



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 682 Newsy Stuff

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

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AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JANUARY 21 2011. THREE HURT AS FUEL TANKER EXPLODES

rory callinan



An explosion on a fuel tanker four miles offshore from the Port of Brisbane has further stretched emergency services.

Three crewmen were injured in an explosion on a fuel tanker moored off Brisbane yesterday. The situation stretched emergency services already taxed to the limit by the flood crisis. Fire and ambulance crews had to be rushed by helicopter to the Qian Chi, which carries refined fuel, about 3.45pm yesterday after an explosion was reported in a boiler in an engine room. Three crew members had to be airlifted from the boat to the Royal Brisbane Hospital, where one was reported to be in a critical condition and the other two were stable. It was unknown whether the explosion, deep

in the bowels of the ship, had any connection to the tonnes of debris that had been washed into the harbour from the flooded Brisbane River. Brisbane Port authorities said the tanker was moored and not blocking or causing problems in the bay. Harbour master Captain Richard Johnson said the ship had a secondary boiler for power if needed, but it had not been due to dock until tomorrow and had been anchored in Moreton Bay. "It will be able to move. There will be experts who will have to look at it. If the damage is really bad, then obviously they will need to fix it," he said. Mr Johnson said other tankers had docked earlier in the day without incident and the Qian Chi was not posing any pollution hazard. Tonnes of potentially deadly flood debris, including huge chunks of Brisbane's former floating boardwalk, have been dumped into the bay by the torrent flowing out of the Brisbane River. Earlier in the week, a piece of the boardwalk narrowly missed smashing the giant Gateway Bridge and had to be nudged away by a tug. Water Police ferried emergency service personnel to the scene. The port opened only yesterday, but warnings were out to shipping about the debris from the flood. Port operations manager Peter Keyte said on Saturday that the waters near the mouth of the Brisbane River and Moreton Island were dangerous for small craft.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/three-hurt-as-fuel-tanker-explodes/story-e6frg6nf-1225989074342>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, ATWATER VILLAGE AREA, JANUARY 22 2011. 1 DEAD, 2 IN SERIOUS CONDITION AFTER FUMES OVERCOME CLEANERS AT LA BLOOD STORAGE TANK

Watch the Video <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-atwater-village-medical-tank-rescue,0,2316112.story>



One worker died Friday morning after trying to help two unconscious colleagues overcome by ethanol fumes as they cleaned blood plasma from a container at an Atwater Village pharmaceutical company.

Men cleaning a blood storage tank at a biotechnology plant were overcome by toxic fumes early Friday, killing one and leaving the others in critical condition, authorities said. Firefighters called to the Baxter International Inc. plant in Atwater Village shortly before 4 a.m. found a man lying near a large cylindrical tank. He wasn't breathing and had no pulse, but cardiopulmonary resuscitation restored his heartbeat, Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey said. Two other men were

pulled unconscious from the 4-foot-tall, 5-foot-wide tank, Humphrey said. They apparently climbed in through a 2-foot-diameter opening in the top, he said. All three men were taken to hospitals in critical condition and one later died, Humphrey said. He did not immediately know whether it was the man who had been revived. The men were cleaning the tank, which is used to store blood, with a detergent when they were overcome by fumes from ethanol that is used to separate the blood plasma, fire Capt. Jaime Moore told KTLA-TV. The worker who was found outside the tank had called 911 and tried to rescue his co-workers before he was overcome, Moore told the Los Angeles Times. Humphrey said he could not confirm those details but he said firefighters did detect the presence of ethanol. A hazardous material team was sent to the scene, he said. Investigators from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health, known as Cal-OSHA, were sent to determine whether the plant was complying with health and safety laws, Humphrey said. A call to a Baxter spokeswoman seeking comment was not immediately returned. Baxter, based in Deerfield, Ill., is a global bioscience corporation that makes everything from vaccines to dialysis materials. Its plasma-derived products include clotting factor for heThe Atwater Village plant generally has a good safety record, with only a single \$185 fine for a minor violation in 2005, said Krisann Chasarik, a spokeswoman for Cal-OSHA. Two other Baxter-owned facilities in California did report injury accidents in the past decade, however. Chasarik said one occurred in 2005 at a plant in Thousand Oaks, but she did not have details. In 2002, a woman was scalded at a laboratory in Hayward, Calif., when a hose on top of a large tank she was cleaning came loose and splashed her with hot water. She was

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treated at a hospital, Chasarik said. "We found no health or safety violations," Chasarik said. mophiliacs and treatments for immune system deficiencies, burns and shock, according to its website.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=12731881>

CHINA, HENAN PROVINCE, LUOHE, JANUARY 22 2011. DEATH TOLL OF FIREWORKS PLANT BLAST RISES TO 10

The death toll due to an explosion at a fireworks plant in central China's Henan Province on Wednesday has risen to 10, local authorities said Friday. Twenty-one were injured in the blast at the Yutian Fireworks Plant in Laogongtian Village, Yancheng District, Luohe City. Police are still searching for the owner of the fireworks factory, Tian Baoshan. Tian, 54, is a native of Laogongtian Village. Two of Tian's partners in the factory, Zhou Jinchuan and Zhou Dongwei, have been arrested by police. The privately-owned plant had a valid production license and was surrounded by cornfields, away from village homes. After the explosion, all fireworks plants in Yancheng District were closed. The Spring Festival, the Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on Feb. 3, usually brings a surge in firework sales.

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2011/01/21/1461s616860.htm>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, VIRUDHUNAGAR, SIVAKASI, JANUARY 22 2011. BLAST IN SIVAKASI FIREWORKS UNIT LEAVES 8 DEAD

padmini sivarajah

Eight men were killed and 16 injured when an explosion ripped through a fireworks unit at Kannicheripudur, near Sivakasi in [Virudhunagar](#) district of south Tamil Nadu, on Friday. While five persons were killed on the spot, three died later at the Madurai government hospital. This is the first major accident this year in the fireworks hub. Police said that about 60 workers were working in three sheds in the private factory, when a loud explosion rent the air and fire and smoke bellowed out at about 11.30am. The injured were rushed to the Virudhunagar and the [Madurai government hospitals](#). Many district officials, who were taking part in a function close by, rushed to the spot. Fire personnel, led by district fire officer A Karunakaran from Sivakasi, fought for over two hours to bring the fire under control. Three rooms of the fireworks unit were completely gutted, and five charred bodies were pulled out of them. Officials said the unit had 32 rooms and around 150 workers were on duty, making firecrackers for the coming Deepavali season. Those killed at the spot include M Inasimuthu (35) of O Kovilpatti village, P Arumugam (38) and Arumugam (32) of Servaikaranpatti village. M Marisamy (40), G Antony Selvam and K Subburaj died at the Madurai government hospital. After the accident, two women, Rajapushpam and Murugeswari, laid claim to a badly charred body, saying it was their husband.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Blast-in-Sivakasi-fireworks-unit-leaves-8-dead/articleshow/7338044.cms>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, VIRUDHUNAGAR, SIVAKASI, JANUARY 22 2011. FIREWORKS UNIT USED UNAUTHORISED CHEMICALS, SAYS VAO

padmini sivarajah

Virudhunagar deputy tahsildar A Chandrasekhar said the body, which was claimed by two women, was identified as that of David Livingston (33) and handed over to Rajapushpam. Murugeswari was given the remains of her husband, Gunasekharan (32). Fire officer Karunakaran said improper handling of chemicals could have caused the explosion. The chemical mixture used in fireworks needs to be filled in cases immediately in wet form as otherwise they are highly inflammable. "We suspect the workers left the wet mixture when they took their tea break," he said. Kannicheripudur village administrative officer lodged a complaint with the [Vachakarapatti police](#), stating that the unit had used unauthorised chemicals that led to the explosion. Last year, 15 persons were killed in similar accidents in the region. The state government had launched a crackdown to ensure that safety norms and regulations were strictly followed in the factories, some of which function without even licenses.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Fireworks-unit-used-unauthorised-chemicals-says-VAO/articleshow/7338039.cms>

USA, WA, ANACORTES, JANUARY 22 2011. RECORD FINES IN DEADLY EXPLOSION

The Washington Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) cited a Tesoro Corporation refinery in Anacortes with 39 willful and 5 serious violations of state job safety and health rules in connection with a deadly explosion last April. The agency, which runs the state OSHA program, issued fines of \$2.3 million, the largest in L&I's history. According to L&I, a heat exchange at the refinery ruptured releasing hydrocarbon vapor, which almost immediately ignited. Seven workers died as a result. The state calls it the worst industrial disaster in the 37 years that L&I has been enforcing workplace safety law. "The loss of seven lives is a tragedy not just for their loved ones but for our entire state," said Governor Chris Gregoire. "What makes the loss of these lives all the more painful is that these deaths could have been prevented." Inspectors found that Tesoro:

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- Disregarded a variety of job safety regulations,
- Continued to operate failing equipment for years,
- Postponed maintenance,
- Inadequately tested for potentially catastrophic damage, and
- Failed to adequately protect workers from significant risk of injury and death.
- Reportedly, Tesoro failed to test the heat exchanger that exploded by methods that would have revealed the problem cracks.

<http://enviro.blr.com/environmental-news/EHS-management/EPA-and-state-environmental-compliance-enforcement/Record-Fines-in-Deadly-Explosion/>

INDIA, MUMBAI, JANUARY 22 2011. BURST PIPE RAISES SPILL FEARS IN MUMBAI

divyesh singh

▶ **Watch the Video** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1CQpSSrt-c>



Aerial images of a crude oil leak off the Mumbai harbour

An ONGC pipeline carrying crude oil from the Bombay High to Uran burst on Friday morning, triggering fears of heavy oil spill on high seas off the Mumbai coast. The spillage had spread to around 35 kms till the report came in. The rupture in the pipeline was spotted 40 nautical miles away from the city coast around 8.45am. The Indian Coast Guard (CG), the apex agency to control marine pollution, kicked off a combat operation soon. Production at ONGC's Mumbai High, the nation's biggest oilfield, and Bassein oilfield was stopped immediately and the pipeline closed. Oil supply was diverted to an alternate pipeline. "A leak was detected and crude pumping on the line stopped... ONGC has reacted immediately to control the spill,"

Oil secretary S Sundareshan said. Mumbai High and Bassein fields together produce 247,000 barrels of oil per day and the brief stoppage would mean that they would produce about 25,000 barrels less oil every day. "If the weather is not bad the complete oil spill could be tackled within three to four days," said inspector general, CG, SPS Basra. According to CG officials, the chances of the spill reaching the Mumbai coast were slim due to South-Westerly winds. At present, there is no ban on fishing and only the affected area will be off limits for fishermen. Elaborating on the operation, Mukesh Purohit, DIG, operations, said, "The CG launched Operation Paryavaran Suraksha immediately to mitigate the effects of oil spill. ICGS Sangram and Charlie 145, vessels patrolling the sea, were diverted towards the affected area. They were asked to make an assessment of the situation and initiate steps to contain the spread of the spill." The assessment was completed around 4pm and combat operations were launched soon. By then, around 20 litres of oil spill dispersant (OSD) had been spread across the affected area from a helicopter. A Dornier aircraft was flown in from the Daman air station to strengthen the combat operations, he said, adding pollution control vessels Samudra Prahari and Subhadra Kumari Chauhan have sailed to the location. Samudra Prahari has the capacity to contain around 10,000 tonnes of oil. The development in oil containment by Friday evening was said to be very positive, unlike the earlier incident of oil spill which happened after collision of two merchant vessels. This time the CG was armed with specialised pollution control vessel.

http://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report_burst-pipe-raises-spill-fears-in-mumbai_1497553

USA, WA, CAMUS, JANUARY 22 2011. DERELICT VESSEL NEAR CAMAS MAY BE LEAKING OIL INTO COLUMBIA

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Washington State Department of Ecology are responding to a potential pollution threat from a derelict 431-foot motor vessel that was reported aground on the northern bank of the Columbia River near Camas on Thursday. Both agencies have dispatched pollution response teams along with marine inspectors to check for any possible pollution and determine the overall condition of the vessel. A light and non-recoverable sheen has been observed in the immediate area, which will be cordoned off by boom to prevent any further spread of the oil. The Coast Guard has opened the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to take control of all response actions because the vessel's owner has failed to take appropriate actions in a timely manner to address the potential risk of pollution from the vessel. Global Diving and Salvage was hired to determine if any possible pollutants were onboard the vessel. After an initial inspection was completed, a minor amount of oil has been found onboard which will be removed from the vessel by Global Diving and Salvage. The reason for the grounding is still under investigation, but the vessel is located outside of the shipping channel and does not pose a hazard to navigation.

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The Coast Guard and Washington State Department of Ecology will continue to work closely together on all future pollution incidents in an effort to prevent pollution from impacting the environment to the greatest extent possible.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2011/jan/21/derelect-vessel-near-camas-may-be-leaking-oil-colu/>

USA, N.Y, NIAGARA FALLS, JANUARY 22 2011. CHEMICAL IN LINE HALTS SEWER WORK NEAR LOVE CANAL >> 'EVERYONE IS ERRING ON SIDE OF CAUTION,' FALLS MAYOR SAYS

nancy a. fischer

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wivb.com/dpp/news/niagara/Chemical-found-linked-to-Love-Canal>



A contractor repairing an old sewer line outside the former Love Canal has halted work after discovering chemicals in the bottom of a pipe. Paul Drof, the city Water Board's executive director, said Thursday that the work on Colvin Boulevard near 96th Street in the LaSalle District was stopped Wednesday after an analysis showed elevated levels of a chlorinated compound. The report was forwarded to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, which will determine when work can safely resume. Drof said he doesn't anticipate any problems. Mayor Paul A. Dyster said Thursday that public safety was paramount in the decision to suspend work. "The one concern here is that when you think of what a nightmare Love Canal was, people are going to be super-cautious with anything having to do with that site or any place near it," he said. "So I think quite correctly everyone is erring on the side of caution." Dyster said investigators had yet to determine the

source of the chemical and whether it's new compound or a remnant of the Love Canal crisis. He added that a company that maintains Occidental Chemical's containment site also is investigating and checking records from 35 years ago to determine what work was done and what materials were in that area. Sewer lines were cleaned when the Love Canal containment area was developed, Dyster said, but added, "they are checking to see whether this particular sewer pipe was cleaned out." "Standard operating procedure is to stop when we are not sure and have it analyzed and proceed from there," said Drof, who noted the chemical was found only in the line and not in surrounding soil. "We always err on the side of caution," Drof added. "People are sensitive in that area, as they have a right to be, but we are just proceeding in a cautionary manner and taking our guidance from New York State. Niagara Falls is an industrial city and there's a lot of industries that could put things into the sewer. For all we know it could have been a homeowner." The work is part of a project to repair 12 sanitary sewers to prevent storm water from leaking into the lines.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/city/communities/niagara-falls/article318636.ece>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, JANUARY 22 2011. TOXIC OIL SPILL CHEMICALS SHOWING UP IN GULF COAST RESIDENTS' BLOOD



Nine months after the [Gulf oil spill](#) and the effects of exposure in Gulf residents is starting to show up in people's blood. [The Institute for Southern Studies](#) reports that the [Louisiana Environmental Action Network](#) has collected blood samples from 12 people between the ages of 10 and 66, finding that four of them had unusually high levels of [benzene](#). Among the individuals tested were cleanup workers, crabbers and people living along the coast. Among those with [elevated benzene levels](#) were three adults and one ten year old child, all were crabbers. The 10 year old is now suffering severe respiratory problems as a result of chemical exposure. [Wilma Subra of LEAN] compared the benzene levels in the Gulf residents to the [National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey] 95th percentile value -- that is, the score below which 95 percent of the NHANES subjected tested. In other words, she

compared the benzene levels found in Gulf residents to some of the highest levels found in the general population. That comparison shows cause for concern, as the benzene levels in the blood of four Gulf residents ranged between 11.9 and 35.8 times higher than the NHANES 95th percentile value of 0.26 parts per billion. Benzene is known to cause a host of health problems including anemia, irregular menstrual periods, ovarian shrinkage and leukemia. Other chemicals found in the tested blood at high concentrations were [ethylbenzene](#) and [xylene](#), and more. Read more: [ISS](#). Here's the blood analysis results from LEAN: [Evaluation of the Results of WHole Blood Volatile Solvents Testing](#)

<http://www.treehugger.com/files/2011/01/toxic-oil-spill-chemicals-in-gulf-coast-residents-blood.php>

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USA, WA, SEATTLE, JANUARY 22 2011. PAINTING CONTRACTOR FINED FOR DIESEL SPILL INTO PUGET SOUND LAST APRIL

A painting contractor has been fined \$1,600 for a 300 gallon oil spill last April in Dash Point State Park. A painting contractor has been fined \$1,600 for a small oil spill last April in Dash Point State Park. The state Department of Ecology, which assessed the fine, also charged \$10,345 for the state's costs in overseeing the spill response. The diesel spill, which flowed through the park and into Puget Sound, caused the closure of day-use areas at the park in Federal Way. Nearly 300 gallons of fuel flowed out of a tank owned by a painting contractor who was doing work for the Washington State Department of Transportation on a state highway bridge that crosses over the park, according to the state Department of Ecology. The sheen — a thin coat of oil floating on the water — at one point covered a half-mile by half-mile area off shore, based on aerial views, officials estimated. The tank where the spill occurred was owned by Long Painting, which cooperated in the spill cleanup, said the Department of Ecology. That involved the removal and replacement of 250 tons of potentially contaminated soil, asphalt, curbs and riprap. The company also restored natural vegetation along the creek. Ecology investigators determined that vandalism to a pump on the tank caused the spill. Dash Point State Park is a 398-acre camping park with 3,300 feet of saltwater shoreline on Puget Sound. The park offers an amphitheater and areas for mountain biking, bird watching and picnics, among other activities. Long Painting can appeal the fine to the state Pollution Control Hearings Board.

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2013996675_oilspill22m.html

UK, MANCHESTER, JANUARY 23 2011. PETROL STATION IN PLUNGE FINED

A contractor has been fined £5,500 after one of its employees plunged from a canopy at a petrol station in Birmingham. James Stone fractured his pelvis as a result of the fall at a Total petrol station in Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath, on October 28, 2008. GLK Installations Ltd, based in Hampshire, was also ordered to pay £2,793 costs after admitting three breaches of health and safety regulations. Emma Hall, prosecuting at a city magistrates' court, said Mr Stone was one of three employees who was sent to the petrol station to do repair work on a canopy. She said Mr Stone had gone onto the canopy wearing safety equipment, but there came a point when his safety line became snagged. He fell four and a half metres to the ground. Ms Hall said there was no edge protection on the canopy and no safety line had been put around it. Jonathon Forrester, defending, said GLK was a small company, which had been in business for around eight years, and that it had never been involved in incidents like this previously.

<http://www.birminghammail.net/news/top-stories/2011/01/22/petrol-station-in-plunge-fined-97319-28033389/>

USA, CT, SEYMOUR, JANUARY 23 2011. OIL TANKER CRASH IN SEYMOUR

tony spinelli



There were no injuries in an oil tanker accident on Holbrook Road in Seymour Friday afternoon.

Driver Dean Miller, 40, of Seymour, slid on ice near the Oxford line, and crashed the Oxford Oil Co. truck into a ditch, landing it on its side. A small amount of oil spilled from the tanker. Seymour firefighters and police responded to the scene at about 1:40 p.m. Fire Chief Tom Tomasheski said the state Department of Environmental Protection responded, and a private environmental contractor was called in to drain off the tank so the truck could be up-righted. The tank had shaken loose from the frame, Tomasheski said, and emergency crews wanted to prevent any further spillage of oil. The truck was filled near capacity with approximately 2,700 gallons of oil, but only a small amount leaked out, according to firefighters.

Miller was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for conditions and failure to carry an operator's license. Police were investigating the accident, and closed off that portion of the road, putting up detours in the area.

http://valley.newhavenindependent.org/index.php/archives/entry/oil_tanker_crash_in_seymour

MALAYSIA, KLANG, JANUARY 23 2011. CREW BEHIND ILLEGAL FUEL TRANSFER NEAR JOHOR, CLAIMS SHIPOWNER

The owner of a Malaysian vessel that was caught illegally transferring marine fuel near Pontian, Johor, claims it was the work of the crew and had nothing to do with the company. Andrew Hean, a partner of BHL Marine (M) Sdn Bhd, said such activities had been going on without the knowledge of the vessel owners. "This illegal activity has become rampant and has caused the company to lose much revenue," he said here yesterday. On Thursday, 19 crewmen were detained by the authorities for illegally transferring marine fuel from a Malaysian tanker to a Singapore-registered ship. They were held under Section 491(B)

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of the Merchant Shipping Act 1953 for allegedly transferring 50,000 litres of marine fuel worth about RM75,000. Hean claimed the company had lost millions of ringgit in recent years from this act. He added that despite investing a substantial sum to install CCTV cameras on board, the problem persisted with unscrupulous crewmen tampering with the surveillance system. "There is only so much we could do and I would like to thank the authorities for their swift action," he said. Hean said the activity had always involved a particular Singapore shipping company. Asked on his next course of action, he said he would press charges against the crew as well as the owners of the Ocean Samudera ship.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2011/1/22/nation/7849696&sec=nation>

USA, MA, BOSTON, JANUARY 23 2011. DIESEL FUEL SPILL CLOUDS MYSTIC RIVER

Watch the Video <http://www.myfoxboston.com/dpp/news/local/large-oil-spill-in-boston-harbor-from-tanker-20110122>

Coast Guard cutters scoured the shores of the Mystic River last night looking for the source of a diesel fuel spill. It was not known how many gallons spilled into the river, but sheen on the surface covered an area about 800 feet long and 20 feet wide, said a Coast Guard spokesman, Petty Officer James Rhodes. The call came to the Coast Guard at 1:23 p.m. from employees of the ExxonMobil Pipeline Co. gasoline terminal in Everett, Rhodes said. The cause was not known, he said. "It looks like it's dissipating on its own," Rhodes said of the diesel. "At this point it doesn't look like it's a serious threat. It sounds like a very thin layer." Patty Errico, a spokeswoman for Exxon Mobil, said the company was cooperating with the Coast Guard. Errico said the sheen appeared to be coming from upriver. "We have examined our facilities and have found no issues with them at this time," she said. In 2008, a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corp. was ordered to pay \$6.1 million in fines after federal prosecutors charged that the company had caused a 15,000-gallon diesel spill at the Everett terminal on Jan. 9, 2006. The fuel spilled into the Island End and Mystic rivers, coating boats and docks at Admiral's Hill Marina in Chelsea. It took about a month to clean up; state environmental officials said there was no obvious damage to wildlife. Under a plea deal, the company also agreed to fund a court-appointed monitor to oversee the Everett terminal for three years and follow a rigorous environmental compliance plan.

http://www.boston.cocanada.ont.m/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2011/01/23/diesel_fuel_spill_clouds_mystic_river/

USA, MA, BERKLEY, JANUARY 23 2011. CASE OF NEGLECT LEADS TO HEAVY FINE FOR BERKLEY GAS STATION



Commons Crossings gas station in Berkley was recently fined by the EPA.

Owners Elizabeth and John Jackson of Common Crossing gas station on North Main Street now realize the costly penalty of neglect. The Jacksons have been handed a civil fine of \$10,000 for ignoring several Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection cleanup orders and for violating the state Oil and Hazardous Material Release Prevention and Response Act, state officials said last week. The case was filed in Suffolk Superior Court. Joe Ferson of the DEP said Tuesday that the contamination resulted from an underground gasoline storage tank on the Common Crossing property, located on the Berkley Green between Town Hall and the middle school. The contamination was first reported to the DEP in March 2006. Shortly after a notice of responsibility was sent out to inform the Jacksons of state cleanup laws, Ferson said. Ferson said the Jacksons did not

acknowledge the notice, and so a notice of non-compliance was sent out in August 2007. "A number of actions were specified and deadlines were given," Ferson said, "but the second notice was also disregarded by the property owner." In March 2008 a notice of enforcement conference was sent, which was meant to sort out all obstacles preventing the start of the cleanup. Yet again, the Jacksons ignored correspondence with the DEP. "Because the level of non-compliance was so high, a penalty assessment was issued and sent to them in April of 2008," Ferson said. "They didn't respond again, and the case was referred to the attorney general's office." The case is the first of "multiple cases in a pilot program" where the DEP and attorney general's office combined action against violators who ignored the law and failed to clean up their sites, DEP Commissioner Kenneth L. Kimmell said in a press release. Owner John Jackson said Wednesday that he had thought Cyn Environmental of Stoughton was handling the cleanup orders, citing a lack of communication on his part with the company. "They were doing all the testing so I assumed they were getting the same paperwork as me," Jackson said. Tara Vieira, of Berkley, is the closest residential neighbor of Commons Crossings. Despite her land's proximity to the gasoline contamination, Vieira said she is not concerned. "Our water was tested a while ago and everything came back fine," Vieira said. In addition to the monetary penalty, the Jacksons are obligated to follow a DEP timeline and complete a cleanup of the property by May 10, 2015. "They still need to remove the contamination from the soil, and the cleanup assessment will actually determine whether it's contaminating

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other lands, Ferson said. Jackson said the spill that contaminated the land was "minute" and after the cleanup, installation of new tanks and a self service station, his "slate will be clean," he said.

<http://www.tauntongazette.com/topstories/x512675402/Case-of-neglect-leads-to-heavy-fine-for-Berkley-gas-station>

PAKISTAN, HYDERABAD, NOORIABAD, JANUARY 23 2011. BUS, OIL TANKER COLLIDE; 32 KILLED

Story Highlights Official says bus driver was speeding and lost control

Most of victims were passengers trapped inside the bus as it burned



Photos:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jqGaFyw5vPvWSkcDWeQ_geogLvBg?docId=e4c044a115554adc95d56738d47a2b9c



At least 32 passengers including women and children were burnt to death when the bus carrying them hit an oil tanker and caught fire in the early hours on Sunday morning near Nooriabad, 80 km from here on Super Highway. According to the police, the ill fated bus was on way from Karachi to Sukkur and when it reached near Nooriabad, the driver rammed the bus into the standby oil tanker. The bus and oil tanker turned turtle and both the vehicles caught fire. At least 20 to 23 passengers managed to escape from the bus, however, 32 others failed to survive and burnt alive. The Motorway Police immediately rushed to the spot and called ambulances from Karachi and Hyderabad. An official of the Motorway Police said that the charred bodies of the victims were taken out by cutting the wreckage of the two vehicles. All the dead bodies were later shifted to Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad and Jamshoro while those who received injuries were shifted to hospitals in Karachi for

first aid. The DIG, Motorway Police, Aftab Pathan, said the accident occurred as a result of negligence of the bus driver. The District Police Officer Jamshoro Dr. Farooq informed the media that around 45 to 50 passengers were onboard the bus when it hit the oil tanker which contained around 40,000 liters of fuel. The hospital sources said that due to decomposed condition of the bodies, the identification could not be made possible.

Related Stories

- [32 Pakistanis killed in road accident](#)
- [Road accident kills 32 in south Pakistan](#)
- [32 killed in Pakistan bus accident](#)

<http://www.geo.tv/1-23-2011/77548.htm>

CANADA, ONT, SARNIA, JANUARY 23 2011. SMALL FIRE REPORTED AT IMPERIAL'S SARNIA REFINERY

A small fire broke out at a coker unit of Imperial Oil's Sarnia, Ontario, oil refinery on Saturday, media reports said, but there were no injuries reported. The company asked for assistance from the fire department in the southwestern Ontario city of Sarnia, according to the Sarnia-Lambton AlertNet, a community website. Imperial, majority-owned by Exxon Mobil Corp, operates a refinery with a capacity of 121,000 barrels a day in Sarnia, across the St. Clair River from Port Huron, Michigan, about 65 miles (105 km) north of Detroit. The fire, which broke out about 8 p.m., was described as small, and the company said no one was injured, according to the website of The Observer, a Sarnia newspaper. Coker units convert heavy crude oil into refined products such as gasoline. Imperial could not be reached immediately for comment

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2212023220110123>

USA, WI, MADISON, JANUARY 23 2011. FIRE DAMAGES UW HEALTH CLINIC RAMP >> OFFICIALS: PARKING RAMP STARTED BY GASOLINE LEAK

A fire in a University of Wisconsin Health Clinic parking ramp starting Friday after gasoline ignited in the ramp's basement level. Madison Fire Department officials said the fire began around 3:10 p.m. Firefighters arrived quickly and found the fire in a small electrical room on the basement level of the parking ramp. The fire was quickly extinguished but crews stayed to ventilate the smoke for several hours. No injuries were reported at the scene, but the ramp's fire alarm control panel was damaged. Fire officials are still estimating the total cost of the fire but said the fire alarm system has been temporarily replaced. The fire may have been caused by a leaking fuel tank that seeped gasoline vapors into the electrical room, fire officials said.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/26578450/detail.html>

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USA, AKA, VALDEZ, JANUARY 24 2011. ALASKA OIL LINE THAT LEAKED DEEMED RISKY SINCE 2008

joshua schneyer



A mooring station for oil tankers can be seen at the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Marine Terminal in Valdez, Alaska on August 8, 2008.

A risk assessment of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System in 2008 recommended replacing a stretch of line that leaked this month, since a concrete casing made it impossible to inspect for corrosion, operator Alyeska told a U.S. lawmaker this week. A leak discovered on January 8 in a concrete-encased booster line along TAPS forced the 800-mile (1,287-km) pipeline system to shut last week, temporarily cutting off 12 percent of U.S. oil production, and forcing a risky winter-time repair. The pipeline restarted on Monday. The last corrosion inspection on the leaky stretch of line occurred in 2008 but was deemed too risky and halted, operator Alyeska told Rep. Ed Markey, the ranking Democrat in the House Natural Resources Committee,

in a letter dated January 18 and given to Reuters on Friday. "Attempts to inspect the below ground concrete encased piping were stopped in 2008 due to the risk of potential damage to the piping during necessary removal of the concrete encasement," Alyeska CEO Thomas Barrett wrote. "A risk assessment completed in October 2008 recommended not removing the concrete, but rather, replacing the pipeline." Alyeska said it had planned to replace the stretch of pipe in question as early as this year. In 2009, Alyeska began the design and engineering work needed before replacing the stretch, said spokeswoman Michelle Egan. "There has been progress made. The work that was required has begun," she said. But Markey's office questioned the plans' pace. "Despite a risk assessment which concluded that the pipe be replaced, that action has not yet even begun," Markey's office said in an email to Reuters. Corrosion has plagued Alaskan pipeline infrastructure in the past, causing a number of past shutdowns and spills. It could take months to excavate the booster line and determine whether corrosion caused the most recent leak. Alyeska is owned by the companies that operate on Alaska's North Slope -- BP owns about 47 percent of the venture, while ConocoPhillips and Exxon Mobil hold 28 percent and 20 percent respectively. Alyeska's letter to Markey also shows that oil had spilled from the TAPS line at least 20 different times since 2001. The total volume of oil spilled from TAPS over the period was 397,645 gallons (9,467 barrels), a chart provided to Markey and later sent to Reuters showed. This month's leak on TAPS measured 317 barrels and shut down the pipeline for much of last week, forcing workers to brave harsh winter conditions to install a bypass pipe around the leak. The incident shut in at least 4.6 million barrels of oil production, and helped push oil prices to gains of more than 4 percent during the three trading days after the leak was discovered. Markey also questioned whether Alyeska has an effective leak detection system in place. The letter shows this month's leak occurred "outside of the TAPS leak detection system, and was detected while someone was merely walking by on 'operator rounds'" Markey's office said. "This may indicate a lower level of leak detection systems than acceptable, especially at a key weak-point in the system."

<http://planetark.org/wen/60971>

GERMANY, RHEINLAND-PFALZ, BECHERBACH, JANUARY 24 2011. TOWN EVACUATES AFTER EXPLOSIVES DISCOVERED

 **Photo's:**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1349986/German-village-evacuated-nitroglycerine-cache-discovered-pensioners-garage.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>



Precaution: *Police bomb squad officers stand back from robots entering the garage in Becherbach, Germany.*

Some 500 residents in the small town of Becherbach in southwestern Germany have been told to evacuate their homes after highly explosive materials were found in a barn, a police spokesman said on Saturday. According to regional broadcaster SWR, 50 kilogrammes of nitroglycerine were discovered. The material will reportedly be detonated in a controlled explosion on Saturday. A police spokesman told SWR that the explosive was sensitive to cold and that sub-zero temperatures were in the forecast for the region. The material reportedly belonged to a 62-year-old pensioner from the nearby town of Hundsbach. The barn also contained machine guns, hand grenades, munitions and an old military vehicle. Residents of Becherbach in the

state of Rhineland-Palatinate had been told to leave their homes by 1 p.m. Saturday, a fire department spokesman told

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German news agency DAPD. Since late Saturday morning, the German Red Cross (DRK) and other aid organisations were going house to house to notify residents. "We're asking if people need assistance leaving the town," DRK spokesman Philipp Köhler said. Due to the presence of explosives in the barn, eight nearby buildings were evacuated on Friday evening. Police said 30 people were affected. The barn in Becherbach was cordoned off, preventing anyone from coming within 200 metres of the building. On Tuesday, police and criminal investigators confiscated another stockpile of weapons at the pensioner's home in Hundsbach, according to SWR, including about 30 guns and up to 100,000 bullets. Detectives are investigating three men for a possible violation of German war weapons control law, the broadcaster said. Some of the weapons discovered have already been transported to a military training area in Baumholder by truck, where they will reportedly be stored in a bunker.

<http://www.thelocal.de/national/20110122-32597.html>

USA, AZ, KINGMAN, JANUARY 24 2011. MAN CHARGED WITH ARSON FOR CRASHING BURNING VEHICLE INTO GASOLINE PUMP

jim seckler

A warrant has been issued for a Bullhead City man who allegedly drove his car into the gas pumps at a convenience store in November. Carl Moran Brodie, 57, is charged in Bullhead City Justice Court on felony charges of criminal damage, arson and two counts of endangerment. He had an initial appearance Jan. 14 in justice court on the charges but failed to show. A warrant for his arrest has been issued. A defendant who has an initial appearance in justice court is usually indicted by a grand jury the following Thursday with his case then being transferred to Superior Court. On Nov. 16, Brodie allegedly set the inside of his Cadillac El Camino on fire then drove it into the gas pumps at a convenience store at Hancock Road and Highway 95. His car also hit another car that was refueling, injuring a 25-year-old woman who was inside. She was taken to a Bullhead City hospital with minor injuries. The man who was gassing up the car jumped out of the way to keep from being hit. The store's emergency shutoff system shut off the fuel immediately after impact, limiting any fire damage. The suspected driver, identified as Brodie, fled the scene on foot and was arrested two hours later near Hancock Road and Clearwater Drive. He suffered serious burns on his body and was flown to a Las Vegas hospital, where he was in critical condition for several days before recovering from his injuries.

<http://www.mohavedailynews.com/articles/2011/01/23/news/local/doc4d3bcd1c9ab60393112497.txt>

INDIA, MAHARASHTRA, DHULE, JANUARY 24 2011. 10 KILLED, FIVE HURT IN MAHARASHTRA ROAD ACCIDENT

At least 10 people were killed and five injured seriously when a speeding tanker rammed into a tempo here Sunday, police said. The accident occurred around 11 a.m. when the minidor tempo, carrying 15 passengers from Shirpur to Nardana village, was hit by the tanker coming from the opposite direction. Eight tempo occupants died on the spot. Among them was the owner-driver of the tempo, Ravindra B. Patil, 33, a resident of Dabhashi village. The collision was so severe that the minidor was flung at least 50 feet away on the busy Mumbai-Agra highway. The local villagers rushed to the rescue of the victims. They admitted the injured to the Dhule civil hospital where two later succumbed. The toll is expected to go up

<http://www.sify.com/news/10-killed-five-hurt-in-maharashtra-road-accident-news-national-lbpxOhcigdf.html>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, JANUARY 24 2011. 'UNLEADED' TURNS TO DIESEL FOR COUPLE AT SAFEWAY

An Oak Harbor couple did a little detective work last week and discovered that diesel fuel had been mistakenly placed in a premium unleaded fuel pump at the Safeway gas station. Michelle Bois said her 2007 GMC Envoy was running on empty when she pulled into the Safeway gas station in Oak Harbor at about 1 p.m. in the afternoon of Jan. 10. After filling the tank, she drove away and immediately noticed that the vehicle was running rough. The next morning, the SUV wouldn't even start, so she had it towed to the GM dealership in Mount Vernon. That night, a mechanic called and said the tank was full of diesel fuel, which obviously caused the engine problems. "Everyone kept asking me why I pumped diesel in the tank, but I knew I hadn't," she said. Bois and her finance, North Whidbey firefighter and EMT Matt Buchholz, went down to the gas station and asked for a copy of her receipt. It showed that she had filled the tank from pump No. 8, which is an unleaded fuel pump. Buchholz purchased a gas can from the store and filled it from the pump. He said he immediately could smell that it was diesel, so he alerted the gas station attendant. The pump was shut down. "Safeway was fantastic," Buchholz said. "Everyone was very helpful." Yet he worries about others who may have pumped diesel into their unleaded-only cars and didn't realize it. "I don't know how many people were affected," he said. "Hopefully we stopped more people from getting diesel." Buchholz said he received calls from the Safeway corporate office and then the fuel supplier. He was told the mix-up was an accident and that the fuel supplier would handle the damages. As for the Envoy, Buchholz said the mechanic had to drain the tank and completely flush the system. The couple got the vehicle back after six days with a large bill, but they were warned that the diesel may have harmed the fuel pump, the catalytic converter, the oxygen sensor or other engine parts. "We don't know what

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this will cost us in the long-run," he said. Such fuel mix-ups aren't unheard of at gas stations, according to Jerry Buendel, the weights and measures program manager at the Washington State Department of Agriculture. The agency is responsible for investigating complaints about fuel at gas station. Common allegations, he said, are about faulty meters at the pump, water in gas or regular unleaded being sold as premium. Buendel said he didn't receive any complaints about the incident at Safeway in Oak Harbor, but he said that's not unusual. Normally, the gas station would work with customers to compensate them, so the customers don't usually call Buendel to complain. He said there's no way of knowing how often fuel is mixed up, but he said it's simply a matter of human error. It doesn't happen often, but sometimes truck drivers pump fuel into the wrong tank. "There's always an opportunity for human error," he said. A corporate Safeway spokesperson said the fuel distributor is handling the complaints and that all submitted claims have been paid. The manager at the Safeway store in Oak Harbor did not return a call for comment.

http://www.seattlepi.com/sound/433962_sound114388129.html

INDI, KOLKATA, JANUARY 24 2011. 70 ILL AFTER AMMONIA LEAK IN NAGERBAZAR >> BSF'S DISASTER-RESPONSE TEAM DEPLOYED.



At least 70 people fell ill in [Dum Dum's Nagerbazar area](#) on Sunday evening after inhaling poisonous ammonia gas that leaked out of a cold storage in the neighbourhood. There was widespread panic, leading to the deployment of BSF's disaster-response team. The entire area was cordoned off and traffic diverted for several hours. Around 3,000 people were evacuated before the leak could be plugged. People in Satgachhi detected the obnoxious smell around 5pm. As the gas spread rapidly over a 2sqkm area covering Satgachhi, Amarpalli, Nayapatti and Shyamnagar, people complained of irritation in the eyes and throat. As panic spread, residents tried to lock themselves in closed rooms to block out the gas. Many families tried to flee the area. Patients at a private nursing home started having breathing problems, forcing the staff to shut all windows and doors. "The

patients are in a serious condition and if the gas leak continues, it could be fatal," said a staffer at the nursing home. "There was a burning sensation in the eyes and irritation in the throat," said a resident of Nayapatti. Members of Shyamnagar and Amarpalli clubs reached out to people over mikes, asking them to leave the vicinity. Police asked the residents to leave the area till the situation improved. Several people were taken to nearby hospitals, where they were treated for respirator distress. None was, however, serious. Six fire tenders were sent to the spot. But when the firefighters and the police were unable to locate the source of the leak, a [BSF](#) disaster-response team was called in. Equipped with gas masks, the team entered the cold storage premises around 9.30 pm and spotted three broken valves. Within an hour the three valves were repaired. Trinamool Congress leader and Dum Dum MP Sougata Roy rushed to the spot on hearing the news. "I have asked Trinamool Congress MLA Sujit Bose to find out how the unit was allowed to operate in this residential locality," he said. Residents complained that gas leaks are common in the area because of the presence of a large number of factories in the neighbourhood. "The area is basically a residential area and such factories should not be allowed to run here," they said. The incident comes within weeks of a gas leak at an ice factory in Barrackpore that left one dead and over 100 ill, followed by another on January 10 at another cold storage at Manicktala that led to a major fire.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/-70-ill-after-ammonia-leak-in-Nagerbazar/articleshow/7351234.cms>

UK, ESSEX, JANUARY 24 2011. CHAUFFEUR WARNED DRIVERS OF TESCO'S CONTAMINATED FUEL

A chauffeur who bought contaminated fuel from a [Basildon](#) garage stood at the pumps and warned others not to fill up until staff turned them off. Phillip Cameron, 52, of Grange Avenue, [Wickford](#), broke down while driving off the forecourt at Tesco, in Mayflower Retail Park. On Wednesday, the Echo reported Tesco admitted the diesel had been contaminated by water because of a leaky tank, and the problem has now been fixed. Mr Phillips filled his Mercedes with £80 of diesel on January 9, the day Tesco says the problem was reported, when his engine conked out as he drove away. He said: "I've got knowledge of mechanics and I immediately thought there was something wrong with the fuel." He went into the shop to report the problem and claims staff told him there was nothing wrong with the fuel, but he then met another man who had filled up before and had also broken down on the forecourt. He called the AA and decided to warn others while he waited for recovery. He said: "Every time someone came along I said 'Don't use the diesel tank'. The staff then came out and turned all the diesel pumps off." Mr Phillips forked out £790 to have his car's tank drained and parts checked. He could not work for three days while it was being repaired, as he needs his car to work as a chauffeur in Canary Wharf, London. Mr Phillips has complained to Tesco about the damage, but is yet to hear back. Tesco said it will pick up repair costs for any customers affected and is offering to pay for hire

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cars while vehicles are fixed. A spokesman for the supermarket chain said: "We would urge any customers who think they may have been affected to contact the store."

[http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/8806497.Chauffeur warned drivers of Tesco s contaminated fuel/](http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/8806497.Chauffeur_warned_drivers_of_Tesco_s_contaminated_fuel/)

UK, HUNTINGTON, JANUARY 24 2011. POLICE TO INVESTIGATE HUNTINGDON CHEMICAL SPILL

Photo's:

<http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/Cambridgeshire/Huntingdon/PE29/News/Local-News/185571-Photographs-of-the-incident-which-caused-Huntingdon-to-a-standstill-January-21st-2011>



Fire and ambulance crews work to free a casualty from the cab of a lorry which was involved in a collision with a tanker this morning at the Spittals roundabout. The road remains closed and an exclusion zone has been put up around the incident.

Police are investigating the cause of a chemical spill which left one man in hospital and caused hours of delays for motorists on Friday. Roads were closed and a 200 metre exclusion zone set up around the Spittals roundabout after a collision between a lorry and tanker caused a hazardous material, believed to be ethanol, to leak on to the road. Residents in the Stukeley Meadows area were told to stay inside and keep windows and doors shut while emergency teams worked to clear up the spill. Cambridgeshire Police closed the A141 to A14 in both directions, A14 west bound at Godmanchester, A1 south bound, junction with A1M at Alconbury and A14 east bound at Brampton Hut, and set up a 200 metre exclusion zone around the

roundabout. All roads were re-opened at 6pm but motorists faced continued delays because of congestion. Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue spent eight hours clearing up at the area, eventually leaving the scene at 7pm. A 53 year old man, believed to be the driver of the lorry, was taken to Hinchingbrooke Hospital with serious but not life-threatening injuries. Police are now appealing for witnesses to the collision to come forward. Calls are also being issued for the adverse camber of the road at the roundabout to be rectified. Lingmoor Road resident David O'Brian was one of the residents told to stay indoors on Friday. He said: "We have tankers go over all the time with regular monotony. Isn't it about time they did something about it? The road slopes outwards so when you go to the right, your vehicle leans to the left. The lorries go a bit too quick chasing the lights and momentum pushes them over. We have had all sorts in the road, but this is the most serious ever."

Related Stories

- [Tanker spill causes A14 closure](#)
- [Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service](#)

http://www.huntspost.co.uk/news/latest-news/police_to_investigate_huntingdon_chemical_spill_1_780840

USA, CO, DENVER, JANUARY 24 2011. FUEL TANKER ROLLOVER CLOSURES WB I-70 AT GEORGETOWN OVERNIGHT >> EB I-70 REOPENS AT BASKERVILLE; WB TO REMAIN CLOSED INTO MONDAY MORNING

Watch the Video <http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/26590890/detail.html>

A tanker truck rollover and fuel leak forced the closure of westbound Interstate 70 at Georgetown from Sunday night into Monday morning, authorities said. The westbound tanker truck hauling 40,000 gallons of methanol separated from its trailer tank about 6:17 p.m. Sunday, causing the tank to roll over and rupture, said Colorado State Trooper Heather Cobler. Eastbound I-70 reopened about 8:40 p.m. Sunday, allowing weekend skiers and snowboarders to drive home after a more than a two-hour delay. The leak was considered minor and none of the methanol had reached a nearby creek, Cobler said. But hazardous material teams were responding to contain and clean up the fuel spill. No injuries were reported and no other vehicles were involved, she said.

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/26590890/detail.html>

USA, OH, ELYRIA, JANUARY 25 2011. SALEM AVENUE GARAGE FIRE CAUSES \$30,000 DAMAGE >>REPLACING TRUCK FUEL TANK

A Salem Avenue garage caught fire yesterday afternoon when the owner left to make a quick trip to the store, according to the Elyria Fire Department. No one was injured but there was extensive fire and smoke damage to the structure. According to the Lorain County Auditor's website, the garage, at 912 Salem Ave., is owned by Kenneth Machor. Damage is estimated to be roughly \$30,000. Elyria fire Capt. Robert Donofrio said the man was working on replacing the fuel tank to his truck when he left

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for the store. Donofrio suspects the fire was started by a hot drop light that was left on. Luckily two 10-gallon jugs of gasoline did not explode in the fire, Donofrio said. He suspects the garage is salvageable, and the fire did not spread to the house.

http://morningjournal.com/articles/2011/01/23/news/cops_and_courts/doc4d3bb6d4740cf171173893.txt

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BILOELA, JANUARY 25 2011. FUEL TRUCK ROLLS NEAR BILOELA

russel guse



Rollover: A fuel truck rolled this morning on the Dawson Highway, spilling part of its load onto the highway.

A fuel truck rolled this morning on the Dawson Highway, spilling part of its load onto the road. Queensland Fire and Rescue teams were working to clean up the fuel spill from the accident, which happened around 6am about 20km west of Biloea. They used foam to soak up the fuel. The male driver suffered only minor injuries but was taken by ambulance to Biloea Hospital for observation. One lane of the highway was open to traffic but a recovery truck was en route to the accident scene, and the highway is now closed. Traffic is being diverted around via another road and the highway could be closed for five or six hours to allow emergency

services to move the B double. The cause of the accident is still being investigated by police on the scene.

<http://www.centraltelegraph.com.au/story/2011/01/24/fuel-truck-rolls-near-biloela/>

USA, IL, HARDIN, JANUARY 25 2011. HARDIN RESIDENTS FED UP WITH POST OFFICE CLOSURE, BECAUSE OF GASOLINE LEAKS.

Mayor Phil Gress said village residents have suffered a major inconvenience since the Hardin Post Office was closed Jan. 4 because of gasoline leaks. "It has become a terrible hardship for our residents to have to drive to the Kampsville Post Office to get their mail," Gress said Thursday. "We have already had one local woman injured in a car wreck trying to get to Kampsville to get her mail after that last snowstorm." The Hardin Post Office was closed because of gas fumes from a suspected overfill at the Hardin Ayerco Gas Station. Calhoun County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency Coordinator Gene Breden issued a news release Jan. 3 stating that gasoline odors had been noticed by village residents and that the odors were emanating from the service station. At the time, Breden said the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Region 8, the Illinois State Fire Marshal's Office, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Ayerco gas station owners and village officials had investigated the odors and found that the vapors were not explosive in nature at levels current when investigated. Gateway Postal Service decided for the safety of its employees and customer mail to close the Hardin Post Office and move services to Kampsville, at the northern end of Calhoun County. "We have offered the U.S. Postal Service alternate sites in Hardin available for rent, and several people have offered rent-free space if they would just move it back here," Gress said. "The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency told me that the U.S. Postal Service could move the Hardin Postal Service back to Hardin, but the Postal Service keeps saying they are waiting for a report from their safety inspector," Breden said. Valerie Hughes, a spokeswoman for the Postal Service's Gateway District in St. Louis, said Thursday that she has fielded multiple telephone calls from Hardin residents, and she has told them that the Postal Service is waiting for test results from EPA. "We will not go to the expense of moving equipment to another facility until we learn from the EPA that it is safe to do so," Hughes said. "There was no cost in moving personnel to the Kampsville Post Office, and that is where Hardin mail will go until we get the results of the EPA testing." IEPA spokeswoman Maggie Carson said Thursday that she spoke with the EPA's project site manager after being contacted by The Telegraph regarding the EPA test results. "He told me that the EPA has not placed any restrictions on reopening the Hardin Post Office," Carson said. "He said he would contact the regional inspector in Tampa (Fla.) and have that inspector contact the Gateway District and inform them of the fact that there are no restrictions on reopening the Hardin Post Office." Breden and Gress both said they hope that will be enough to get the postal service back in Hardin. "It has really become a hassle for not just older residents having to try to get to Kampsville to get their mail, but people that work out of town," Gress said. He said many of those people leave for work before the Kampsville Post Office opens and don't get back before it closes, so they can't get their mail unless they sign for someone else to pick it up for them. "And that has created long lines at the Kampsville Post Office, as some Hardin residents are going there to pick up mail for 20 people, and that takes time for postal employees to find," Gress said. "Enough is enough, and they need to reopen the Hardin Post Office." Hughes, called again regarding the EPA's comment to The Telegraph, said she had just received two e-mails - one from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency stating they had no restrictions against reopening the Hardin Post Office, and a second e-mail from the EPA's Tampa office. "The second e-mail said they wanted Gateway to send our inspector that had originally tested the site and found the air compatible for combustive air and recommended removing our Hardin Post

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

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Office employees, to return to the Hardin Post Office and retest the site," Hughes said. "I have no idea how quickly our inspector can get back to Hardin, but hopefully, within the next couple days. After we get those results, we will be able to make a decision."

<http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/hardin-49749-office-post.html>

MEXICO, PLAYA DEL CARMEN, JANUARY 26 2011. MEXICO RESORT BARRED AMBULANCES AFTER FATAL BLAST

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2011/01/24/mexico-blast-grand-riviera-hotel.html>

• **Watch the Video** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eW8nj_limGE



An explosion in the lounge of the Grand Riviera Princess Hotel in Playa del Carmen, Mexico, on Nov. 14, 2010, killed seven people, including five Canadians, and injured 18 others.

Security guards kept ambulances from entering a Mexican resort following a deadly explosion last November, preventing emergency workers from rendering aid in the crucial first minutes after the blast, CBC News has learned. The powerful explosion on Nov. 14 ripped through a small lobby of the Grand Riviera Princess hotel in Playa del Carmen, killing two Mexican workers and five Canadian tourists. Officials initially blamed swamp gas, but later determined a leaking gas line was to blame.

After cancelling a scheduled interview and following repeated interview requests, hotel officials sent an email to CBC News late Monday denying they had barred the ambulances from entering and saying it took ambulances 18 minutes to reach the facility. Four people may face criminal charges in the homicide investigation, state officials say.

Emergency Call Timeline

Eight emergency calls were placed following the explosion. Here's a basic timeline:

- 9:24 a.m.: First call made to 066, Mexico's equivalent of 911. The caller reports a fire in the kitchen. The operator asks whether there was an explosion.
- 9:26 a.m.: Second call made.
- 9:35 a.m.: Third caller reports an explosion in the lobby and asks that three ambulances be sent.
- 9:36 a.m.: Caller says a gas tank exploded and several people were hurt.
- 9:38 a.m.: Caller asks for help for a gas tank explosion in a kitchen.
- 9:41 a.m.: A police officer calls, saying a security guard won't allow ambulances on to the resort property and that the security guard did not have news of an event.
- 9:42 a.m.: Another caller requests ambulances. The operator explains that the ambulances have arrived at the hotel gate and asks for help getting someone at the resort to authorize allowing them into the gate.
- 9:43 a.m.: A policeman calls the operator to say security guards did not allow him inside.

Eight emergency calls made following the blast reveal that hotel security barred ambulances and police from entering the expansive resort complex, stranding them outside the front gate located about a kilometre from the blast site. At the same time, hotel staff and guests struggled to treat the wounded with limited supplies and expertise. No one knows the precise minute of the blast, but it is believed to have happened at about 9:10 a.m. The first emergency call to 066 — the Mexican equivalent of 911 — came in at 9:24 a.m., reporting a kitchen fire. Five other calls requesting ambulances follow. At 9:41 a.m., about 17 minutes after the initial call, a police officer says ambulances are not being allowed on site by the security guard, who is unaware of any "event."

Hotel's Image Over Lives

"We were all stopped," said Francisco Alor, attorney general of Quintana Roo state. "It was a very unfortunate situation with a lot of negligence. I could even hear on the radio the instructions of someone else in the hotel saying, 'Stop everyone.'" Alor said he later called in the army to compel staff to allow him on the property. Hotel staff also later chased journalists, beating them with sticks and fire extinguishers. "It is my perception, without any question, that the hotel tried to take care more of its image than solving the serious problem it was facing," Alor said. Jose Efrain Chuc Chan, a Red Cross paramedic on scene that day, says he's encountered similar resistance at other resorts. "When we go to pick up a patient of any kind of situation, right at the entrance we're told to turn off the siren and quietly enter the premises," Chan said. "It's complicated. Because we're trying to save their image, lives can be lost." About 9:45 a.m., 21 minutes after the first emergency call, ambulances finally made it past the guards.

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Lack Equipment, Training

At the opposite end of the resort, frantic hotel workers were trying to help those dying as well as 17 injured people with the hotel's limited supplies. Hotel guest and British firefighter Jeff Westwell tried to help one of the Canadians killed in the blast: Malcolm Johnson, 33, of Nanaimo, B.C. Other Canadians killed were Elgin Barron of Ontario; Chris Charmont, 41, and his son John Charmont, 9, of Drumheller; and Darlene Ferguson, 51, of Ardrossan, Alta. Though the veteran firefighter had 18 years of experience and certification for treating trauma victims, he said the hotel itself was ill-equipped and staff appeared poorly trained to deal with an emergency. Westwell discovered Malcolm Johnson lying on the ground 10 metres from the lobby entrance, with three hotel workers standing over him. An "extremely distressed" lifeguard ran up with a first aid kit, but the kit didn't have several items he needed, Westwell said, adding that hotel staff also appeared with oxygen cylinders but no regulators. "They opened a cylinder and there was a loud blast of oxygen escaping," Westwell recalled in a written statement. "[A] Canadian woman tried to calm the staff down. They were panicking and in my view did not know how to use the rescue equipment." Terra Charmont, who lost her husband and son in the blast, also recalled frantically yelling for medical supplies, including a defibrillator, but a worker told her the hotel had nothing. "Nobody seemed to know anything," Charmont said. "A lifeguard wound up showing up with a box of Band-Aids and there were people lying on the ground looking like they had severe spinal issues." Charmont spent hours trying to find out information about her husband and son, running back and forth between the destroyed lobby and the emergency desk set up about 800 metres away in the main lobby on the far end of the resort complex. The desk had little information and was often left abandoned, Charmont said. By the time staff finally informed Charmont and her daughter, Megan, 10, that her husband and son had died, it was late afternoon. To her surprise, they tried to inject her with drugs to calm her down, she said. "I could feel a cold swab on my arm, and instantly I knew and I went, 'Oh my God, they're going to drug me. I didn't know with what,'" said Charmont, who batted the needle away. "I looked up. Megan's screaming, 'Don't hurt my Mommy!' Here's a kid that's just had her world destroyed and the only support she has in the world is being held down in a chair with a hypodermic needle positioned above her." The hotel did "everything possible" to handle the "devastating incident," Mascia Nadin, hotel director general, said in an email. "No resort in the world can be fully prepared to handle a tragic situation of this size," Nadin said. "Nevertheless, all that we could do during those frantic moments, apart [from] calling for rescue and emergency units, was trying to assist the wounded guests, calming those who witnessed the accident and try to limit the access to the affected area of the numerous extraneous people (i.e: local press and photographers) who just wanted to take advantage of the situation."

Worker's Cheque Never Deposited

Questions have also been raised about how the hotel treated the family of one of the two Mexican workers killed in the blast, Sergio Villegas. Villegas's mother said she was shocked to discover the hotel never deposited Villegas's last cheque for the two weeks prior to the blast, worth more than \$200 Cdn. "The hotel has not taken any responsibility," said Martha Elena Marquez. The family is struggling to care for Villegas's widow, four-year-old daughter, Aislyn, and four-month old son, Sergio. Marquez says a hotel manager contacted the family and offered to pay basic funeral costs, but has so far offered no compensation or apology, Marquez said. However, the hotel says it has supported the families of the two deceased workers and three wounded workers, who continue to receive medical help at a Cancun hospital. The state attorney general has said that the ruptured gas line was part of an unauthorized pipeline extension. However, the hotel says the line was "not improperly placed" and "no expert can state 100% why there was a leakage from this line." Last month, the resort was slapped with a \$486,000 Cdn municipal fine. Local media reported the penalty was due to original blueprints not matching the completed complex. Before the explosion, the Grand Riviera Princess hotel, was also fined more than \$4,900 Cdn for overbuilding on protected land. The complaint stated the hotel had filled in wetlands to expand its site, affecting the mangrove wildlife.

<http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2011/01/24/mexico-blast-grand-riviera-hotel.html>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JANUARY 26 2011. JUDGE TO RULE ON OIL SPILL POINT OF LAW

mark oberhardt



Aftermath: Polluted beach.

The case against the owners and captain of a ship allegedly responsible for polluting pristine Queensland beaches could hinge on how a judge determines a complicated legal point argued yesterday. In the District Court in Brisbane, Judge David Robin, QC, heard submissions from opposing counsel on how a jury should be instructed to consider the case. It has been alleged the ship Pacific Adventurer spewed about 250 tonnes of fuel oil into the sea after 31 containers fell off it and pierced fuel tanks as it battled heavy seas during Cyclone Hamish on March 11, 2009. It was further alleged the resulting oil slick fouled beaches on Moreton and Bribie islands and the Sunshine

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Coast. The Pacific Adventurer's captain, Bernadino Gonzales Santos, 47; his employer, Swire Shipping, Swire Navigation, Bluewind Shipping and China Navigation, pleaded not guilty in October. They were committed to stand trial on charges under the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act. However, to resolve a point of law, prosecutor Peter Davis, SC, and Tony Glynn, SC, for the defendants, were before Judge Robin to argue issues such as causation and foreseeing of damage. Mr Glynn argued the jury should be limited to looking at only the immediate damage (that containers caused holes in the hull and oil seeped out) when determining the harm done by the resultant discharge. Mr Davis argued the jury could look further at why the containers came loose. Judge Robin will deliver his judgment at a later date.

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/judge-to-rule-on-oil-spill-point-of-law/story-fn6ck51p-1225994554864>

USA, WA, SEATTLE, JANUARY 26 2011. TESORO APPEALS \$2.39 MILLION FINE

San Antonio-based Tesoro Corp. is appealing a \$2.39 million fine issued by Washington state after its [Department of Labor and Industries](#) affirmed the penalties and violations in December. The fine was the largest penalty for workplace safety violations in the state, the agency has said. Tesoro appealed the decision to the [Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals](#), a separate state agency independent of the Department of Labor and Industries. Its three members are appointed by the governor of Washington. Washington's Department of Labor and Industries cited Tesoro for 39 willful and five serious violations of its workplace safety and health regulations following a six-month investigation of an explosion at Tesoro's Anacortes, Wash., refinery that killed seven workers on April 2. The plant, located about 60 miles north of Seattle, makes gasoline, jet fuel and diesel for markets in Washington and Oregon.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/business/article/Tesoro-appeals-2-39-million-fine-976974.php>

UK, LONDON, JANUARY 26 2011. MARINA OPERATORS RESPOND TO DIESEL BUG CONCERNS >> THREE OF THE UK'S BIGGEST MARINA COMPANIES TELL MBY THEY'RE ON TOP OF BIODIESEL ISSUE

stewart campbell



Three of the UK's biggest marina operators have moved to calm fears about the possibility of a diesel bug epidemic caused by biodiesel entering the fuel supply. The problem has arisen thanks to [new fuel quality regulations handed down by the EU](#) that could potentially see some fuel companies supplying road diesel, which contains up to 7% biodiesel, to marinas. Biodiesel is water-attracting and contains fatty-acid methyl esters (FAME), which together provide a good environment for the growth of diesel bug. But Premier Marinas, MDL Marinas and Yacht Havens Group have all told [MBY](#) that steps are being taken to make sure the fuel reaching their customers is free from any risk of contamination. You can read all about microbial contamination in diesel in the April issue of MBY (out March 3). One of Europe's biggest marina operators, [MDL](#) told MBY they had negotiated with their

supplier, Shell, to offer boaters low-sulphur diesel with no biofuel content. They also said they conducted regular tank cleaning and fuel testing. [Yacht Havens Group](#), which runs a number of large marinas around the coast, said that they are now being supplied with low-sulphur, biodiesel-free fuel and that they checked every fuel delivery for biodiesel content. [Premier Marinas](#), meanwhile, said it would continue to sell high-sulphur, biodiesel-free fuel at all its sites except Chichester, which has been branded "not at sea" for the purposes of the new fuel regulations. The company told MBY that it will be selling low-sulphur diesel at the marina which contains up to 2% biodiesel until the middle of the year, when it will be able to source low-sulphur fuel with no biodiesel content. At such small amounts, Premier said they didn't expect diesel bug to become a problem, but were taking precautions anyway, by adding Soltron to all the fuel sold at the marina.

<http://www.mby.com/news/513832/marina-operators-respond-to-diesel-bug-concerns>

USA, N.C, RALEIGH, JANUARY 26 2011. FUEL SPILL SHUTS DOWN BLUE RIDGE ROAD IN RALEIGH

Raleigh authorities shut down Blue Ridge Road from Hillsborough Street to Western Boulevard Sunday evening after an oil tanker spilled fuel into a storm drain. About 100 gallons of fuel leaked out of a tanker refueling underground tanks at a gas station on Blue Ridge Road. Some of the fuel went into a storm drain, but it was contained there, said Raleigh police. A water treatment company from Rocky Mount responded to the scene to clean the storm drain and prevent water contamination, authorities said. Crews were still on the scene at 11 p.m. Sunday, but they said no one was injured or displaced in the spill.

http://www.wral.com/news/news_briefs/story/8990392/

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