



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2010 – 674 Newsy Stuff

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

January 03 2011



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USA, MN, ST. PAUL, DECEMBER 28 2010. HERON LAKE BIOENERGY TO PAY \$66,000 ETHANOL ENVIRONMENTAL PENALTY

Heron Lake BioEnergy has agreed to pay a \$66,000 penalty to resolve alleged violations of the company's state-issued environmental permits at its ethanol production facility in Heron Lake. The agreement covers violations that date back to construction of the facility in October 2005. In addition, beginning in September 2007, the facility violated the conditions of both its air and water quality permits on a number of occasions. The air quality violations covered in the agreement include exceeding permitted emissions limits, failing to conduct monitoring as required by the permit, failing to maintain emissions-control equipment as required, and failure to report or certify data to the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) as required. Water quality violations covered in the agreement include failure to obtain prior MPCA approval to use chemical additives in wastewater processing, failure to provide specified holding times for samples, failure to monitor for specified pollutants at the frequency required, exceedances of permitted effluent limits, and failure to install or maintain required flow-monitoring equipment prior to discharging. To resolve the violations, Heron Lake BioEnergy will pay a civil penalty of \$66,000. The agreement allows up to \$12,000 of the penalty amount to be satisfied through completion of a supplemental environmental project (SEP). SEPs are often used as part of enforcement agreements in which the payee agrees to undertake one or more projects that will benefit the environment. Projects must be approved by the MPCA. Heron Lake BioEnergy has proposed and the MPCA agreed that this SEP will consist of a study on how to improve capture of fugitive dust emissions at the facility. In addition, the company agreed to a schedule of corrective actions to achieve compliance, including submitting to the MPCA specific plans on how it will comply with the facility's environmental permit limits and prevent reoccurrence of violations in the future. Failure to comply with the schedule in the agreement will result in further specified penalties. When calculating penalties, the MPCA takes into account how seriously the violations affected the environment, whether they were first-time or repeat violations, and how promptly they were reported to appropriate authorities. Penalties also attempt to recover the calculated economic benefit gained by failure to comply with environmental laws in a timely manner. For a comprehensive list of enforcement actions by the MPCA, go to the agency's Web site at:

www.pca.state.mn.us/newscenter/enforcement.html

<http://www.dglobe.com/event/article/id/44326/group/News/>

SERBIA, ČAČAK, DECEMBER 28 2010. EXPLOSIONS BADLY DAMAGE SERBIAN AMMO FACTORY

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.emg.rs/en/news/serbia/142999.html>



A series of explosions badly damaged an ammunition factory in the central Serbian town of Čačak yesterday, but there were no casualties, officials said. The factory is owned by Sloboda, which produces artillery ammunition, propellants and explosives, and home appliances. "Workers escaped unharmed and are now being evacuated," factory union head Dragan Jekic told Reuters. A similar blast killed three Sloboda workers in 2003 and two were injured in smaller incidents earlier this year. Predrag Maric, head of the interior ministry's emergencies department, said that the first explosion took place at 4.45pm (1545 GMT) and was followed by a series of secondary blasts. "According to workers who escaped the blast, part of the ammunition production line went off, but we still cannot approach the area until all explosions end," Maric said. "Initially we believed it was an ammunition warehouse."

The Sloboda plant was badly damaged in 1999 by Nato's bombing campaign against Serbia. The Serbian arms industry has since recovered and exports weapons and ammunition for small arms and artillery to Asian and African countries as well as the West, including some Nato members. It was the third major explosion to hit Serbian ammunition dumps and arms factories in recent years. Four years ago a depot in central Serbia exploded, injuring 22 people, and in 2009 a blast in an ammunition plant in west Serbia killed six people.

http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=406813&version=1&template_id=39&parent_id=21

MALAYSIA, KUALA TERENGGANU, DECEMBER 28 2010. FIRE AT PETRONAS AROMATICS PLANT

A fire broke out at an aromatics plant within the Petronas Integrated Petrochemical Complex in Kerteh, near here, at 11.35 on Christmas Eve. However, the fire was extinguished shortly after that by the complex's emergency response team, with the assistance of the Fire and Rescue Department. In a statement released on Saturday, Petronas Chemicals Group Bhd said there were no casualties in the incident but as a precaution, operations at the plant had been suspended. Operations at other

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facilities at the complex are not affected. The statement said the relevant authorities had been informed and an investigation was under way to determine the cause of the fire and to assess the extent of the damage.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/12/27/nation/7689675&sec=nation>

AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 28 2010. ETHANOL – REARING ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN



If there's a subject I've had quite enough of it's surely Ethanol, or E10, or E15, call it what you will. I don't know about you, but simply put I do not like the idea of someone putting 'stuff' in the gasoline I'm going to use in my car, my bike or my boat (if I hadn't sold it). If that means I'm to be seen as an enemy by the 'greenies', then so be it. I take some satisfaction in knowing that America's powerful National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) has filed suit in the US Court of Appeals, in Washington, D.C., challenging a decision by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NMMA is joining with other organisations, among them the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Association of International Automobile Manufacturers. A newly-formed coalition representing these organisations has been formed and given the name 'Engine Products Group.' The EPA decision that will be challenged by the coalition is that take on October 13 to partially approve E15 (that's gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol) for a range of highway motor vehicles. NMMA president Thom Dammrich, said the association regretted pursuing litigation, but he also claimed the EPA 'has not fulfilled its statutory obligations to ensure the safe introduction of E15.' 'Consequently, we and our industry partners have determined that it is necessary to seek relief in the courts in order to protect our manufacturers and our consumers,' Mr Dammrich added. 'Throughout this process, the NMMA has strongly and consistently urged full scientific testing on marine engines and equipment, as required by law. We also sought the rational evaluation of policy mechanisms to

protect consumers from misfueling and product failures associated with incompatible fuels. 'Additionally, we also seek regulatory actions to ensure that compatible fuels remain available and affordable. 'The EPA has failed in each regard and approved E15 in contravention of its clear, statutory requirements,' he declared. Apparently, this newly-formed coalition is not the first to challenge the EPA ruling. Several US food industry groups, among them the Grocery Manufacturers Association and the National Meat Association, have taken similar steps as has the American Petroleum Institute. *It's worth pointing out that there are no claims that E15 (or E10) causes 'unspeakable damage' to engines. The damage dealt out by ethanol is cantered on components, such as fuel lines, fuel tanks, hoses and the like. One of its major problems is that which is termed 'phase separation', which means that the ethanol component of fuel in a fuel tank will sink to the bottom, totally separating itself from the 'pure' gasoline. Naturally, this is a far larger problem for the boat owner compared to the motor vehicle owner; a motor vehicle, used virtually on a daily basis and being constantly refuelled, is a different situation altogether, whereas a boat, used only sparingly by comparison, may sit for weeks with the bottom of its fuel tank 'ethanolised.'* Another point is that older style fuel tanks will completely succumb to the ravages of ethanol and will be totally destroyed. One of the problems in Australia lies with our politicians; they seemingly will do whatever it takes to win the green vote and furthermore, the boating industry is simply not on their radar! If you're one of those sensible people who cares for his boat, consider this; not one single powerboat racer, offshore, circuit or ski racer to my knowledge allows ethanol fuel anywhere near his engine. It's strictly premium octane all the way. An obvious next step for me as a journalist after summing up the NMMA reaction is to put the situation to our own Boating Industry Associations (BIA) and obtain their views, comments. Well, I would have taken that step, but hey, it's Christmas and all the State BIA offices are closed for the Festive Season. Stick around, I will run them down and get their views and reaction on the NMMA and Engine Products Group move.

<http://www.powerboat-world.com/index.cfm?nid=78516&rid=13&sc=arc>

USA CO, BOULDER, DECEMBER 28 2010. CHEMICAL SPILL CLEANED UP AT BOULDER'S ROCHE COLORADO PLANT >> MORE THAN 700 GALLONS OF FLAMMABLE LIQUID

heath urie

A spill of about 700 gallons of a flammable liquid led to the evacuation of a building at the Roche Colorado plant in Boulder on Monday afternoon. David Cain, deputy chief of operations for the Boulder Fire Department, said the 50/50 mix of methanol and

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water was contained to a single building at the plant, located at 2075 55th St. "We responded, as normal procedure, to a spill that we had with our low-temperature coolant (refrigeration system) and the fire department joined with us to clean it up," said John Tayer, a spokesman for Roche Colorado. Crews from Boulder fire's hazardous materials team helped push the liquid into a retaining pond at the plant that was filled with a material designed to safely consume the methanol. Roche Colorado manufactures peptides, ingredients that are used in pharmaceuticals. "It has not gotten into any of the storm or sewer water drains," Cain said. "Everything is safe and secure." Cain said the spill was likely caused by either a faulty valve on a pipe that was carrying the liquid, or by a leak in the pipe.

http://www.dailycamera.com/news/ci_16951381

USA, S.C, GREER, DECEMBER 28 2010. HEATING OIL SPILLS INTO GREER CREEK >> DRINKING WATER SOURCES WERE NOT ENDANGERED, AUTHORITIES SAY

ron dekett



Cleanup crews recover fuel oil from Frohawk Creek in Greer.

Emergency workers were mopping up a heating oil spill last week that started in the basement of the former Allen Bennett Memorial Hospital and ended up in a creek, stopped by beaver dam. No drinking water sources were threatened by the spill, according to Don Holloman, Greer city engineer, and Jose Negron, the Environmental Protection Agency's Region 4 onsite coordinator based in Atlanta., Ga. How much oil leaked into the unnamed tributary of Frohawk Creek, which feeds the South Tyger River, won't be known until the contractor tasked with the cleanup finishes and a report is completed, said Thom Berry, spokesman for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control. Holloman and Negron estimated that 1,000-1,500 gallons had been released into the environment. Holloman

cautioned that the actual amount could be higher or lower. "That's purely an educated estimate," he said. A much larger amount had accumulated in the basement. "All of that leaked didn't make it outside because ... they mopped up quite a volume of it (in the basement)," Holloman said. The leak is believed to have started over the weekend. Negron said it appears that an inline filter broke although it's unclear why. He said a maintenance work at the former hospital reported that when he left work Dec. 17 everything was OK. He found the spill when he returned to work Dec. 20. The leak was stopped shortly after the discovery, but not before enough oil had collected to spill into enter the drainage systems which drained to the unnamed tributary, Holloman said. DHEC received a complaint about 5:20 p.m. Dec. 20 from a resident who reported a fuel smell, Berry said. "We have talked with people who of told us they had started smelling something over the weekend," he said. On Dec. 18, Ron Anderson, who lives on Pine Street Extension in Greer where the creek runs behind his home, began to smell fuel in the air and saw a reddish film on top of the creek. "There was a funny smell in the air," Anderson said. "It seemed to be getting stronger as each day went by." On Dec. 21, Anderson said, workers were cleaning up the creek, mostly at the head of the beaver dam, which he said has kept all but a slight bit from seeping through. "The beaver dam is so well-engineered," he said. "It's unreal how efficient the beavers are." HEPACO, an environmental cleanup contractor, was hired by the owner of the former hospital site, Cardinal Real Estate Group, to clean up the oil, according to Holloman and Negron. Cardinal Real Estate recently purchased the 10-acre former medical campus from the city for \$1.4 million. It plans to transform the former hospital into an assisted living facility and a former nursing home on the site into a national call center for the Centers for Disease Control.

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/article/20101228/GGN/312220064/Heating-oil-spills-into-Greer-creek>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, COUVA. PREYSAL VILLAGE, DECEMBER 29 2010. OIL TANKER DRIVER DIES.

The driver of the oil tanker which exploded on the Churchill Roosevelt Highway two weeks ago has died. Andre Rodriguez died at a hospital in Venezuela on Sunday evening. Forty-one year old Mr. Rodriguez was flown to Venezuela after the accident with 95 percent of his body burnt. Mr. Rodriguez lived at Preysal Village Couva. He was a private contractor with national petroleum and was on his way to Matura to deliver gasoline to service stations. It is reported that the tanker passed a tractor on the highway. It is said the back of the tanker hooked onto the tractor dragging it some distance. The tanker reportedly picked up a skid, overturned and exploded. The tanker was at the time carrying over seven thousand litres of gasoline.

<http://www.i955fm.com/News.aspx?id=10219>

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TURKEY, DECEMBER 29 2010. MAN TRIES TO OUT-RUN PETROL TANKER

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=557541&vld=2054016&cld=Top%20Stories>

A man has been captured by security footage in Turkey trying to outrun a petrol tanker. The 53-year-old man was in the truck's path, when the driver started the engine and took off. For some reason, the man turned and ran down the road as he fled instead of crossing past the truck. Other pedestrians managed to alert the truck driver, allowing the frightened man to get clear. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

<http://www.skynews.com.au/topstories/article.aspx?id=557541&vld=2054016&cld=Top%20Stories>

USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, DECEMBER 29 2010. FUEL TRUCK CRASHES ON LOOP 1604 >> 1,500 GALLONS OF FUEL SPILLS ON HIGHWAY

 **Slideshow :** <http://tinyurl.com/2vjcola>



A fuel truck crashed and flipped on its side Tuesday afternoon on the city's North Side, forcing the closure of the eastbound lanes of Loop 1604 between Stone Oak Parkway and Highway 281. Sgt. Ernest Celaya of the San Antonio Police Department said a woman driving a car applied her brakes when the driver of the big rig behind her slammed on his brakes on the slick highway, hitting the car. The 18-wheeler then skidded and flipped on its side. The crash caused 1,500 gallons of fuel to spill on the highway, prompting the closure of the eastbound lanes, Celaya said. A hazardous materials crew was expected to take about two hours to clean up the fuel. The woman was not hurt, Celaya said. The driver of the big rig complained of a sore arm.

<http://www.ksat.com/news/26301879/detail.html>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, DECEMBER 29 2010. THE STORY BEHIND THE TESORO REFINERY BLAST

matt gumbel



Often big stories outside Seattle make the news here for day or two or sometimes a week, then many of the people involved aren't written about again. Those people in many cases have amazing stories. Today, one of those stories is told by Molly Shen at our news partner, KOMO/4. She spoke with Shauna Gumbel, the mother of one of the seven people killed in an explosion at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes last April. "Someday I hope that those memories make me smile instead of making me cry," Gumbel told Shen while looking at photos of her son. "And I think they will."

 **Watch the Full Story on Video:**

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattle911/archives/233390.asp>

 **Related Stories**

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/112524334.html>

<http://blog.seattlepi.com/seattle911/archives/233390.asp>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, SALE, DECEMBER 29 2010. TANKER'S DUEL WITH DRIVERS ENDS IN CHARGES

Police have charged a fuel-tanker truckie they say endangered motorists on a highway in Victoria's east last night. They are appealing for witnesses to incidents on the Princes Highway between Sale and Rosedale in Gippsland after drivers were allegedly "tail-gated" then forced off the road. When police pulled over a B-double fuel tanker with South Australian registration plates at 5.24pm, two other motorists stopped and made similar complaints about the truck driver's behaviour. And this morning two more drivers had come forward saying they had been targeted by the truck driver, who allegedly forced them off the road after tail-gating, or looming up intimidatingly close. A police spokesman said there might have been other drivers who were victims of dangerous driving by the same man and investigators want them to contact them. A 50-year-old man from Narre Warren is expected to face court charged with three counts of dangerous driving. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or the website at www.crimestoppers.com.au

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/truckers-duel-with-drivers-ends-in-charges-20101229-199ij.html>

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RUSSIA, ZABAISKALSKY KRAY, DECEMBER 28 2010. BODIES OF 3 CHINESE DEAD IN RUSSIAN REFINERY BLAST FOUND, 2 STILL MISSING



Photo taken on Dec. 27, 2010 shows the site of an oil refinery blast in the Zabaikalsky Kray in southeastern Russia.

The bodies of three Chinese workers killed in Monday's oil refinery blast have been found, while the other two Chinese are still missing, the Chinese Consulate in Irkutsk told Xinhua on Tuesday. Deputy consul-general Luo Hui said the Chinese Consulate had instantly launched an emergency mechanism after the explosion and kept on communicating with the local government and other related departments. "We had asked the local authorities to find out the cause of the accident and the bodies of missing workers," Luo said. The blast, at around 4:25 a.m. local time (1925 GMT Sunday), rocked a settlement in the Zabaikalsky Kray in Russia's Siberian Transbaikalian region, in which a total of five Chinese were presumably killed. Local reports said that Arkady Chuprov, executive director of Zabaikalsky Refining

Company, and 18 Chinese were believed to be working at the oil refinery when the blast occurred. Citing the preliminary results from local authorities, Luo said the explosion was caused by the usage of open flames in the storage. Local police officers had already ruled out the possibility of terrorist attacks, Luo said. The Chinese Consulate is trying its best to reassure the other 13 workers in the refinery and is ready to give consular assistance to workers and their relatives, Luo added. According to local reports, the ensuing fire in the main warehouse with about 2,000 tons of fuel oil has been extinguished, and investigations are underway.

Related Stories

RUSSIA, MOSCOW, DECEMBER 27 2010. 5 CHINESE KILLED IN OIL REFINERY BLAST IN ZABAISKALSKY IN RUSSIA

Five Chinese were presumably killed early Monday after an oil refinery blast rocked a settlement in the Zabaikalsky Kray in eastern Russia, news agencies reported. The executive director of Zabaikalsky Refining Company, Arkady Chuprov, and a total of 18 Chinese were working at the oil refinery in the village of Dauria at around 4:25 a.m. local time (1925 GMT Sunday), when an explosion occurred inside the pumping station. [Full story](#)

Related Links

- [Oil refinery blast rocks southeastern Russia](#)
- [One killed in oil refinery blast in southeastern Russia](#)

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2010/china/2010-12/28/c_13668167.htm

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 30 2010. CHEVRON TRIES TO USE FOE'S WORDS AGAINST THEM

david r. baker



Donald Moncayo, an activist with the Amazon Defense Coalition, inspects a place in the Ecuadorian rain forest that was allegedly contaminated by oil wells drilled by Texaco, which was bought by Chevron.

Locked in a bitter environmental lawsuit in [Ecuador](#), [Chevron Corp.](#) has unleashed an arsenal of potentially potent new weapons in the case - private documents written by the other side's lawyers. Working through [U.S.](#) courts, the oil company has subpoenaed and made public an astonishing array of e-mails and letters written by the legal team suing Chevron over oil-field contamination in northeastern Ecuador. The company even obtained and released the diary of the team's lead lawyer. Chevron, based in San Ramon, also has released outtakes from a documentary about the case, footage obtained over the filmmaker's fierce objections. The

documents provide a rare, behind-the-scenes glimpse into a 17-year-old lawsuit that has drawn worldwide attention. And they have proved a public-relations nightmare for the plaintiffs. In one letter, a prominent Philadelphia attorney whose firm had bankrolled the plaintiffs' team accuses his colleagues of "potentially improper and unethical, if not illegal" conduct and says their actions have "undermined the entire case." In outtakes from the documentary "Crude," lead plaintiffs' attorney Steven Donziger discusses different ways to put political pressure on the Ecuadorian judges hearing the case, arguing that they respond to fear rather than the law. When someone suggests that any judge who ruled against the plaintiffs would be killed by angry Ecuadorians, Donziger says he might not be killed, but "he thinks he will be ... which is just as good." In diary entries, Donziger discusses meeting with a man who would soon be appointed by the Ecuadorian court as a neutral expert to assess

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oil-field contamination, a man Chevron has long accused of collaborating with the plaintiffs. Donziger told the man, Richard Cabrera, "how we can do something we will always be remembered for." Chevron considers the documents a series of smoking guns. "We've been able to uncover evidence of fraud, of attorney misconduct," said company spokesman Kent Robertson. "It shows just how illegitimate the process in Ecuador has become." The plaintiffs' legal team insists that its conduct in the case has been legal and appropriate under Ecuadoran law. Donziger's comments, both on film and in his diary, reflect his conviction that Chevron was exerting its own pressure on the court.

Cover-Up Alleged

"The comments were all born out of a frustration with Chevron's efforts to undermine the trial in Ecuador," said Karen Hinton, spokeswoman for the plaintiffs' lawyers. "The real fraud in this case is Chevron's intentional contamination of the rain forest and its efforts, now on display in the United States, to cover it up." The case already has a long, complicated history. [Texaco](#) drilled for oil in a corner of the Ecuadoran rain forest from 1964 through 1992, working in partnership with state-owned Petroecuador. As part of its operations, Texaco dumped a mixture of petroleum and water into open pits near the oil wells. When Texaco pulled out of the country, it agreed to clean up a portion of the wells, while Petroecuador continued to operate the rest. Chevron bought Texaco in 2001. The first version of the lawsuit was filed in 1993. Chevron has complained for years that the trial, held in the small town of Lago Agrio, has been tainted by political pressure and fraud. To help bolster its case, the company has been filing motions in courts throughout the United States, asking judges to grant access to documents that could prove that the plaintiffs' lawyers engaged in fraud. A federal judge in New York even granted the company's unusual request to depose Donziger himself. The requests have produced an immense volume of previously confidential documents. Some of the documents reveal a serious rift among the plaintiffs' lawyers, a rift that ended this year with a reshuffling of the legal team. In July, the plaintiffs fired Joseph Kohn, a high-profile Philadelphia attorney whose firm had spent \$7 million on the case. Relations between Kohn and Donziger had been deteriorating for a year, and in a letter dated Aug. 9, Kohn told the plaintiffs' Ecuadoran attorneys that Donziger was "leading the case rapidly towards disaster." Kohn accused Donziger of lying to him and withholding information. In particular, he criticized the legal team's extensive contacts with Cabrera, saying he only learned of them after Chevron turned them into a public issue. Much of Cabrera's contamination report consists of material written by a consulting company hired by the plaintiffs, and Chevron argues that the report was "ghostwritten" by the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs insist that both they and Chevron had the right to submit material for the report. "Donziger hid this activity from us because he knew that we would never have agreed to or supported this strategy," Kohn wrote. "It has undermined the entire case and the credibility of the entire plaintiff's team." Kohn could not be reached for comment on Tuesday. Hinton said Kohn knew about the report from the consulting company, Stratus, and paid the company for its work. "Mr. Kohn's comments are disingenuous," she said. "He knew about Stratus' role and the plaintiffs' contact with Mr. Cabrera because Chevron made similar charges in 2007 and 2008."

Talk of Pressure

In many of the "Crude" outtakes, Donziger talks about trying to pressure Ecuadoran court officials, whom he describes as weak and corrupt. He talks about organizing a demonstration to show court officials that the plaintiffs have strong public support, saying the demonstration won't cost more than a "few thousand dollars." And at one point, he discusses creating an "army" of supporters who would shadow court officials "to prevent corruption." He also acknowledges that such tactics would never be accepted in the [United States](#). But he argues that they are necessary to counter the weakness of [Ecuador's](#) judicial system, especially when fighting such a large and powerful foe. He often says that Chevron is applying its own pressure, possibly including bribes. "We have concluded that we need to do more politically to control the court, to pressure the court," Donziger says in one of the outtakes. "We believe they make decisions based on who they fear the most, not based on what the laws should dictate."

'No One Fears Us'

Moments later, he adds, "No one fears us right now, and until they fear us, we're not going to win this case, I'm convinced." Hinton said his comments were off-the-cuff expressions of frustration at both Chevron and the trial process, which she said the company had tried to bog down. "Prior to his comments, Chevron had repeatedly lied to the court about the remediation that [Texaco](#) never did and exerted pressure on the court to delay inspections," Hinton said.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/12/28/BUGG1H07QJ.DTL>

ARGENTINA, MENDOZA, GUAYMALLÉN, DECEMBER 30 2010. 1 DEAD, 5 INJURED IN PETROL STATION BLAST IN ARGENTINA

One person died and at least five others were injured Wednesday when a petrol station exploded in the western Argentine province of Mendoza, local authorities said. The accident happened in the town of Rodeo de la Cruz, 15 kilometres from

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provincial capital Mendoza, and residents were evacuated from the area. 'We have to determine whether there were faults in the security valve system of the tank,' said Mendoza Civil Defence director Rafael Garay.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/americas/news/article_1608454.php/One-dead-five-injured-in-petrol-station-blast-in-Argentina

USA, ORE, MCMINNVILLE, DECEMBER 30 2010. MAN DIES AFTER CAR HITS SEMI TANKER TRUCK

Slideshow:

<http://www.koinlocal6.com/news/local/story/Man-dies-in-accident-on-Highway-18-in-McMinnville/nUpfPSzf70CLQmd8rL8NmG.cspX>



A tow truck prepares to haul away a tanker truck that caught fire following a wreck early this morning on Highway 18 near McMinnville.

A male passenger died and the female driver was seriously injured when their 2005 Hyundai crossed the centerline, hit a tanker truck and then was hit by a second semi. The tanker truck burst into flames after the crash. The identities of the injured woman and the dead man have not yet been released. The incident happened around 3:35 a.m., state police said. The Hyundai was westbound on Hwy 18 when it crossed the centerline and collided with an eastbound 2009 Freightliner pulling a tanker trailer driven by Kevin G. Caulfield, 45, of Newberg, Ore. The Hyundai was then hit by a westbound 2000 Freightliner pulling a trailer, driven by Edward C. Rosera, 64, of Woodburn, Ore. Neither truck driver was injured. The man and woman in the Hyundai were taken by ambulance to Willamette Valley Medical

Center in McMinnville, where the man was pronounced dead. The woman is seriously injured.

<http://www.kval.com/news/local/112621134.html>

USA, IA, EVERLY, DECEMBER 30 2010. ONE LIFE-FLIGHTED FOLLOWING SEMI & FUEL TRUCK COLLISION NEAR EVERLY

The driver of a poultry transport was taken by life-flight to a Sioux Falls hospital during the early morning hours Wednesday after the semi he was driving rear-ended an empty fuel truck at Barb's Corner, just north of Everly on Highway 18, according to information from the Clay County Sheriff's office. Early reports suggest a semi transporting an empty fuel tank was traveling east on Highway 18 and stopped on Highway 18, waiting for traffic to clear, in order to safely turn north on Clay County Road M27 at approximately 1:30 a.m. A second semi, reportedly transporting chickens, struck the stopped tanker from behind. The fuel transport wound up in the ditch, and the poultry semi remained on the highway, and had to be removed from the scene using a crane and flatbed. Sheriff Randy Krukow said the driver of the empty fuel truck was shaken up, but did not appear to suffer any noticeable injuries at the scene.

<http://www.spencedailyreporter.com/story/1691248.html>

USA, UH, STARTK CO, CANTON, DECEMBER 30 2010. PUNCTURED GAS TANK SPARKS FIRE AT SLESNICK RECYCLING

Photo Gallery <http://www.cantonrep.com/carousel/x2135336137/Firefighters-douse-blaze-at-Slesnick-Recycling?photo=1>



The Canton Fire Department was called to a commercial fire at Slesnick Steel & Recycling on Warner Rd SE in the city. Thick black smoke could be seen from downtown. Initial reports were scrap cars and possibly machinery was burning Wednesday morning.

A Wednesday morning fire that sent thick black smoke into the air started when a fuel tank on a scrap car was accidentally punctured by a worker. Fire Battalion Chief Ray Harple said an employee at Slesnick Steel & Recycling at 1100 Warner Rd. SE was moving scrap cars with a forklift and punctured a car's gas tank, which started the fire that spread to at least 40 other cars. The fire began at 10:46 a.m., and motorists on U.S. Route 62 and Interstate 77 reported seeing the smoke.

Firefighters had the flames doused within two hours, Harple said. No one was injured. Harple estimated that the fire caused roughly \$40,000 damage.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/carousel/x2135336137/Firefighters-douse-blaze-at-Slesnick-Recycling?img=2>

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NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, ARDMORE, DECEMBER 30 2010. CHROMIC ACID SPILL MOP-UP AT CHOPPER DEPOT

Firefighters in protective suits have neutralised a 300-litre chemical spill at a helicopter repair depot in South Auckland. The chemical was believed to be a derivative of chromic acid which leaked from a storage bath at Airwork (NZ) Limited at Ardmore Airport. The Fire Service said more than 300 litres leaked from a tank holding 500 litres inside the building on a workshop floor. Firefighters were preparing to ventilate the building. Fire Service spokesman Jarron Phillips said two depot staff members were evacuated. He said the spill may have happened overnight. Cordons were in place around the area.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/manawatu-standard/news/national-news/4502177/Spill-mop-up-at-chopper-depot>

USA, MI, LANSING TWP, DECEMBER 30 2010. OFFICIALS PROBE CONTAMINATION CAUSED BY FIRE IN LANSING TOWNSHIP >> ADAMS PLATING CO. OWNER REMAINS IN SERIOUS CONDITION

melissa domsic & laura misjak

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20101229/NEWS01/12290318/1001/NEWS/Officials-probe-contamination-caused-by-fire-in-Lansing-Township>

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20101228/NEWS01/12280319>

 **Photo Gallery:**

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Avis=A3&Dato=20101227&Kategori=NEWS&Lopenr=12270803&Ref=PH>



State and federal environmental officials continue to clean up and investigate the impact of hazardous materials released from a fire Monday that seriously injured the building's owner. A fire that destroyed Adams Plating Co. at 521 Rosemary St. released contaminants into the water used to douse the blaze. Company owner Stephen Adams was in serious condition Tuesday afternoon at the University of Michigan Hospital's trauma burn center in Ann Arbor, said University of Michigan Health System spokesman Ian Demsky. Adams was the only person in the building when it caught fire Monday morning. The cause of the fire still is under investigation, but it's most likely accidental, said Lansing Township fire Lt. Mike Kaloz. Officials have not determined a monetary damage amount for the building, which is a total loss. The single-story, 5,400-square-foot facility was used primarily

for chrome, copper and nickel electroplating. Rosemary Street between Genesee and Saginaw streets is expected to remain closed today as crews continue to monitor and clean the contaminated water. Preliminary tests showed that chromium trioxide was the most prevalent chemical found in the water, Kaloz said. He said the amount of the chemical found is "virtually non-hazardous." But official laboratory analysis by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment won't be complete until today, said Jeff Lippert, federal on-scene coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. According to the EPA website, chromium trioxide is a type of hexavalent chromium. If inhaled in very high concentrations, it can cause respiratory problems and lead to an increased risk of lung cancer. Runoff water left greenish-yellow residue in the surrounding area and flooded the basements at some neighboring homes, causing at least two families to evacuate, officials said. It also seeped into storm sewers that lead into the Grand River, Lippert said. A federal contractor will clean up the storm sewer and runoff water from the fire, he said. The plant may have had several types of cyanide, chromium, sulfuric acid, nickel and other chemicals on site, Kaloz said. The company is required by law to provide the fire department with an inventory of any hazardous materials that may be housed on site, and did so, but that doesn't mean everything on the list was on hand Monday morning, he added. "We have done pre-plan walkthroughs, surveys," he said. "The most recent one being in September at this facility and everything as far as that goes appears to be the way it was supposed to be." Sgt. Robert Ott, Ingham County emergency management program manager, would not release the list of chemicals because he said some of the information is classified under Homeland Security. "(For) the people that live right around there, there's not an emergency anymore," he said. "There's some environmental cleanup that needs to be done and we're doing that. "As long as they're not in direct contact with the stuff that's out there, they have nothing to worry about." The one-acre site is part of the federal Superfund program for highly contaminated sites, said Daria Devantier, unit chief for the Superfund section of the DNRE. Chromium-contaminated wastewater was discovered in a nearby home's basement in 1980. Cleanup of arsenic and chromium from the soil and groundwater took several years, and state and federal regulators have been monitoring the site. "Certainly there's going to be additional impacts from releases that occurred based on the fire," Devantier said. Air monitoring came back clear, but officials don't know how far the contaminated water leached into the ground.

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Resident Concerned

Tammie Wahl, 30, lives kitty-corner behind Adams Plating. She said she's slightly concerned about letting her dog in her backyard following the fire, and was checking Tuesday morning to see if any standing water was left in her yard. "I feel like (officials) would probably come say something to us if we should be concerned," she said. Westgate Tavern & Grill, located about a block north of Adams Plating, was not affected by the fire, said bartender Kim Hartwick. She said the business did have brown tap water Monday following the fire, but she was told it was from sediment in the pipes. "They've assured me we're not going to have an issue (with water)," she said.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20101229/NEWS01/12290318/1001/NEWS/Officials-probe-contamination-caused-by-fire-in-Lansing-Township>

USA, W.VA, BELLE, DECEMBER 30 2010. LEAK REPORTED AT DUPONT'S BELLE PLANT



DuPont officials say a small amount of a toxic chemical leaked from their plant in Belle on Tuesday morning -- the second time that particular material has leaked at the DuPont plant this month. The leak of monomethylamine happened at 10:55 a.m. Tuesday, and the all clear was given at 11:20 a.m., according to a news release from DuPont spokesman Dave Hastings. About 11 pounds of the chemical leaked, and no one was injured, the company said. "Appropriate state and local authorities were

notified," the company said in the news release. About an hour after the leak, an employee at the Belle plant complained of difficulty breathing and an ambulance was sent for, but the "preliminary indication is that the individual is having an allergic reaction either to food or medication that he recently took," according to the company. The worker, who was "nowhere near the leak," was taken to a local hospital, the company said. The company says it is investigating why the leak happened and confirming the amount of monoethylamine released. Earlier this month, two workers were briefly hospitalized after some monomethylamine leaked from a railcar while workers were taking a product quality sample. Monomethylamine, also known as methylamine, is an organic compound and a derivative of ammonia. Made by combining ammonia and methanol, methylamine is sold in an anhydrous form in pressurized railcars or tank trailers. It has a very strong odor similar to fish, and is a building block for making many other compounds. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, methylamine can irritate the eyes, nose and throat. More serious exposures can cause burning, coughing, difficulty in breathing and lung congestion.

<http://sundaygazettemail.com/News/201012280725>

USA, IN, INDIANAPOLIS, DECEMBER 30 2010. AGREEMENT REACHED TO CLEAN LAPORTE COUNTY SITE

Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management have reached a \$12 million settlement with 13 companies to clean contaminated soil and groundwater at a former oil-reprocessing operation in LaPorte County. The former Cam-Or industrial property in Westville has been listed as a Superfund site since 1987. The cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater at a former oil-reprocessing operation in LaPorte County will be funded by 13 companies who have reached a \$12 million settlement over the pollution, under an agreement announced today by Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) and federal officials. The consent agreement filed in federal court December 22 resolves state environmental claims involving the former Cam-Or industrial property on State Road 2 in Westville, Ind., that was named a Superfund site in 1987 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). "The pollution at this industrial site occurred over several decades and the cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater is expected to take years, so it was a complicated process to hammer out a legal agreement to fully fund the remediation of the site. This agreement helps resolve a lingering environmental impediment to future economic development and hopefully jobs for the LaPorte and Porter county areas. Our colleagues at IDEM and my office have worked very hard with EPA to structure a good solution," Zoeller said. The Indiana Attorney General's Office represented IDEM in the settlement negotiations with the group of companies, EPA Region 5 in Chicago and the U.S. Department of Justice. "IDEM is proud to have been a part of the cooperative negotiations that led to this important settlement which will result in protection of human health and the environment as final cleanup of the Cam-Or Superfund site gets underway," IDEM Commissioner Thomas Easterly said. Waste oil from service stations, industrial facilities, railroad yards, and pipelines was reprocessed at Cam-Or for use in automotive and industrial lubricating oil blends. Originally owned by Westville Oil, the facility operated as a refinery for reprocessing waste oil starting in 1934. From the 1950s to 1978, waste oil discarded at the facility was stored in lagoons that lacked linings, and thus contaminants leached into the soil and groundwater. Cam-Or Inc. purchased Westville Oil in 1976 and operated the refinery until 1987, when it shut down the facility in response to EPA and IDEM requirements for closing the oil

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lagoons. An initial cleanup took place in 1987. EPA brought legal action in 1987 and issued an administrative order in 1989 against several companies that were Cam-Or customers and generated the waste oil, and required them to undertake cleanup actions. Due to contamination, the 15-acre Cam-Or property in March 1998 was also added to EPA's Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). An EPA administrative order with the group of customer companies in 2002 triggered an investigation and feasibility study to more fully define the extent of contamination and develop alternatives for cleanup. Among the environmental problems: Groundwater along a one-mile plume extending from the site is contaminated with 1,4-Dioxane, a solvent, as well as semi-volatile organic compounds and volatile organic compounds. Also, soil at the site is contaminated with heavy metals such as lead and a diesel-type hydrocarbon. Under the EPA's June 2008 Record of Decision outlining its selected methods for remediating the site, lead-contaminated soil will be excavated and safely consolidated on-site, and contaminated groundwater will be extracted and treated. Long-term monitoring will be conducted to ensure contamination is addressed. The settling companies will pay for the remediation work, under the oversight of IDEM and EPA. Under the consent agreement, the settling companies agree to establish and maintain a \$12 million performance guarantee to complete an engineering design and conduct cleanup at the site. (That could include a surety bond, irrevocable letters of credit, trust fund or insurance policy.) According to EPA, they also will pay EPA \$200,000 in settled costs and another \$2.2 million for future oversight costs, providing a total value of the settlement of \$14.4 million. And they have agreed to pay the State of Indiana's oversight costs in full for the duration of the remedy, which could last 25 years or more, the agreement says. During the process of negotiating the consent agreement with the companies, IDEM provided significant technical and legal support to EPA, and the Indiana Attorney General's Office participated in crafting the agreement. The consent agreement – which would legally resolve liability for site cleanup – was lodged in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana on December 22. Lodging the agreement triggers a 30-day public comment period before the court can officially accept the agreement. The consent agreement is posted at www.epa.gov/region5/sites/camor/index.htm and public comments can be emailed to pubcomment-ees.enrd@usdoj.gov. Signing the agreement were 13 companies who in decades past generated waste oil that was reprocessed at the Cam-Or site. The companies, called "work settling defendants," are: Alcoa Inc., ANR Pipeline Company, Clean Harbors Environmental Services Inc. (on behalf of Oil Services Company), Consolidated Rail Corporation, CSX Transportation Inc., Ford Motor Company, Imperial Oil Limited, Ingersoll-Rand Company (formerly known as Clark Equipment Company), Northern Indiana Public Service Company or NIPSCO, Rockwell Automation (formerly known as Allen Bradley Corp. and Rockwell International Corp.), C. Stoddard & Sons Inc., Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company, and United States Steel Corporation, formerly USX Corp. Zoeller thanked the State of Indiana personnel – including IDEM project manager Resa Ramsey, IDEM attorney Barbara Lollar, and Deputy Attorney General April Lashbrook – who worked diligently on the consent decree negotiation with EPA to arrange for cleanup procedures and structure a funding mechanism.

Source: Office of Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=45391>

BANGLADESH, CHITTAGONG, DECEMBER 30 2010. OIL SPILL IN BAY >> SHIP'S AGENT ADMITS, BUT DENIES LIABILITY

The operating agent of the Indian ship Ocean Pearl has admitted that "some oil" might have spilled in the Bay from its fuel tank containing nearly 400 tonnes of furnace oil and diesel. The company, however, refused to take any responsibility for the spill. Zafar Alam, director of Chittagong Department of Environment (DoE), said the ship's Chittagong-based agent Sygma Shipping Lines in its response to a DoE notice said it is only responsible for the welfare of its crewmembers. Sygma officials also declined to disclose the name of the ship's owner company. "We are trying to find out the original owner of the ship, and our preparations are underway to prosecute the captain of the ship for causing marine pollution," Alam told The Daily Star. The DoE has also asked the Chittagong Port Authority to take "immediate action" against the ship for illegally emptying the oil in the water. "We have evidence that clearly shows that the Ocean Pearl caused the spill," said the DoE director. Under Environment Conservation Act 1995 (Amendment 2010), an environment polluter faces a maximum fine of Tk 10 lakh or 10 years imprisonment or both, if convicted. The DoE in Chittagong has another option of apprehending and punishing the offender, said a source in Dhaka. "The DoE can ask the Dhaka office's enforcement department to take action," said the source, adding, "The enforcement department can hand spot penalty to the offender." Port authority sources suspect the entire stock of the ship's 400 tonnes of furnace oil and diesel was dumped into the sea. DoE officials, however, are unsure about this. They said it happened during repair work. The Ocean Pearl had arrived at the Chittagong port over two months ago carrying fertiliser but remained grounded in the outer anchorage for most of the period for repair. Air passengers and pilots flying in and out of the Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport first spotted the nearly three-kilometre slick in the Bay off

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Sitakunda on December 20 and 21. Following a The Daily Star report on December 22, the DoE investigated the matter and found Ocean Pearl responsible for the spill.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=168096>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, DECEMBER 30 2010. ENVIRONMENTALIST FILES COURT ORDER TO FORCE EXXON TO PAY \$92 MIL

christine kim

The U.S. Department of Justice with the state's support opposes a motion filed by an environmentalist ordering Exxon Mobil to pay \$92 million for the Prince William Sound oil spill. It's from a provision in the 1991 settlement between the state, federal government, and Exxon. This would be the final payment and one that some say is long overdue. The state says it takes time to support a claim, but one environmentalist says the government has had enough time. The Exxon Valdez oil spill covered thousands of square miles along Alaska's coast making it one of the biggest environmental disasters. "Most of the injured resources and habitats have still not fully recovered or there is ample amount of unanticipated injury in Prince William Sound and Alaska whose damages need to be addressed in some way," said conservation consultant Rick Steiner. Along with a \$1 billion settlement, the state and the federal government demanded Exxon pay \$92 million dollars under the reopener provision, but more than four years after that demand, Steiner says money hasn't been collected. That's why he filed a motion asking the federal court to order Exxon to pay. "The governments are asserting that none of the three parties have brought it before the court, so therefore no one else can, but I have and the court can act on their own," said Steiner. The Department of Justice, after consulting with the state, opposed that motion. An Exxon spokesperson declined an interview, but told KTUU that it believes Steiner's motion had no merit and that the company will continue to seek information from the Alaska and federal governments to evaluate their claim. The state says it's continuing more studies that need to be done to support the claim and that it will take time. "We need to finish out the fetal season. It is my hope that this will be the last fetal season and when we're finished with this we should know whether in fact there is a restoration technique that is financially feasible and does not cause environmental harm," said Alaska Deputy Attorney General Craig Tillery. Steiner believes that's an excuse and is now hoping the court will act on its own. The state says it's an issue that should be up to the parties and hopes to resolve it by the end of next year. According to the state, the amount in the claim can't be more than \$92 million, but could be less depending on the results of the studies. Also, the state adds the money wouldn't go directly to the governments, but that Exxon would have to fund whatever remediation is appropriate.

<http://www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-environmentalist-files-court-o-122910.0.6241059.story>

USA, FLA, PORT CANAVERAL, DECEMBER 30 2010. SMALL OIL SPILL CONTAINED AT PORT

andrew knapp

Fuel trickling from 10 barrels that fell during a ship-to-ship transfer was quickly corralled Wednesday at Port Canaveral. The standard petroleum barrels, each containing 42 gallons of ship fuel, dropped to the deck of a barge after they were moved from a commercial ship about 3:10 p.m. A small amount of fuel leaked into the water at the North Cargo Pier, forming a sheen on the surface. "Whatever the cause is, it's going to be investigated thoroughly by the Coast Guard," Petty Officer First Class Christopher Evanson said. "Thankfully, no shipping or recreational boating has been impacted in any way." The spill happened at the Seaport Canaveral terminal in the central portion of the facility. Bill Giers, spokesman for the Marine Safety Detachment, said the Coast Guard and the company operating barge 302, Enterprise Marine, helped contain the spill with booms, absorbent pads and vacuums. "This is refined oil that the ships run on -- not like the crude oil from Deepwater Horizon," Giers said. "It doesn't disperse rapidly, but it does disperse. It was hard to tell how much leaked, but it was only a portion." Additional cleanup equipment was en route to the port late Wednesday night, but it wasn't known whether it would be needed. The National Response Center in Washington, D.C. -- the Coast Guard's point of contact for reporting spills -- was notified of the incident. "These transfers happen all over the country every day. It's not unusual for there to be a spill," Giers said. "But this is not a large event. A lot of it is safety-oriented. You plan for the worst and hope for the best."

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20101230/NEWS01/12300322/1006/Small-oil+spill+contained+at+port>

USA, MA, AMHURST, DECEMBER 30 2010. AMHERST DESIGNATED ONE OF TWO HAZMAT DISPATCH CENTERS

scott merzbach

With new antennas recently installed on top of the police station, emergency dispatchers in Amherst will soon be an essential component for hazardous material responses in western Massachusetts. Amherst Fire Chief Walter "Tim" Nelson said the equipment put up at the Main Street station will make Amherst one of only two hazmat dispatch centers in the state. "We're the

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hub of Hampshire County," Nelson said. "It's really going to fit well with our whole dispatch center." The state has provided \$14,000 worth of equipment, including radio equipment, software and console hardware, and is also paying for training to support the dispatchers, who work in the police station. This is part of an effort to consolidate and create good "situational awareness" across the state, Nelson said. "We'll take care of the two teams out west," said Nelson, the coordinator for the District 4 regional hazardous materials response team that covers Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties. Amherst will also get a \$10,000 stipend to host services and most costs associated with dispatching for the regional team. The other hazmat dispatch center is based in Holbrook. "The new antennas will enable our dispatch center to talk with any one of the six teams throughout the state during an incident," Nelson said. Nelson said the discussion about a local site for the hazmat dispatch center began just before he became fire chief in Amherst in March, and he suggested the town would be a good host. David Ladd, the state director of the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Program, came up with the idea of reducing the number of hazmat dispatch centers from six to two. Though Amherst is designated for western Massachusetts, there may be times dispatchers will be in communication with teams in other parts of the commonwealth. "The beauty of it is either center can take over for the whole state," Nelson said. Last month, Amherst benefited from the expertise of the local response team when hydrogen sulfide was released in a suicide at the Rolling Green Apartments complex on Belchertown Road.

<http://www.amherstbulletin.com/story/id/193782/>

USA, ALA, HUNTSVILLE, DECEMBER 30 2010. FAMILY SAYS BP RUINED THEIR CATTLE FARM

America's favorite defendant, BP, faces another federal lawsuit, from a cattle-farming family who say a ruptured BP pipeline polluted their land with carcinogenic xylene, ethylbenzene and other chemicals. The Thomas family says runoff from the toxic leak continues to pollute their land and groundwater and a stream on their property, forcing them to seek other sources of potable water, and killing their cattle farm. Greg and Amanda Thomas sued BP Pipeline and two contractors the oil giant hired to remediate the spill: AECOM and RMT. The Thomases say that "Xylene, ethylbenzene and other chemicals from BP's pipeline continue to pollute plaintiffs' irrigation and water wells. As a result, the plaintiffs have been forced to obtain other sources of potable water, and have been forced to cease cattle farming operations. "Significant amounts of xylene, ethylbenzene, and other chemicals remain in the soil and groundwater of the plaintiffs' land. Upon the occurrence of a significant rain event, stormwater runoff carrying xylene, ethylbenzene, and other chemicals flow into the stream on plaintiffs' land and into tributaries of Elk River, a water of the state, bearing a classification of Fish and Wildlife." They add: "Based upon information and belief, BP does not maintain a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit." All three defendants "undertook to restore and remediate" the Dec. 29, 2008 spill, "but have negligently failed to do so," the Thomases claim. They seek compensatory and punitive damages for violations of the Clean Water Act and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, negligence, trespass, nuisance, wantonness, outrage, and assault and battery. ("Defendants and their employees, agents, officers, and representatives knowingly and intentionally caused the pollutants contained in the chemicals and stormwater to touch the plaintiffs in rudeness and a hostile manner.") They are represented by D. Mitchell Henry and Webster, Henry, Lyons, White, Bradwell & Black, of Montgomery.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/12/29/32947.htm>

USA, TX, GALVESTON, DECEMBER 31 2010. CLASS DEMANDS \$10 BILLION FROM BP FOR POLLUTION FROM TEXAS CITY REFINERY

Neighbors of BP's Texas City oil refinery demand \$10 billion in punitive damages for years of air pollution that contaminated "yards and homes, including ... air-conditioning units and ducts ... with toxic chemicals". The class describes BP as "a known felon and serial polluter who purposely releases on a routine basis, toxic gases into the air," and then lies about it to regulators. "The damage that BP has done to the environment for those communities surrounding its Texas City Plant may take years to correct, if ever," the complaint states. Since March 23, 2005, when a series of explosions and fires killed 15 workers at the third-largest petroleum refinery in the United States, BP's Texas City operations have been scrutinized by federal and state regulators, and BP was fined more than \$70 million under a settlement with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, according to the complaint. Since that 2005 disaster four more workers have died at the refinery: one in 2006, one in 2007, and two in 2008, the class claims. "All of these deaths were related to failure to implement and follow procedures, failure to inspect and maintain equipment, and/or failures of [production safety management]," according to the complaint. The latest example of BP's alleged culture of noncompliance came from April 6 to May 16, when it released 538,000 pounds of chemical compounds, including 17,000 pounds of carcinogenic benzene, into the air, according to the complaint. "After the release, BP reported to the authorities that various amounts were allegedly released, and stated publicly that the release was of no consequence and constituted no harm to the public," the class says. BP said that flares it uses to

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burn off chemicals released from the refinery broke down the chemicals before they could harm the public. "Specifically, BP stated: 1) fence-line monitors are in place to detect any harmful chemicals, and none of concern were detected; 2) the flare in question was 300 feet tall, and thus any substances released dissipated long before any harm could be done to the public; and 3) there are other monitors with Texas City that will detect harmful substances, if any had been released - and these monitors did not detect any chemical levels of concern," according to the complaint. But the class says: "All of BP's public statements are misleading and several are outright lies." The complaint continues: "First, BP knows that its fence-line monitors will not detect substances released more than 300 feet in the air; indeed, the air model created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ('TCEQ') for this very release demonstrates as much. "Second, BP knows full well there are no monitors that detect for benzene beyond those at its fence line - there are simply no benzene monitors in the cities of Texas City or La Marque. "Third, BP knows, but did not tell anyone that Flare No. 3 has repeatedly malfunctioned and BP was advised in July 2009 that this flare needed to be calibrated and overhauled. "Fourth and most importantly, BP knows that due to maintenance issues, there is no way that BP can even make an educated guess as to the amount of product sent to flare or how much actually burned. "Based on BP's own records, and those of the TCEQ, the amount of gas released into Texas City and La Marque is exponentially more than what BP reported, and it simply would not have been detected, except by those people who were unfortunate enough to breathe it into their lungs. BP lied to the authorities, the press, and the general public. This is standard practice for this British company. It should be punished, severely," the class says. "Despite the efforts of the EPA, OSHA, TCEQ, and other federal and state agencies, including the United States Justice Department, and despite the massive fines that these agencies have assessed, BP simply has not changed, and continues to pollute the ground, water and air," according to the complaint. "Harmful chemical and particulates released from the refinery continue to descend on nearby properties causing permanent damage to the real property and fixtures and, as a direct result, many of the schools in the Texas City Independent School District were found to have among the worst air quality in the country when compared to other schools. This pollution and contamination has caused a long term stigma to attach to the properties surrounding the refinery. ...Plaintiffs and all members of the class bring this case seeking change." The proposed class consists of "hundreds, if not thousands" of people who own, or have owned, property near BP's Texas City refinery. The class seeks more than \$5 million in economic and compensatory damages and \$10 billion in punitive damages. It alleges negligence, trespass, nuisance and vicarious liability for negligent conduct of employees at BP's Texas City refinery. The class is represented by Houston attorney Anthony Buzbee.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2010/12/28/32930.htm>

MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, DECEMBER 31 2010. MEXICO FINDS 4 MORE ILLEGAL PIPELINE TAPS

Mexico's state-owned oil company says it has found four more illegal taps drilled into pipelines by fuel thieves. Petroleos Mexicanos says none of the taps caused leaks or spills. Two of the improvised taps were found in a gasoline pipeline in the northern state of Sinaloa. Another tap was found in the Gulf coast state of Veracruz. A fourth tap was found in the north-central state of Guanajuato, when police noticed a tanker truck filled with diesel sitting in a field. Thursday's announcement comes after a Dec. 19 explosion at a pipeline killed 29 people. Pemex officials say that explosion was apparently caused by an illegal tap. Pemex has suffered more than 614 thefts from pipelines so far this year.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-30/mexico-finds-4-more-illegal-pipeline-taps.html>

NIGERIA, ULI, DECEMBER 31 2010. TANKER FIRE RAZES HOUSES IN ANAMBRA, SCORES INJURED

cypran ebele, nnewi

No fewer than six houses were torched, while about six people sustained various degrees of injury when a tanker loaded with fuel fell on the road leading to the Anambra State University, Uli, and caught fire. Goods worth millions of naira were burnt in the inferno, while those who were injured were rushed to nearby hospitals for medical attention. Governor Peter Obi visited the scene to assess the extent of damage to lives and property, and promised to compensate the victims. Speaking during the inspection, Obi said that the state government was working round the clock to ameliorate the situation. He had earlier sent a commissioner to assess the damage, and had directed the State Emergency Management Agency to pay attention to the incident, saying that he felt compelled to visit the scene of the incident to show how dispirited he was. While promising to compensate the victims, Obi said he would appeal to the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to replace the burnt wires and restore electricity to the affected houses. The member representing Ihiala 1 Constituency in the House of Assembly, Mr. Simeon Ohajanya, said he was often humbled by the way issues affecting any part of the state touch the governor. "When I informed him about the disaster, he was touched. For once, one could see a governor who is passionate about the welfare of

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

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his people. If you do not love this state, after dealing with the governor, you will be inspired to love the state," he noted. The traditional ruler of Uli, Igwe Onyedi Ebekue, thanked the governor for his continued love and care.

http://www.compassnewspaper.com/NG/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72334:tanker-fire-razes-houses-in-anambra-scores-injured&catid=43:news&Itemid=799

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, BALLINA, DECEMBER 31 2010. EXPLODED FUEL TANKER CLOSES PACIFIC HIGHWAY

Map: [Tintenbar 2478](#)

Photo Gallery:

- <http://www.tweednews.com.au/photos/galleries/truck-explodes-near-ballina/#id=truck-explodes-near-ballina&num=2>
- <http://www.northernstar.com.au/photos/galleries/truck-explodes-near-ballina/#id=truck-explodes-near-ballina&num=1>



It is feared the driver of a tanker truck that overturned and exploded on the Pacific Highway about 10km north of Ballina has died.

The Pacific Highway on the New South Wales north coast will be closed until New Year's Day while crews clear a fuel tanker that exploded and killed the driver. The tanker hauling 40,000 litres of fuel overturned and exploded on what is regarded by truckies as a notorious stretch of the highway, near Tintenbar, 10 kilometres north of Ballina. Authorities have set up a one-kilometre exclusion zone around the burning tanker and more than 100 firefighters equipped with breathing apparatus were sent to the scene. The ambulance service says the truck driver was killed in the blast, while two people have been freed from a nearby car after being trapped when powerlines came down on their vehicle. The second trailer of the B-double

was thrown into a paddock where it leaked fuel into a nearby wetland, and police still cannot get to the cabin of the burnt truck where the driver's body remains inside. Another tanker driver, Gary, says the driver is one of their own but they do not know who. "It is sad to be holed up on the side of the road like this. And it's sad for a driver that's not going to go home to his family," he said. The truck was laden with diesel and unleaded fuel, which has now been mostly contained. Police say they will not be able to assess the damaged road until the scorched truck is moved, but they expect the Pacific Highway to be closed for the rest of today. Six other trucks are banked up behind the accident site unable to turn around. The RTA says cars should avoid the highway and use Bangalow Road, with traffic diversion now in place. Heavy vehicles are being advised to use the New England Highway or Summerland Way.

Other News sites

- [Truckie dies in fuel tanker blast north of Ballina, closing Pacific Highway](#)
- [Tanker explodes in crash](#)
- [Blazing tanker causes Pacific Hwy closure](#)

http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/12/31/3104386.htm?WT.mc_id=newsmail

CHINA, YUNNAN PROVINCE, KUNMING, JANUARY 1 2011. 5 DEAD, 8 INJURED IN YUNNAN WORKSHOP BLAST

 **Watch the Video** http://english.ndtv.com/ndtv_en/ns_china/2010-12-30/892567384534.html



5 dead, 8 injured in workshop blast.

Five people were killed and eight others injured Thursday when a pharmaceutical workshop in southwest China's Yunnan Province exploded, local authorities said. Five of the injured were still in serious conditions, according to local hospital sources. The blast occurred at around 10 a.m. at Quanxin Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd in downtown Kunming, the provincial capital. A fire triggered by the blast was extinguished one hour after the arrival of firemen, but smoke continued rising from the four-floor building. The workshop is on the fourth floor, and all windows on that floor were shattered by the force of the explosion. Shards of glass and bloodstain were seen around the building, which is located by the East 2nd Ring Road of Kunming. At noon, police cordoned off the plant after they removed the last body out

of the building. "I heard a big bang when I was watching TV in the morning," said a woman, who only gave her surname as Gong. Gong said she lived in the building just opposite the company. "I opened the window and found the workshop was

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shrouded with black thick smoke," said Gong. "A few people rushed out of the workshop and lay down on the cement in front of the building with their clothes burned to pieces," she recalled. Zhang Zhenlian, 45, is one of the workers from the workshop. She and a few colleagues escaped through a window after the blast and were immediately rushed to the Yan'an Hospital. "We were working inside the totally-enclosed workshop. Suddenly, I was shoved to the ground as I heard a loud bang," Zhang told reporters in the hospital, where she had bandages wrapped around her arms and shoulders. "When I stood up, I found there were flames all around," said Zhang, who is in charge of medical packaging. "I jumped out of the window to a terrace two meters below and escaped the fire through another building," she said. A retired worker with the company also witnessed the explosion. "Smoke gushed out of the workshop and I saw four women workers running out, shouting 'Help! Help!'" the retiree said, without giving her name. "Two male workers were leaning out of a window on the fourth floor. Fire suddenly flared up and they fell to the ground," she told reporters. The workshop, used for the production and packaging of medical tablets, was built no more than six years ago. "When I worked here, the workshop was full of powder for medicine. The air was thick inside, but the windows were not allowed to be opened," the retiree said. On the other side of the company is the Guandu No. 2 High School, and a student apartment block is no more than 100 meters away from the exploded workshop. Students and teachers at the school were evacuated after the blast. One student suffered minor injuries during the evacuation, said Liu Chaowen, deputy director with the Kunming Fire Brigade. The police is investigating the cause of the accident.

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2010/12/30/2722s612635.htm>

USA, WA, WEST VALLEY, JANUARY 1 2011. TANKER SLIDES ON ICE, OVERTURNS IN WEST VALLEY

phil ferolito

A truck hauling propane slid down a steep embankment this morning after losing traction on ice. West Valley firefighters say the tanker isn't leaking and that it's in the bottom of a canyon amid sagebrush and is not near any structures. About 11:45 a.m., the tanker was making propane deliveries in the area of Quail Run Drive just off of Cottonwood Canyon Road when it hit ice, firefighters said. The driver, who wasn't injured, appeared to have been driving safely, but the area is steep, firefighters said. A fire crew will stand by as the propane company that owns the truck removes it from the canyon, firefighters said.

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2010/12/30/tanker-slides-on-ice-overturms-in-west-valley>

USA, WI, JEFFERSON, JANUARY 1 2011. NEIGHBORS RETURN HOME AFTER ETHANOL TRUCK ROLLS IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.fox6now.com/news/witi-123110-jefferson-county-tanker-truck-story.0.1324991.story>

Junction Road remained closed as of noon Friday but neighbors have been allowed to return to their homes after an ethanol spill near the entrance of an ethanol plant in Jefferson County on Friday morning. The driver of the truck hit a soft patch of ground and rolled his truck on its side around 5:20 a.m. Friday on Junction Road near Highway 26, said Capt. Patrick Brown with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. It was not known how many gallons of ethanol leaked from the truck but "apparently the area where the tanker was on its side was pretty saturated," Brown said. The state Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson Fire Department and a response team still were on the scene as of noon Friday removing the contaminated earth, he said. Brown said several residents around the plant were evacuated around 6 a.m. Friday morning after the incident, but were allowed to return around noon Friday. The driver of the truck, who was leaving Valero Renewable Energy Co., was taken to a local hospital but not believed to have life-threatening injuries, Brown said.

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/article_ebbdc8fa-14f6-11e0-82f2-001cc4c03286.html

NORWAY, OSLO, JANUARY 1 2011. KEROSENE TANK EXPLODES AT NORWAY'S HYDRO ALUMINIUM FACTORY

A fuel tank for kerosene at a Hydro aluminium factory exploded early Friday morning near Oslo, causing no injuries as the factory had been closed for the Christmas holidays, said Bjoen Skaar, a spokesman for Hydro, a major aluminium producer in Norway. The explosion of the tank of seven to eight meters, which was empty, occurred at 6:45 a.m. (0545 GMT). An official investigation has been launched to find the cause of the blast, which, according to Bjoen Skaar, will have no impact of the production of the rolled product factory with a annual capacity of 95,000 tons. "The factory has 300 employees and it has been closed for holiday. So no people were injured in the explosion," Bjoen Skaar told Xinhua in telephone. The factory is situated at Holmestrand, about 90 km southwest of Oslo. Knut Henning Bjune, a police officer from the Vestfold county, was quoted by Norwegian media as saying that the tank was used to contain kerosene and diesel. The police and fire department were conducting an investigation into the incident. It was unclear whether there was a risk of more explosion or danger of gas leaks, Norwegian media reports said.

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4776084>

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