [Balhannah 5242](#)

Country Fire Service units have rushed to a fire at a service station in the Adelaide Hills. A man has been injured in an explosion at the service station at Balhannah. Police say it appears the man was doing some work on a boat when petrol fumes ignited and caused an explosion. The Ambulance Service says the man has minor burns and has been treated at the scene. Balhannah is not far off the route for the cyclists competing in stage 2 of the Tour Down Under.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/01/19/3116307.htm>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, JANUARY 20 2011. GETTY REALTY BUYS 59 MOBIL BRANDED PROPERTIES IN DOWNSTATE NEW YORK

Getty Realty Corp. announced that it has completed the acquisition of 59 Mobil branded gasoline station and convenience store properties located in and around the northern suburbs of New York City (including Westchester and Rockland Counties) and the lower Hudson Valley, funding a total [investment](#) of \$111,300,000. In a release on Jan. 13, the company said the 59 properties were acquired in a simultaneous transaction among ExxonMobil, CPD NY Energy Corp. (a subsidiary of Chestnut Petroleum Distributors) and Getty Realty Corp. whereby CPD acquired a portfolio of 65 gasoline station and convenience stores from ExxonMobil and simultaneously completed a sale/leaseback of substantially all of the acquired properties with Getty Realty Corp. Approximately 85 percent of the funding was provided by Getty via a sale/leaseback transaction with a long-term triple net unitary lease having an initial term of 15 years plus renewal [options](#). Additional funding was provided by Getty to CPD under a secured, self-amortizing loan having a 10-year term. The properties acquired by Getty are high volume locations with strong operating histories. The properties will continue to sell gas under the Mobil brand and will be operated by CPD or by the existing independent dealers who will be supplied fuel by CPD. Commenting on the transaction, David Driscoll, Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are pleased to have been able to [finance](#) the acquisition of these excellent properties for CPD. The sites have secure and steadily growing operating histories and are located in strong markets with excellent long term demographics. We are equally pleased to have begun a relationship with CPD, a respected and growing regional gas station and convenience marketer, and look forward to continue to grow with them. This acquisition is an example of our efforts to seek growth through quality acquisitions. We expect this acquisition to be immediately accretive to annual earnings." Getty Realty Corp. is a publicly-traded [real estate investment trust](#) in the United States specializing in ownership and leasing of convenience store/gas station properties and petroleum distribution terminals. The Company owns and leases approximately 1,110 properties nationwide. ((Comments on this story may be sent to newsdesk@closeupmedia.com))

http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/xom_gty_getty-realty-buys-59-mobil-branded-properties-in-downstate-new-york-1430250.html

AZERBAIJAN, BAKU, JANUARY 20 2011. SOCAR OPENS FIVE GAS STATIONS IN UKRAINE

The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan has commissioned five gas stations under its own brand in Ukraine, SOCAR's representative office in Ukraine said today. The official opening ceremony of the gas stations was attended by SOCAR head [Rovnag Abdullayev](#) and the company's representatives. As the representative office said, all five stations are located along the highway Odessa-Nikolaev-Yuzhnoukrainsk. "The official opening ceremony took place at the gas station in Sebino," the source said. SOCAR plans to open 30 gas stations in Ukraine by late 2011, [Elchin Mammadov](#), the head of the company in Ukraine, said earlier. He said that a network of gas stations is created by buying the existing ones or building new gas stations. This project is only part of a larger program the company's activity in Ukraine, in particular, on large-scale retail sales of oil products on the country's market. SOCAR has a network of over 60 gas stations in Georgia and began to create a network of

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gas stations in Azerbaijan. Also the company has already announced intentions to enter the retail market of oil products of Romania, which means access to the EU market.

<http://en.trend.az/capital/energy/1814405.html>

MEXICO, VILLAHERMOSA, JANUARY 20 2011. FIREWORKS BLAST LEAVES TWO DEAD

Two people died Wednesday when their car packed with fireworks suddenly exploded on a road in the southeastern Mexican state of Tabasco, authorities said. Carmen Gomez Hernandez and Octavio Camara Diaz died instantly in the explosion on the Cardenas-Villahermosa highway, police sources told EFE. Authorities in Tabasco ruled out foul play in the blast, which split the car in two and scattered the victims' body parts across the road. Police suggested the fireworks in the car must have been 'very potent'.

<http://www.sify.com/news/fireworks-blast-leaves-two-dead-news-international-lbuk4daiihj.html>

USA, MA, WEST BOYLSTON, JANUARY 20 2011. FUEL SPILL CLOSES BP STATION IN WEST BOYLSTON



Firefighters respond to a fuel spill at the BP station on Route 12 in West Boylston this morning.

The Fire Department and state environmental officials were summoned to the BP gas station on Route 12 this morning because of a fuel spill. The business at 21 West Boylston St. has been closed since mid-morning, when traces of gasoline were spotted in runoff water from melting snow and ice. Fire Chief Richard Pauley said the spill, which appears to be no more than 10 gallons, did not come from the station's storage tank. He said it likely came from a faulty tank of a car or from a spill that took place during a fuel delivery to the station.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20110119/NEWS/110119619/1101>

GERMANY, ST. GOARSHAUSEN, JANUARY 20 2011. THE SHIPWRECK AND THE LORELEI >> TRAFFIC REMAINS BLOCKED AFTER RHINE TANKER ACCIDENT

mary beth warner



The Lorelei statue and the capsized tanker near a narrow bend in the Middle Rhine.

Nearly a week after a tanker carrying sulfuric acid capsized in a picturesque bend of the Rhine, commercial traffic on the river remains at a standstill. Two of the ship's four crew members are still missing. A capsized tanker carrying 2,400 tons of sulfuric acid continues to block ship traffic on the Rhine, one of the busiest commercial arteries in Europe, almost a week after it overturned. The river is closed to commercial traffic from Mainz to Koblenz, along the picturesque Middle Rhine region popular with tourists, and 249 ships are waiting along the river, unable to

pass, Uwe Gilberg-Rindsfusser, spokesman for the rescue operations, told SPIEGEL ONLINE. Rindsfusser would not speculate as to when the river would open again for traffic. Rescue workers are awaiting the arrival of a pontoon, expected to arrive Wednesday afternoon, to help stabilize the ship, and four cranes to help move the tanker off the river's rocky bottom. Two cranes are expected to arrive on Friday, Rindsfusser said. Police continue to search for two of the four crew members of the ship, the Waldhof, and are using sonar equipment in their efforts. Pedestrians walking along the riverbank over the weekend reported seeing something that looked like a body, but police were unable to recover it, Rindsfusser said.

Companies Losing Thousands

Companies waiting for their ships to pass are reporting losses of up to €2,000 (\$2,670) per day, said Ralf Schäfer of the German Federal Waterways and Shipping Administration (WSV). More than 60,000 ships travel the river annually, transporting some 60 million tons of goods, he said. At 5 a.m. on Jan. 13 the Waldhof capsized near the river's famous Lorelei Rock. The cause of the accident remains unclear, but river traffic has been blocked since rescue workers arrived at the scene. The tanker, owned by the German company Lehnkering, was delivering sulfuric acid to BASF in Antwerp, Belgium from the company's location in Ludwigshafen, Germany. BASF has experts on the scene to work with rescue efforts, company spokeswoman Friederike Segeberg told SPIEGEL ONLINE. Authorities said Wednesday they have no indications that the sulfuric acid has leaked from the ship's hull. BASF uses sulfuric acid for, among other things, the production of certain plastics,

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Segeberg said. Several cities and municipalities, including Duisburg and Düsseldorf, rely on the river as a source of drinking water.

A Narrow & Rocky Passage

The passage of the Rhine near the Lorelei rock is narrow and deep, and since the Middle Ages it has been known to be one of the most dangerous sections of the river. Still, there hasn't been a major accident at the site in the past 30 years, Schäfer said. The rock sits in the Middle Rhine, which stretches between Bingen and Bonn along a picturesque gorge. The region is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a popular destination for foreign tourists. The Lorelei rock is named after the mythical mermaid who lured fishermen to their deaths by singing the most beautiful song they ever heard. It has inspired dozens of poems and songs, such as Heinrich Heine's "Die Lorelei," which tells the story of a siren luring shipmen with her singing, causing them to crash on rocks in the riverbed. The Rhine is the longest river in Germany, and runs from the Swiss Alps to the North Sea in the Netherlands. The river's commercial use dates back to the Roman Empire, when the Rhine formed the empire's northern frontier.

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,740322,00.html>

USA, N.D, MANDAN, JANUARY 20 2011. TESORO SAYS FIRE OUT AT MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA REFINERY

antonita madonna

- Extent of damage being assessed
- Refinery in operation at lower rates
- Impact on supply not known yet (Recasts, updates with fire put out, refinery operating at reduced rates)

Tesoro Corp said on Wednesday that a fire has been put out at the alkylation unit of its 58,000 barrel-per-day Mandan refinery in North Dakota, and that the refinery was operating at reduced rates. No injuries have been reported and refinery officials are assessing the extent of damage and potential impacts of the blaze, spokesman Mike Marcy said. He said that while operations had been curtailed, he did not know what affect that would have on supply. "The fire at the alkylation unit at Tesoro's Mandan, North Dakota, refinery was completely extinguished by the refinery's own fire department at approximately 3:30 p.m. Central Standard Time," Marcy said in an email. "We do not know at this juncture what, if any, impact the fire will have on supply considerations," he added. The fire -- which broke out at about 1:10 p.m. local time -- started in a heater on an hydrofluoric acid alkylation unit, the company said. Alkylation units make high-octane blending components for gasoline. Group Three gasoline was seen about 0.40 cents higher at 1.25/1.00 cents under February RBOB futures on Wednesday. The Mandan refinery primarily processes sweet (low sulfur) crude oil from North Dakota. Products manufactured there include gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, heavy fuel oils and liquefied petroleum gas. The refinery is in the northern most part of the Group Three market where gasoline differentials were already on the rise because of problems at regional refineries. This is the fifth refinery problem in as many weeks, according to Midwest traders. On April 2, last year, Tesoro battled a deadly fire at its Anacortes, Washington, refinery that claimed more than half a dozen workers in a sudden blaze that erupted as they were working on a naphtha hydrotreater heat exchanger. That fire was called the deadliest refinery calamity since the Texas City, Texas, BP refinery blast in 2005 that killed 15 workers and injured 180 other people.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1926306520110119>

USA, TN, CAPSHAW, JANUARY 20 2011. CAPSHAW MAN LOSES HAND AFTER FIREWORKS EXPLOSION

jean colejean

A Capshaw man had to have his hand amputated after blowing off four fingers while detonating chemicals used to make a rocket, Sheriff Mike Blakely said. Billy Dowell Gilbert, 48, of 15349 Menefee Road, legally bought the chemicals needed to make the rocket, a type of firecracker, from the Internet, the sheriff said. "He will not face any charges because what he bought is not illegal, and he agreed to give up the rest of the chemicals," Blakely said. East Limestone Fire Department had been called about 9:25 p.m. to a report of fireworks exploding in a man's yard. Gilbert was mixing chemicals for what he called "flash crackers," when the explosion occurred, the sheriff said. He was taken to Huntsville Hospital, where doctors amputated his hand, Blakely said. He was listed in good condition Wednesday, a hospital spokeswoman said. Sheriff's officials called the state fire marshal's office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the state bomb squad. "They detonated the rest of what he had Tuesday," the sheriff said.

<http://enewscourier.com/local/x233320332/Capshaw-man-loses-hand-after-fireworks-explosion>

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