



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 678 Newsy Stuff

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January 18 2011



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NEW ZEALAND, PIKES RIVER, JANUARY 13 2011. PIKE RIVER BODIES WILL NEVER BE RECOVERED



Bodies to stay underground: Flowers and a note at a memorial to the miners.

The bodies of 29 miners who died in underground explosions will remain entombed in New Zealand's Pike River coal mine. New Zealand Police Commissioner Howard Broad says it will be too dangerous to recover the bodies of the men, who died in November. The mine has been unstable since a series of explosions ripped through it in mid-November. Commissioner Broad made the announcement at a news conference in Greymouth this afternoon after meeting with the men's families. Declaring the police recovery operation officially over, he said mining experts had told him that it was unrealistic to think the mine would be made safe enough to attempt a recovery. "Frankly, my confidence in terms of a recovery operation to bring the men

out is quite low," he said. "The assessment is that the likelihood of getting into the mine safely is unrealistic. It is time to focus on the living and memorialise those men who have died." Mayor Tony Kokshoorn says the announcement leaves little hope for families desperate to recover their loved ones' remains. "Three or four weeks ago the receivers had \$9 million," he said. "Most of that would be eaten up by now, so I don't see any chance of them being able to continue." Commissioner Broad says that he has written to the receivers for Pike River Coal, asking them to take control of the mine. Police have been in charge of the site since the first explosion in the middle of November.

Related Stories

- [Pike River mine rocked by fourth explosion](#)
- [Grieving families visit mine site](#)
- [Third explosion at Pike River mine](#)
- [Dozens missing after NZ mine blast](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/01/13/3112382.htm?section=world>

USA FLA, NAPLES, JANUARY 13 2011. GAS EXPLOSION INJURES 3 AT FLA. CAFÉ >> FIRE OFFICIALS SAY BLAST CAUSED BY A 'PERFECT STORM OF CONDITIONS'

ryan mills

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.abc-7.com/Global/story.asp?S=13831708>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/931671-Gas-explosion-injures-3-at-Fla-cafe/>

A propane leak next to a running car proved to be an explosive combination Monday morning, sparking a flash fire that enveloped a Naples restaurant, knocking down walls, blowing out windows and sending three people to the hospital with serious burns. "This is really a bomb that went off," Naples Fire Chief Steve McNerny said after an initial assessment of the damage. Some people working near the Four Corners section of Fifth Avenue South said they initially thought the explosion, which shook nearby buildings, was an earthquake. The explosion ignited around 9:15 a.m. behind Mangrove Cafe, 878 Fifth Ave. S. Tom Smith, 41, an employee of Naples-based Bal Gas Propane, was delivering propane to a 500-gallon, underground tank behind the restaurant, McNerny said. At the same time, Donald Kingston, 32, a beer distributor, had left his 2007 Nissan Versa running in the parking lot, just a few feet from where the propane was being pumped. McNerny said gas leaked from the tank, and seeped into the restaurant via an open door. "In this particular case, the perfect storm of conditions came together," McNerny said in an e-mail. "We have the delivery of propane next to a running vehicle, low humidity, a propane leak and wind out of the southwest." Jim Thompson, 53, of Golden Gate, was doing business at the UPS store behind the restaurant, when he noticed a cloud of white smoke or steam, which McNerny said is a sign of a propane leak. Thompson then saw flames and heard the explosion. "It was a big 'woof,'" Thompson said. "It almost knocked me off my feet." The explosion and flash fire charred much of Mangrove Cafe's kitchen, knocked down walls inside the business, ripped a door off a walk-in freezer, blew glass from the front windows into Fifth Avenue South and disconnected the roof from the walls. "I saw the glass on the ground, smoke, and a man running toward me screaming 'Call 911. Call 911. I'm hurt. I'm burned,'" said Sandie Mathias, 54, an office manager at a real estate business a few doors down from the Mangrove Cafe. Smith and Kingston were sent to the Tampa Bay Regional Burn Center via air ambulance. Smith remained in critical condition around 4:15 p.m., while Kingston was in fair condition. William "Billy" McCauley, 51, a chef at the Mangrove Cafe, was sent to NCH Downtown Naples hospitals with less serious burns, officials said. McCauley has been something of a father figure to Angel Pena, 25, who is a cook at the restaurant. "It's scary," said Pena, who was scheduled to work at 10 a.m. "You don't know. You're cooking, you have a passion for cooking, and all of a sudden it explodes. That's not right." McCauley's wife, Rosey, answered the phone in his hospital room Monday afternoon. "He's doing OK," she said. Two Naples police officers were also transported to NCH Downtown for

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smoke inhalation, Naples Police Chief Tom Weschler said. Police roped off a section of road between U.S. 41 and Eighth Street South into Monday afternoon. Doug Amaral, the owner of the Mangrove Cafe, started working at the restaurant in 1990 upon moving to Florida. He said he bought the business a little over a year later, and grew it. He said he was in shock on Monday afternoon. "It's devastating," Amaral said. "The irony is, my restaurants in Punta Gorda got blown away by (Hurricane) Charley. This is not my first disaster." The Mangrove Cafe is one of the oldest restaurants on Fifth Avenue South. Fire officials said they suspected the building was a complete loss. But when asked if he planned to re-open the restaurant after it has been repaired, Amaral said, "without question." Several Mangrove Cafe employees gathered across the street as Naples police and fire officials worked. "I haven't gotten to talk to most of them," Amaral said of his employees. "My suggestion is to go to the unemployment office." A woman who answered the phone at Bal Gas Propane office in Naples declined comment. Monday's explosion was similar to a propane explosion outside the old Dixie Moon Cafe in Bonita Springs in 2007. That explosion ignited as a distributor refueled gas tanks behind the restaurant. One person was severely burned in the Dixie Moon explosion. Although three people were badly burned in Monday morning's explosion, police and fire officials said it could have been much worse had more people been in the area. "If somebody had been walking in front of there, it would have been ugly," Weschler said. Propane can be delivered at any time, McInerney said, adding that Monday's explosion could have been deadly had it occurred during lunch or dinner. "I think we would have had the potential for a serious loss of life," he said. "Just alone, the glass could have cut people down. The three people involved are very, very lucky to be alive."

Related Stories

- [Naples gas explosion caught on surveillance video](#)
- [3 injured in Naples gas explosion](#)

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/931671-Gas-explosion-injures-3-at-Fla-cafe/>

USA, PA, CHESWICK, JANUARY 13 2011. FINES LEVIED IN INDIANA TOWNSHIP EXPLOSION THAT KILLED 2

rossilynne skena

The U.S. Department of Labor announced Tuesday that it has fined two companies involved in an oil tank explosion that killed two workers at an Indiana Township natural gas well in July. For workplace safety violations, Northeast Energy Management Inc. has been ordered to pay a \$159,390 penalty, and Huntley & Huntley Inc. has been ordered to pay a \$70,000 penalty, according to a Department of Labor news release. The Labor Department's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) began its investigation in July after being notified that a tank containing flammable materials had exploded, killing two Northeast Energy welders. Kevin Gormly, an attorney who represents Northeast Energy, said the company will set up a conference with OSHA to go over the fines. The company can either reach a settlement with OSHA, contest the fine or pay the fine. Gormly said he couldn't comment on the substance of the findings. A statement from Keith Mangini, president of Huntley & Huntley, states that the incident has allowed the company to "reevaluate all operations and procedures to continually improve in all areas of our business." Huntley & Huntley does not agree with OSHA's findings and plans to have further dialogue with OSHA to understand the assessment, according to the statement. The explosion July 23 ignited a gas well fire that burned for 10 hours before being extinguished. The blast was in a remote, wooded area off Rich Hill Road, shaking houses in the vicinity. Huntley & Huntley, the Monroeville-based company that owns the well, contracted Northeast Energy to repair a leaking barrel tank at the well site. The Labor Department determined that Huntley & Huntley was responsible for ensuring that Northeast Energy properly trained its workers on a safe welding procedures. Northeast Energy, of Indiana, Pa., is involved in drill site preparation and reclamation. Huntley & Huntley develops oil and gas wells. "These companies did not ensure that proper welding procedures were followed, resulting in this tragic loss of life," said Robert Szymanski, director of OSHA's Pittsburgh office, according to the news release. "OSHA remains committed to holding employers legally responsible when they fail to adhere to federal law and compromise the safety of workers." As a result of the investigation, Northeast Energy was cited for two "willful violations" involving:

- Failure to ensure workers were welding on a thoroughly cleaned tank that did not contain flammable materials.
- Failure to determine whether flammable/combustible or other hazardous materials were present.

Investigators found that oil had never been drained below a valve about a foot above ground. This summer's intense heat likely turned some of the 200 gallons of oil inside into explosive fumes. The two welders, sent to seal pinhole-sized leaks in the tank, essentially pumped fire into the tank with their welding rods, investigators said. Huntley & Huntley also received a citation for one "willful violation":

- Failure to ensure Northeast Energy suitably trained welders and supervisors in the safe operation of welding equipment.

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A "willful violation" exists when an employer has demonstrated either an intentional disregard for the requirements of the law or plain indifference to employee safety and health, according to the Labor Department Northeast Energy was also cited for "serious violations":

- Failure to provide workers with flame retardant clothing protection while welding.
- Failure to ensure that supervision determined the welder secured approval before beginning welding operations.
- Failure to train employees in the specific procedures needed to protect themselves from hazardous chemicals.

OSHA issues a "serious citation" when there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard the employer knew or should have known about. Fines were assessed Thursday. The two companies have 15 business days from receipt of the citations to comply, request an information conference with OSHA's local director or contest the findings.

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/s_717794.html

UK, LONDON, JANUARY 13 2011. UK TO REVIEW NORTH SEA DRILLING RULES AFTER U.S. SPILL

tim castle



The North Sea oil platform Thistle Alpha is seen in this undated handout photograph, received in London on November 25, 2007.

Britain said on Wednesday it would review its regulations covering offshore oil and gas drilling in the North Sea following the publication of a U.S. investigation into BP's Gulf of Mexico oil spill. The review will start within a month and will report later this year, Energy Minister Charles Hendry said in a statement. "We intend to review the UK's oil and gas offshore regulatory regime against the findings of the U.S. investigations," he said. "This review ... will be based on the full life cycle of an offshore development, thus ensuring all activities are covered," he added. A White House panel probing BP's massive oil spill called on Tuesday for an overhaul of America's offshore drilling regulatory system, damning it as "entirely unprepared" for disaster. Last week a parliamentary report warned Britain was not ready to tackle a spill of the kind suffered by BP and that if one did occur, taxpayers could end up

paying the clean-up costs. Hendry said his officials would study the White House oil commission's report to identify its implications for British deepwater drilling. He said some of the report's recommendations were already existing practice in the North Sea but that Britain was committed to learning what it could from the findings. "We have already acted, in the light of the emerging information from the many investigations into the disaster, to strengthen where we can what is already one of the most robust environmental and safety regimes in the world," he said. Britain's energy ministry, Health and Safety Executive and Marine Coast Guard Agency will all take part in the UK review.

<http://planetark.org/wen/60862>

USA, LA, PLAQUEMINE, JANUARY 13 2011. OSHA CITES CHEMICAL PLANT IN PLAQUEMINE, LA., WITH 14 WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH VIOLATIONS

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has cited Georgia Gulf Chemicals & Vinyls LLC with 14 serious violations for exposing workers to multiple safety and health hazards at the company's facility in Plaquemine. Proposed penalties total \$55,000. "An employer's greatest resource is its workers, and exposing them to preventable injuries and illnesses will not be tolerated," said Dorinda Folse, director of OSHA's Baton Rouge Area Office in Louisiana. "The Occupational Safety and Health Act is designed to ensure that workers have a safe workplace." OSHA's Baton Rouge Area Office initiated its investigation on July 20 after an OSHA inspector observed violations by Georgia Gulf Chemicals employees while conducting an investigation of a different company contracted to do maintenance work inside the same Plaquemine facility. The violations include failing to illuminate exit routes, ensure vessels were inspected on a regular basis, train workers performing preventive maintenance on safety critical instruments, and ensure eyewashes had adequate flow and capped nozzles. A serious violation is one in which there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a hazard about which the employer knew or should have known. Georgia Gulf Chemicals & Vinyls LLC, headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., employs approximately 2,000 workers company-wide, including about 600 located at the Plaquemine facility. The company also has operations in Texas and Mississippi. The company, which specializes in the production of chlorine, caustic soda, vinyl chloride monomer, vinyl resins, phenol and acetone, has 15 business days from receipt of the citations to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA's area director in Baton Rouge or contest the

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citations and penalties before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Employers and employees with questions about workplace safety and health standards can call OSHA's Baton Rouge Area Office 225-298-5458 or the agency's toll-free hotline at 800-321-OSHA (6742) to report workplace incidents, fatalities or situations posing imminent danger to workers. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to assure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

<http://www.mmdnewswire.com/cites-chemical-plant-in-plaquemine-la-with-14-workplace-safety-and-health-violations-16827.html>

USA, IL, CHICAGO, JANUARY 14 2011. TANKER TRUCK CRASHES, ONE HURT ON BISHOP FORD

Two cars and a tanker truck collided Thursday morning on the Bishop Ford Freeway near south suburban Dolton. The crash occurred at 8:54 a.m. on the northbound Bishop Ford near Sibley Boulevard, according to an Illinois State Police District Chicago trooper. Dolton Fire Chief Jerry McCullough said the truck crashed into two cars, and a woman inside one of the cars had to be cut out. McCullough said she was not hurt and was able to walk around after the extrication. "One car was dinged but the other was pretty much crushed," the chief said of the cars. The truck did not leak fuel, according to another trooper who said police remained on the scene at 10:30 a.m.

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/3293546-418/cars-truck-bishop-ford-according.html>

GERMANY, ST. GOARSHAUSEN, JANUARY 14 2011. SHIP CARRYING ACID CAPSIZES IN GERMANY >> 2 OFF 4 CREW MEMBERS MISSING

Daniel Roland

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

 **Photo's [2]:**

http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/01/13/5830301-ship-carrying-sulfuric-acid-capsizes-in-germany



The 360-meter long Waldorf vessel carrying sulfuric acid capsized in Germany's Rhine River.

A ship carrying 2,400 tonnes of sulphuric acid capsized Thursday on Germany's Rhine river, blocking traffic on one of Europe's busiest waterways amid a frantic search for two crew members. However, fears of an environmental catastrophe appeared to be averted, as the German-flagged vessel's tanks seemed to be intact and initial tests detected no leakage of the highly corrosive acid into the river. "Measurements taken by the fire brigade have shown that no acid has leaked out of the ship," said Martin Mauermann, a spokesman for Germany's Federal Shipping Administration. "Shipping is blocked until further notice," he added in a statement. Authorities said that even if some of the chemical had leaked into the Rhine, damage to the environment would have been limited as it would have been rapidly

diluted. Traffic on the river, a major European shipping artery, was suspended immediately following the accident, which took place around 5:00 am (0400 GMT) near Sankt Goar, northwest of the city of Mainz in western Germany. The German-flagged ship, the Waldhof, measures roughly 110 metres (360 feet) long and was lying on its left side in the water. Authorities are still investigating what could have caused the accident. An AFP photographer at the scene said at least two-thirds of the tanker was below the waterline and that the banks of the river were buzzing with fire engines and rescue vehicles while police boats scoured the water. Meanwhile, helicopters equipped with infrared cameras circled the area in what authorities described as a "frantic" search for the two missing crew members. "Two members of the crew were rescued but two others are missing," river police spokesman Paul-Heinz Meurisch said. Following a bitter cold snap in Germany, temperatures are now milder, but the water is still around four degrees celsius (39 degrees Fahrenheit). "The chances of finding both of them alive are unfortunately very slight," said one police spokesman. One crew member missing is German, the other Czech, authorities said. The two other crew members were taken to hospital suffering from shock. The Waldhof was carrying sulphuric acid loaded at Ludwigshafen from BASF, the world's biggest chemical group, a spokesman for the company told AFP. It was steaming north towards the sea for the Belgian port of Antwerp. "You could see the ship perfectly fine on the radar and then it suddenly disappeared," said a police spokesman. The accident occurred near a celebrated rock outcropping known as "Lorelei", named after a mythical nymph who was said to lure mariners to their deaths with enchanting, hypnotic songs. The site is above a

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particularly narrow point in the river where the current is very strong and many accidents have taken place in the past. The scenic gorge is a major tourist draw, with holidaymakers from around the world enjoying cruises up and down the busy river. Melting snow and rains have swollen waterways in the western German region but it was not immediately known if that was a factor in the accident. In 2001, the Stolt Rotterdam caught fire while lying at the quays of the Bayer chemical company on the Rhine with around 1,800 tonnes of nitric acid aboard. It took 10 hours for some 150 firefighters to bring the fire under control.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gDkmJCQgdwQhmyYwTkC0QyR6iB7g?docId=CNG.a1580f1f6cc9ea5d5f547946e48f475f.451>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, INDUSTRY, JANUARY 14 2011. CHEMICAL TANKER TRUCK DRIVER FALLS TO HIS DEATH AT INDUSTRY DAIRY PLANT

thomas himes

A man slipped from a tanker truck Wednesday and fell to his death at a dairy packaging facility. Larry Hughes, 63, of Carson was pronounced dead at 11:48 a.m. outside WhiteWave Foods, 18275 Arenth Ave., Los Angeles County coroner's Capt. John Kades said. Workplace safety investigators from the Department of Industrial Relations and Los Angeles County sheriff's homicide detectives responded to the scene. Initial reports indicated Hughes was attempting to climb down from the top of a stainless steel tanker truck when he slipped off the ladder and fell to the asphalt below, Department of Industrial Relations spokeswoman Krisann Chasarik said. Hughes drove tanker trucks for Bulk Transportation. He was delivering chemicals to the facility when he died, according to a statement from WhiteWave Foods. "Our hearts and sympathy go out to the family of the deceased during this painful and difficult time," WhiteWave Foods management said in a written statement. The Los Angeles County Department of Coroner will perform an examination of Hughes to determine his cause of death, Kades said. WhiteWave Foods produces and sells nationally branded dairy and dairy-related products, according to the company's website. The company's Industry location has not been fined or cited by the Department of Industrial Relations in the past several year. A state database does not show any recent accident investigations at the Industry location, Chasarik said. Chasarik said the state's investigation of Hughes' death is in its preliminary stages. "We are taking this situation very seriously and are fully cooperating with the authorities as they undergo a thorough investigation into the matter," WhiteWave management said in a written statement.

http://www.sgvtribune.com/news/ci_17080734

CANADA, VANCOUVER, JANUARY 14 2012. LEAKY UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SUSPECTED, ITS LOCATION UNKNOWN

james weldon

Municipal staff are trying to track the source of an oil slick in a West Vancouver stream that has created a smell so pungent some neighbours have felt compelled to seal their windows and keep children away from the watercourse. Residents in and around the 1100-block of Queens Avenue, a quiet neighbourhood near Sentinel secondary, say they began complaining about a strong odour of petroleum six weeks ago or more. The source appears to be an oily slick that showed up in a small stream in the area just as heavy rains arrived in the fall. "We have to keep all our windows closed on the house because of the fumes," said John Saldat, whose property backs on to the stream. "When the wind's coming from a certain direction, the fumes are so bad that we can't even sleep at night." It's not just an environmental issue, he said. Saldat has become concerned the chemical might pose a threat to health since a worker complained to him that he had developed an acute headache after performing a survey in the area. Some neighbours have told him they have been keeping their children away from the stream as a precaution, he said. Both the district and the provincial ministry of the environment are aware of the problem. Municipal workers have put straw and small containment booms in the stream in an effort to stop the slick's spread and are checking them regularly, but they have not yet identified the source. To date, West Vancouver has got as far as sending letters to seven homeowners in the area asking permission to come on to their properties with metal detectors. It's too early to say where the chemical is coming from, said Brent Leigh, West Vancouver's deputy chief administrative officer, but he speculated that an old buried heating oil tank might be the culprit. Thousands of such tanks are believed to be buried next to homes all over the municipality. The aging containers, many of which are filled with toxic heating oil, have created a headache in recent years for homeowners and local government as they have begun to disintegrate. If the top of the container at the Queens Avenue site has been breached recently, then rainwater will be seeping in, pushing oil up and out -- explaining why the smell seems to worsen in wet weather. "But I wouldn't even want to print that, cause that's just guessing," said Leigh. Municipal records don't show an oil tank in the area, but information on the containers' locations is notoriously incomplete. To Saldat, an engineer, it's a no-brainer. The land around the spill used to be a single large estate nicknamed "the farm," he said. About 30 years ago, the property was subdivided and new homes put up on the resulting smaller parcels. Since underground oil tanks fell largely out of

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favour before that happened, the leaking container, if there is one, is more than likely buried next to the original farmhouse -- which happens to be the home next door to his. And to his eyes, it appears the slick starts at the downhill edge of that property. It at least seems like a logical place to start looking, he said. Leigh said the municipality is aware of the neighbourhood's history, but that the issue might not be so simple. Given the size of the original property, it's possible the tank might have been buried some distance uphill from the farmhouse for ease of access. The district was hoping to have property access issues resolved by the end of Tuesday, and a contractor on site looking for the source by the end of the week. Leigh is hopeful it will be easy to find and dig out. If it proves to be elusive, the project will likely become a contaminated site investigation, which would drag things out and add significant expense. "If somebody put a house on top of (it), it could take some time to scope it out." The municipality generally requires homeowners to cover the cost of tank removal, but given the urgency of the situation, it will likely just bite the bullet this time, said Leigh. "We'd be more concerned about getting it addressed," he said. "The cost we'd incur to pull it out of the ground is a much lesser cost than worrying about who'd pay for it. If the jurisdiction of the tank isn't clear, we'd likely just get it done." Technically, the project involves multiple levels of government, but in reality, the province's role is somewhat limited, said Leigh. "They show great interest in calling our staff (and asking) how we are proceeding in solving the problem," he said.

<http://www.nsnews.com/news/Leaky+underground+storage+tank+suspected+location+unknown/4096907/story.html>

USA, GUAM, JANUARY 14 2011. GEPA: DRAFT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REGULATIONS READY FOR REVIEW

The Guam EPA has issued a Notice of Public Review and Comment on Draft Underground Storage Tank Regulations. GEPA wants to notify the general public and other interested parties of the availability of the draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle I Regulations. The draft RCRA Subtitle I Underground Storage Tank Regulations are proposed and open for public review and comment pursuant to 5 GCA, Chapter 9 Administrative Adjudication Law. The public is invited to provide comment between January 03 and February 03. Written comments must be received or postmarked no later than February 03 to be considered by the Agency. Written comments must be submitted by either hand delivery to Guam EPA's Main Office at 17-3304 Mariner Avenue, Tiyan, Guam 96913 or by mailing to: Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, P.O. Box 22439, GMF, Barrigada, Guam 96921, Attention: Mr. Vincent J. Pereira. The draft RCRA Subtitle I Underground Storage Tank Regulations is available for public review and comment at Guam EPA's Main Office located at 17-3304 Mariner Avenue, Tiyan, Guam 96913, telephone: (671)475-1658/9. For further information, please call Michael S. O'Mallan or Don Quinata at (671) 475-1658/9.

http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=10616:draft-underground-storage-tank-regulation&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156

USA, LA, GRAND BOIS, JANUARY 14 2011. OIL-WASTE PERMITS CHALLENGED

nikki buskey

Grand Bois residents called for more testing of the air, water and soil around an oil-waste storage and treatment site Tuesday night as they gathered to protest the company's latest permit applications. The state Department of Environmental Quality led a public hearing in Grand Bois as U.S. Liquids seeks to renew its water-runoff permit and obtain its first-ever air-quality permit. The company has stored oilfield waste in open pits near the Terrebonne-Lafourche border since it bought the site from Campbell Wells in the early 1990s. For decades, residents have claimed fumes from the pits, runoff from levees that ring the property and dust from the site have sickened people in their community and contaminated waterways. The Department of Environmental Quality is investigating whether U.S. Liquids should be penalized for failing to seek an air permit sooner, an investigation triggered by the company's permit applications. The investigation will determine whether the company intended to delay applying for a permit, what health or environmental risk the company's unpermitted emissions may have posed and how long it has been operating without a permit. There is no time line for the investigation. "When you bring someone to this community and show them these pits, they can't believe it," said Grand Bois resident Danny Friloux. "It's like a Third World country. For the state to sit here and tell us this is non-hazardous waste is beyond belief. It needs to be handled in a hazardous-waste facility, not dumped in a swamp. As U.S. residents, we have a right to clean air and clean water." The water-runoff permit would allow U.S. Liquids to discharge treated wastewater into St. Louis Canal, which runs from Grand Bois to Pointe-aux-Chenes and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. U.S. Liquids President Manny Gonzales said the application is just a renewal of a permit that has been in place for a decade or longer and that the amount of wastewater discharged into St. Louis Canal is minimal and well-treated. Gonzales said the water his company discharges is 'non-contact,' meaning it has not come into contact with oil and gas. According to the permit application, it is water from the facility's access roads, office and maintenance-shop areas and runoff from "reuse material," oilfield waste that has been processed and stockpiled at U.S.

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Liquids. Gonzales said discharges are tested for contaminants to make sure the water is safe. The company has always complied with the terms of that permit, he added. U.S. Liquids officials left quickly after the meeting, and a Courier and Daily Comet reporter was unable to ask further questions. Wilma Subra, a New Iberia toxicologist who has worked with Grand Bois residents for 15 years in their fight against the oil-waste facility, spoke at the meeting on behalf of the environmental nonprofit Louisiana Environmental Action Network. Subra rebutted claims that the facility has followed the terms of the runoff permit. She said that according to records, in February, U.S. Liquids made a stormwater discharge that exceeded its permit's level of "total suspended solids," the pollutant particles allowed in discharged water. U.S. Liquids blamed the discharge on heavy rain caused by a "severe winter," something that could easily happen again and again, she said. She said the facility also releases detectable quantities of heavy metals like arsenic, total chromium, copper, lead and zinc. While those heavy metals aren't discharged at a rate that exceeds the permit limits, she said, they still cause the water quality in St. Louis Canal to suffer. Regarding the air permit, Gonzales said the company is seeking to replace diesel engines that run the company's waste-injection wells with electric engines to decrease some of the nitrogen oxide emissions created by the facility. According to the permit, the facility emits nearly 73 tons of nitrogen oxide per year, an air pollutant emitted by engines that can cause smog. Subra said the Department of Environmental Quality should require U.S. Liquids to limit toxic emissions from its open waste pits. She pointed out that the second-largest source of emissions listed in the permit application comes from the facility's waste treatment pits, which take in exploration and production wastes from onshore and offshore oil-and-gas companies, according to the permit application. That waste releases more than 34 tons of "volatile organic compounds" per year, chemicals emitted from oil-and-gas waste as it breaks down. "These hydrocarbons consist of toxic chemicals such as benzene and other known and suspected human cancer-causing agents," Subra said. The chemicals "are released into the air from the treatment cells on an ongoing basis, 24 hours per day, seven days per week." Drivers on La. 24 come into contact with the chemicals, and they've caused a lot of problems for residents immediately surrounding the facility, Subra said. Grand Bois resident Sheila Bonin said residents often wake up in the morning with severe headaches from the chemical fumes and spend days buffeted by strong chemical odors wafting off the open waste pits when the wind blows from the east, Grand Bois resident Clarice Friloux asked the Department of Environmental Quality to test the air, water and soil around the Grand Bois facility and make that information available to the public. She also asked the department to train residents to do their own testing. After comments are gathered from the public, agency must respond to each before the permit can be denied or approved and determine whether action is necessary. DEQ may opt to conduct some of the testing requested by residents, said agency spokesman Rodney Mallet. In the past, the department has conducted surprise inspections or brought mobile air-monitoring tools to facilities. Friloux has protested permits for the U.S. Liquids facility for 16 years and said she has seen only one permit denied, and that was because it was a permit U.S. Liquids didn't want. She added that she hopes DEQ will do some of the testing residents are asking for, but if it doesn't, she will contact another agency that will. Residents have until 12:30 p.m. Tuesday to make comments or request information about the permits by contacting Soumaya Ghosn at LDEQ, Public Participation Group, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, La, 70821-4313.

<http://www.houmatoday.com/article/20110112/ARTICLES/110119809/1211/news01?Title=Oil-waste-permits-challenged&tc=ar>

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, JANUARY 14 2011. GUYANA MAN GETS 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR JFK AIRPORT PLOT

 **Watch the Video** http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/132161/guyanese-man-receives-maximum-sentence-in-jfk-terror-plot

A New York court in New York on Thursday sentenced an Islamic militant from Guyana to 15 years in prison for taking part in a plot to blow up the fuel system under John F. Kennedy International Airport, officials said. Abdel Nur last year pleaded guilty to providing material support for the plot planned by former Guyana parliamentarian Abdul Kadir, who last month was sentenced to life in prison, and former airline cargo worker Russell Defreitas, whose sentence is scheduled for next month. According to the court, Nur tried to locate an al-Qaeda explosives expert and introduce the plotters to a leader of a Trinidadian militant group. "Nur believed that the attack would cause extensive damage to the airport and to the New York economy, as well as the loss of numerous lives," the Justice Department said after the sentencing in Brooklyn federal court. Kadir and Defreitas began preparations in 2006 to blow up fuel tanks and the fuel pipeline under the airport, which is located about 12 miles (19 kilometers) from Manhattan, the court said. The court found that Defreitas, a naturalized US citizen from Guyana, initiated the plot, using his experience of airport fuel depots. He recruited Kadir and others and took video surveillance of JFK airport to show Kadir back in Guyana. A fourth alleged plotter, Kareem Ibrahim, faces trial on the same charges as Defreitas and Kadir.

Related Stories

- [Man who pleaded guilty in NYC airport terror plot gets 15 years](#)

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- [Man sentenced in Kennedy Airport plot](#)
- [Convicted Kennedy Airport plotter gets 15 years](#)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gFftRZpDleH6TTH6OpzCkQQsuKPQ?docId=CNG.1c57202696bf2f7700f8d32ba6a5b370.981>

USA, MI, REDFORD, JANUARY 14 2011. WORKERS 'LUCKY TO GET OUT' OF TANK THAT EXPLODED

pat murphy

Luck played an important role in the explosion of a Redford Township company that provides tank lining services to industries where corrosion and abrasion problems exist. Two workers were lucky to escape without serious injury, according to Fire Chief James Gomulka, and early air sampling indicated no toxic fumes were emitted when a tank exploded at the DuraTech Systems headquarters, 12546 Beech Daly, about 9:25 a.m. Tuesday. The workers heard a whistling or hissing sound as they were cleaning a large tank, the chief said, and they got out. "I can't say it was in the nick of time," he said, "but it was fortuitous they got out when they did." The tank was a large, mobile structure, the chief said, the kind that is usually transported by rail. Gomulka said company officials told him the sound was an indication that pressure was building, and the workers recognized something was wrong. Later in the day he was told the workers were "fit to go," the chief said. The force of the blast, however, was felt or heard some distance away. Workers at the Leo Snage Public Services Building, 12200 Beech Daly, reported feeling the shock wave. And the supervisor's office reported receiving calls about the blast from as far away as Inkster and Five Mile roads. Supervisor Tracey Schultz Kobylarz quoted a consultant for the Environmental Protection Agency as saying air samples indicated "trace" amounts of pollution in the immediate area of the blast but no measurable contamination of the company premises. As they did previously, company officials Wednesday declined to comment except to acknowledge the company has about 20 employees.

<http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20110113/NEWS10/101130616/1027/Workers+%E2%80%98lucky+to+get+out++of+tank+that+exploded>

USA, LA, LAKE CHARLES, JANUARY 14 2011. MINOR PIPELINE LEAK AT RUTHERFORD BEACH

theresa Schmidt

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=13837744>



U.S. Coast Guard Officials and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality are at the scene of what's characterized as a minor pipeline leak at Rutherford Beach in Cameron Parish. To get to it you have to drive nearly five miles west from the public part of Rutherford Beach. Coast Guard Spokesman Lieutenant Michelle Ferguson in Lake Charles says a production line from an oil and gas line leaked-- but it's contained. They discovered it Tuesday. Ferguson says the responsible party, Forza, immediately shut off flow as soon as the leak was discovered. "Basically, Forza took immediate action to shut in that pipeline. And the remaining product that was left was approximately one barrel. Right now they are conducting cleanup efforts and they have been conducting cleanup efforts since Tuesday night. Right now they've created kind of a containment field. So, they have berms on each side. The berms are the raised hilly area that you see behind you and that's basically helping to contain it. They also have containment boom at the end of the berms and you're

looking at cranes and pumps that are basically getting all of the sand out of that area because they need to get down to clamp the pipeline." They estimate less than a barrel got out-- some in the water and some on the beach and those here say cleanup is finished. Officials say they'll be working round the clock to try to clamp the pipeline. Ferguson explains they must dig 25 feet down to repair the pipeline. "They're using two pumps, one on each side and this is going to help them go faster with getting the sand out of the way so they can get down to the pipeline. So you're seeing two discharge hoses as they're connecting that to the pumps." She says they will replace pipeline in the months to come which Ferguson says was already planned for expansion. No word tonight what caused the leak.

<http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=13837744>

CHINA, XI'AN, JANUARY 14 2011. BLAST AT FIRECRACKER WORKSHOP IN NORTHWEST CHINA KILLS 9

A large explosion at a firecracker workshop in northwest China on Wednesday afternoon killed at least nine people, officials said on Thursday. The state-run Xinhua news agency said the blast happened at around 5.30 p.m. local time at a rural

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household in Shendu Village of Tianjiazhuang Town in Shaanxi Province's Fengxiang County. Most of the victims were inside the house when the explosion happened. A preliminary investigation by local police revealed that the explosion was caused by the illegal production of firecrackers with explosives. The organizers of the unlicensed production are being sought and are believed to have fled the scene. About an hour after the explosion, rescue workers were able to pull six injured people from the debris and sent them to a local hospital. Four of them died at the hospital by 3 a.m. local time while rescuers recovered five more bodies. Two people who were near the house were also injured, but their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening. Major accidents involving fireworks are rare but occur more frequently towards the end of the year when demand is high. Many of these accidents happen in China as it is the world's largest manufacturer and exporter of fireworks. But now the western New Year has passed, the traditional Chinese New Year holiday is approaching. In response, the Chinese government has pledged to investigate and crack down on the illegal production of firecrackers. On December 17, fourteen people were killed when a truck carrying fireworks fuses hit a power pole in central China, causing sparks from fallen cables to ignite the fuses. A large explosion as a result destroyed the truck and several houses nearby. And on December 12, eight people were killed and several others were injured when a room stored with fireworks exploded in a busy street in eastern China. Other notable fireworks-related accidents happened on May 13, 2000 when twenty-three people were killed and nearly 950 others were injured when a massive fireworks explosion devastated a neighborhood in the Dutch city of Enschede. And on February 1, 2008, twenty-two people were killed and more than 100 others were injured when an unlicensed fireworks factory exploded in the Turkish capital of Istanbul.

<http://www.islandcrisis.net/2011/01/blast-at-firecracker-workshop-in-northwest-china-kills-9/>

CHINA, HONG KONG, JANUARY 14 2011. TWO SUSPENDED FOR FUEL BLUNDER AT GAS STATION

samson lee

Caltex has suspended two employees who mistakenly filled up an underground unleaded petrol storage tank with 3,000 liters of diesel fuel, affecting 22 motorists. It has also offered to pay the costs involved in getting the diesel removed from the cars. The incident happened at a Caltex petrol station in Aberdeen, pictured, on Monday. The error was only discovered about two hours later. Caltex said all but one of the customers have been contacted and that the reason the company has been unable to contact this last driver is because cash was used to pay for 6.5 liters. "We will check and provide maintenance for the customers," a spokesman said. Caltex will be responsible for all maintenance costs. The company has informed the Customs and Excise Department about the incident.

http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?pp_cat=11&art_id=107040&sid=30912973&con_type=1

USA, WA, KENNEWICK, JANUARY 14 2011. KENNEWICK MAN'S CLOTHES IGNITE IN CAR

A Kennewick man is being treated at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle after his shirt caught on fire while he was driving. K.J. Glenn, 52, spilled a small amount of gasoline on his shirt when he filled his vehicle at 3:44 p.m. Wednesday at the SunMart on 27th Avenue in Kennewick, according to Kennewick police reports. As he drove off, he lit a cigarette, which ignited the gasoline on his shirt, according to police. Glenn and two men riding in the vehicle climbed out of it while it still was moving, according to police. The driverless vehicle hit another car and then a flagpole in the SunMart parking lot, according to police. Glenn, who was the only one injured, had first- and second-degree burns.

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/01/13/1325186/kennewick-mans-clothes-ignite.html>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JANUARY 14 2011. MARATHON BOARD OKAYS DOWNSTREAM SPIN-OFF



The Board of Directors of Marathon Oil Corp. (Marathon) announced Thursday that it has approved moving forward with plans to spin off Marathon's downstream business, creating two independent, highly focused energy companies. Marathon Petroleum Corp. (MPC), to be headquartered in Findlay, Ohio, is expected to be the fifth largest U.S. refiner with a top-tier downstream portfolio of strategically aligned assets concentrated mainly in the Midwest, Gulf Coast and Southeast regions of the U.S. MPC is anticipated to trade on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "MPC". The spin-off is expected to be tax-free and to be effective June 30, 2011. Marathon Oil Corp. (MRO) will be a global upstream company with a strong portfolio of assets delivering defined growth leveraged to crude oil production and with exploration upside. MRO will continue to be based in Houston, Texas and trade on the NYSE under its ticker symbol "MRO". "The substantial improvement in the global business and financial environments over

the last two years has created the conditions under which we believe it is now appropriate to move forward with the formation of two strong independent energy companies. Marathon has a long history of adapting to changing market and business

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conditions and at this point in our almost 125 year history, there is a compelling strategic rationale for this transformation," said Clarence P. Cazalot, Jr., Marathon president and CEO. "Complementary to the much improved economic environment, Marathon has largely completed a program of significant investment in both our upstream and downstream businesses that will provide each company with a solid foundation to be a leader in its respective industry. We expect these two strong and competitive companies will each have a sound platform for continued long-term shareholder value growth. "Through experienced leadership, highly skilled and dedicated people and excellent assets, these two companies will be poised for continued profitable growth. While we will move forward as two independent companies, Marathon's long-held core values will continue to underpin the decisions and activities of each company. These values include a focus on operational excellence and reliability, capital and financial discipline, a commitment to health and safety, environmental stewardship, honesty and integrity, corporate citizenship and working as a high performance team," concluded Cazalot. The benefits of creating these two operationally and financially strong energy companies include:

- Enhanced flexibility to pursue tailored strategies - Each company should have a greater ability to make business and operational decisions in the best interests of its business and to allocate capital and corporate resources with a focus on achieving its own strategic priorities. A more focused business strategy should also result in an expanded portfolio of attractive growth opportunities for each company.
- Superior transparency - improved investor focus - As independent energy companies, analysis and investment decisions will be more transparent, allow for more specific comparisons against peers, competitors, benchmarks and performance metrics and thus facilitate evaluation assessments which will likely make the two companies appeal to different sets of shareholders seeking to invest in specific segments of the oil and gas industry. With improved investor focus, it is also anticipated each company will realize a reduction in their individual cost of equity.
- Strengthened ability to attract and retain talent - More focused business models will enhance each company's ability to attract and retain individuals with the appropriate skill sets as well as to better align compensation and incentives with the performance of these different businesses.

Commenting on the benefits of spinning off the downstream businesses, Gary R. Heminger, Marathon Oil Corporation downstream executive vice president and designated president and CEO of MPC, said, "With a fully aligned downstream business Marathon Petroleum Corporation will have the ability to pursue a strategy specific to the strengths we have developed over many years. We will remain focused on growing shareholder value, retaining and attracting talented employees, further building the valued relationships we have with our many customers and business partners, and improving the transparency of our business segments."

Operating Segments

MRO will operate and report through three segments: Exploration & Production, Oil Sands Mining and Integrated Gas. MPC will also operate and report through three segments: Refining & Marketing, Speedway and Pipeline Transportation.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=25306&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1

NEW ZEALAND, WAIKATO, JANUARY 14 2011. BOY A 'WALKING FIREBALL' AS PETROL FUMES IGNITE

mike watso



Scary Accident: An intense fire, caused when a cigarette lighter ignited petrol fumes, gutted the sleepout, burned a bed and melted guttering on the nearby house.

An 11-year-old Rotorua boy who used a cigarette lighter to find his way inside a darkened sleepout, became "a walking fireball" when the lighter ignited petrol fumes. The boy, Richard Faataape, suffered serious burns to his lower body and legs when his clothes caught fire about 5.20am yesterday. A 15-year-old friend who was in the sleepout at Owkata, grabbed the boy and threw him outside to douse him with water. "It was really scary, it happened so quickly," said Peyton, the younger boy's sister. "We were woken up by his loud screaming. We came out of the house and saw him outside. "He was a walking fireball, his clothes were burning off him. "He was in a lot of pain, he could not stand under the shower for long because of his burns." A neighbour arrived soon after to pour a bucket of water over the boy before he was taken next door and put under a shower. Neighbour Louise said the boy was red with burns. "His boxers had stuck to him. I did what anybody would do and tried to help him." The boy's mother, Agnes Faataape, drove him to Rotorua Hospital and he was later transferred to Waikato Hospital. A spokeswoman said the boy was in a comfortable condition in a general ward. The 15-year-old boy suffered minor

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burns and was discharged from Rotorua Hospital yesterday. Rotorua Fire Service investigating officer Stu Bootten said the two boys had arrived home in the dark. The sleepout had no lights so they used the lighter to find their way inside. But the flame from the lighter ignited fumes from an overturned petrol can that had been stored in the sleepout, setting the building alight. Mr Bootten said the 11-year-old would have suffered even more serious burns if his friend had not been able to rip some of his clothes off him. A charred pair of polyester boxers belonging to the boy was left lying on the back lawn. The fire gutted the sleepout, burned a bed and melted guttering on the house three metres away.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/4540065/Boy-a-walking-fireball-as-petrol-fumes-ignite>

CANADA, VANCOUVER, JANUARY 14 2011. CHILDREN KEPT INSIDE AS CITY SEARCHES FOR OIL SLICK SOURCE

City staff in West Vancouver are searching for the source of an oil slick in a local stream, fumes from which have caused some neighbours to seal their windows and keep children away from the water. Residents in and around the 1100-block of Queens Avenue say they first complained about a strong odour of petroleum at least six weeks ago. The smell seems to be coming from an oily slick that appeared in a small area stream just as heavy rains arrived in the fall. "We have to keep all our windows closed on the house because of the fumes," said John Saldat, whose property backs onto the stream. "When the wind's coming from a certain direction, the fumes are so bad that we can't even sleep at night." Neighbours have told him they have been keeping their children away from the stream as a precaution, he said. Both the district and the provincial ministry of the environment are aware of the problem. Municipal workers have put straw and small containment booms in the stream in an effort to stop the slick's spread, but they have not yet identified its source. West Vancouver has sent letters to seven homeowners asking permission to come on to their properties with metal detectors. Brent Leigh, West Vancouver's deputy chief administrative officer, speculated that an old buried heating-oil tank might be the culprit. Thousands of such tanks are believed to be buried next to homes all over the municipality. The aging containers, many of which are filled with toxic heating oil, have created a headache in recent years for homeowners and the local government as they have begun to deteriorate.

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/news/Children+kept+inside+city+searches+slick+source/4102053/story.html>

BULGARIA, SOFIA, JANUARY 14 2011. BULGARIAN REVENUE AGENCY SHUTS 269 PETROL STATIONS ACROSS BULGARIA

A total of 269 petrol stations across Bulgaria have been forced to close by the Bulgarian Revenue Agency (NRA) or did not bother opening for business, because they had failed to comply with new regulations in force since January 8 2011. Starting from January 8, all cash registers in petrol stations were supposed to be wired directly to the NRA. On the first day of the measure, NRA agents closed down 76 establishments, while 90 others decided to close down themselves to avoid sanctions. On January 12 alone, the NRA shut 47 petrol stations and another 56 remained closed for business on their own accord. In all, as of January 13 2011, 269 petrol stations across Bulgaria remain shut. The strategy aims to curtail illegal contraband, and funnel between 250-300 million leva into the state Budget. According to the report, in the next few days, all petrol stations in Bulgaria will be investigated by agents, who have vowed to fine establishments up to 10 000 leva if they flout the new regulations. Alternatively, they could be closed for business altogether. The NRA say that 3000 petrol stations in Bulgaria account for 400 million leva in monthly turnover.

http://www.sofiaecho.com/2011/01/13/1024377_bulgarian-revenue-agency-shuts-269-petrol-stations-across-bulgaria-update

CANADA, B.C., QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND, JANUARY 14 2011. REMOTE B.C. FISHING RESORT FINED FOR DIESEL SPILL



Rivers Inlet Resort, in the Queen Charlotte Sound, and its director, Richard Shapland, were convicted Tuesday under the Fisheries Act following a diesel spill into the marine environment.

The director of a remote fishing resort on B.C.'s central coast has been fined for a diesel fuel spill into the pristine waters of Queen Charlotte Sound. Richard Shapland has been fined \$15,000 under the Fisheries Act and the Rivers Inlet Resort was handed a \$5,000 penalty. The fines were assessed after Shapland and the resort were convicted Tuesday in provincial court. On Oct. 3, 2008, 4,000 litres of diesel leaked from an aboveground storage tank at the fishing lodge. Environment Canada says an investigation revealed a lack of due diligence by Shapland and the resort, and a violation under the Fisheries Act. Rivers Inlet resort is only accessible by air

and is located about 400 kilometres north of Vancouver.

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2011/01/12/bc-diesel-spill-fine.html>

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USA, LA, ST. GABRIEL, JANUARY 14 2010. MECHANIC DIES, FOUND IN TANK

A mechanic was pronounced dead at a hospital after he was found unresponsive in a tanker trailer filled with nitrogen gas, police reported Tuesday. The St. Gabriel Police Department responded to a medical emergency at Quality Carriers trucking company Monday afternoon, Capt. Curtis Tatney said. The man, whose name was not made public pending the outcome of an investigation, was taken to Baton Rouge General Medical Center-Bluebonnet, where he was pronounced dead, Tatney said. Prior to filling the trailer with cargo, the company had pumped nitrogen gas into it to check for leaks, Tatney said.

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/113326684.html>

USA, CA, FRESNO, JANUARY 14 2011. FRESNO FIREFIGHTERS CONTAIN GAS LEAK

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=13830765>



Fresno Firefighters said they have contained a gas leak. The leak was reported just after 5 a.m. Wednesday at the City of Fresno Corporation Yard on G Street and Divisadero. Fire Battalion Chief Charles Tobias said a tanker truck carrying about 20,000 gallons of flammable liquid methane had a leak. The leak is said to have developed from the piping or fixtures under the truck. Ten firefighters that are cross-trained as hazardous materials specialists stopped the leak. Firefighters said it did not appear to be a large release, and the liquid methane was contained to the immediate area. It's still not known exactly how much of the methane was released. Environmental Health workers were also advised of the situation.

<http://www.kmph.com/Global/story.asp?S=13830765>

USA, CA, SANTA MARIA, JANUARY 14 2011. TANKER TRUCK FIRE BRIEFLY CLOSES MAIN STREET IN SANTA MARIA

An empty tanker truck caught fire in the 1300 block of W. Main Street in Santa Maria this evening, briefly prompting closure of the street. Firefighters from Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County responded to the call at 6:29 p.m., and found the cab of the truck engulfed in flames. The driver escaped and there were no injuries as a result of the blaze, which burned for about 10 minutes before it was put out, according to firefighters. "Actually it went very well and was over very quickly," said Santa Maria Battalion Chief Scott Johnson. "We confirmed there was no hazmat involved." The truck, which normally carried fertilizer, was owned by Santa Maria-based Guggia Farms Trucking. Fertilizer can be flammable so it could have been very dangerous if it had been loaded, Johnson said. The flames destroyed the cab and part of the first tanker, causing an estimated \$50,000 damage. The cause of the blaze is under investigation, but fire personnel said it appeared to have started in the engine compartment.

http://www.santamariatimes.com/news/local/article_98143158-1dfc-11e0-b527-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, WA, SEATTLE, JANUARY 14 2011. WA STATE LAWMAKERS WANT BETTER OIL SPILL RESPONSE

phuong le

A state legislator wants to require oil tankers to have better cleanup equipment and improve response coordination in the event of a catastrophic oil spill in Washington waters. The BP oil spill that marred the Gulf Coast highlights the need to protect Washington state waters, said Rep. Christine Rolfes, D-Bainbridge Island, who plans to introduce a bill Wednesday. "There's a general concern that we're susceptible to an oil spill ourselves," she said Tuesday, noting that 4,000 tankers carrying 15 billion gallons of oil travel Washington waters each year. Rolfes and others want oil tankers to invest in equipment that can clean up oil in high waves and heavy currents, and detect oil at night. The proposal also would require oil companies to recruit commercial vessels to aid in oil spill response. Frank Holmes, director of the Northwest region for the Western States Petroleum Association, said Tuesday he had not reviewed the proposal. "Washington state already has one of the best spill systems in the country and we've seen a significant improvement in reductions of oil spills," he said. Meanwhile, a presidential panel investigating the Gulf oil spill released a final report Tuesday saying more needs to be done to reduce the chances of another large-scale disaster. BP PLC's April 20 well blowout and rig explosion killed 11 people and spewed millions of gallons of crude into the sea. Rolfes said her proposal addresses lessons learned from that oil spill, including setting up a system to manage local emergency workers and oil recovery volunteers. The companies would pay for the measures. Curt Hart, a

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spokesman with the Washington Department of Ecology, said the agency has broadly supported the proposed measures for years. "These are things that make perfect sense," he said. Rolfe said she believes the state is well protected against moderate oil spills — those of up to 10,000 gallons — but would be ill prepared to handle more massive spills. Unlike in the Gulf Coast, where it took time for oil to reach the shoreline, "in Puget Sound you don't have the luxury of waiting. It's like a big bath tub," she said. The last major spill in Washington waters occurred in 2004, when the oil tanker Polar Texas, owned by ConocoPhillips, spilled 7,200 gallons of crude oil into Dalco Passage near Tacoma, Hart said. The Washington Department of Ecology estimates that a major spill in state waters could result in nearly \$11 billion in economic losses, along with the environmental damage. "It's time for the industry to step up to the plate and be a part of the solution," said Rep. Zack Hudgins, D-Tukwila, will be co-sponsoring the bill.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-12/wa-state-lawmakers-want-better-oil-spill-response.html>

USA, CA, LANSING, DELTA TWP, JANUARY 14 2011. SPILL OF 4,000 GALLONS OF FUEL OIL BEING CLEANED UP IN DELTA TOWNSHIP

Approximately 4,000 gallons of fuel oil spilled at the Lansing Board of Water and Light's Erickson Power Plant in Delta Township on Monday night. The cause, according to a BWL official, was human error. Misaligned valves on a storage tank caused it to overflow as the fuel oil was being pumped in. The oil was cleared from the site by an environmental cleanup firm on Tuesday and Wednesday, said BWL spokesman Mark Nixon. Utility officials had not spoken publicly about the spill before today but did notify state environmental officials along with local fire and emergency management agencies. "There was no risk to public health at any time," Nixon said. The spill occurred entirely on BWL property and did not migrate away from the site, he said, and "there is no lake, river, pond or other ground-level water source nearby." While BWL officials do not believe much of the oil seeped into the frozen ground, it has hired a contractor to excavate more than a foot of soil from the 2,500-square-foot area of the spill. That work is expected to be complete next week.

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20110113/NEWS01/301130014/Spill+of+4+000+gallons+of+fuel+oil+being+cleaned+up+in+Delta+Township>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, JANUARY 14 2011. BP ENGINEER JOHN GUIDE SINGLED OUT IN PRESIDENTIAL SPILL REPORT

joe carroll



The Transocean Ltd. Development Driller II rig during drilling a relief well at the BP Plc Macondo site in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana.

BP Plc engineer John Guide was the "de facto leader" of the team that oversaw the well that caused the largest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, according to a U.S. presidential panel's investigative report. Guide was named 14 times in the 380-page report issued today by the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, more than any other BP manager or executive, including former Chief Executive Officer Tony Hayward, who was ousted from the leadership of Europe's second-largest energy company in October. The report is the second federal review to find that Guide was responsible for vetoing design elements that could have prevented the spill. The panel's report follows the U.S. Coast Guard-Interior Department hearings last year in attempting to unwind the organizational structure of BP and the other companies involved in the Macondo well. "There's a magnifying glass on all of the companies involved to figure out where does responsibility ultimately lie," said Gianna Bern, founder of Brookshire Advisory and Research Inc., a Chicago-based firm that provides risk-management advice to energy companies. "It's very hard to ascertain within an organization of this size who should have been doing what when." Justice Department officials are investigating the individuals and companies involved in the disaster to determine whether criminal charges are

justified. The "fairly complex" organizational structure of BP and other companies involved in the Macondo project has made it more difficult for regulators and investigators to pinpoint individual blame, said Bern, a former BP crude trader.

Macondo Leader

Guide emerged last year during hearings of a U.S. Coast Guard-Interior Department board as one of the critical decision makers in the weeks leading up to the disaster that killed 11 rig workers 40 miles (64 kilometers) off the Louisiana coast. As wells-team leader, Guide was responsible for vetting and approving each step in the design and drilling of the well. Guide vetoed a proposal to install equipment that may have prevented explosive natural gas from seeping into the well, the presidential panel said in today's report. Only Brian Morel, a drilling engineer who was lower-ranking than Guide in BP's chain

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of command, was mentioned more often in the report. Morel, who was named 17 times, was aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig during the April 20 disaster and was among the 115 survivors who escaped on life boats or by jumping into the sea. The report's singling out of Guide comes five days after Co-Chairman William Reilly said BP was the "centrally responsible company in the Macondo blowout." Guide, a University of Pittsburgh-trained engineer, led the \$154.6 million Macondo project from an office complex in Houston at the time of the April 20 blowout that left 17 workers injured and destroyed the \$365 million vessel. The well leaked crude into the Gulf for 87 days, shutting thousands of square miles of fishing grounds and beaches, before it was capped.

Susceptible Well

Four days before the explosion, Guide overruled recommendations by BP and [Halliburton Co.](http://www.halliburton.com) technicians to more than triple the number of centralizers used to keep the well's metal casing pipe centered while cement was poured around the sides, the panel said, citing internal BP memos. Halliburton, the Houston-based provider of cement for the well, warned BP that failure to use more centralizers left the well susceptible to a gas influx. BP engineer Gregory Walz urged Guide to heed Halliburton's advice and told his boss that 15 additional centralizers could be shipped to the rig, the panel said. Guide rejected the plan to use the extra centralizers, saying they were the wrong design, the panel said. "The process by which BP arrived at the decision to use only six centralizers at Macondo illuminates the flaws in BP's management and design procedures, as well as poor communication between BP and Halliburton," the panel said in today's report.

'Huge Responsibility'

In testimony before the joint Coast Guard-Interior Department board in August, BP vice presidents Patrick O'Bryan and David Sims singled out Guide as holding ultimate authority for decisions regarding the structure and drilling of the Macondo well. At the time, Coast Guard Captain Hung Nguyen, co-chairman of the eight-person board, said the testimony indicated Guide bore "a huge responsibility." David J. Stetler, a [Chicago](http://www.chicagotribune.com) lawyer representing Guide, didn't immediately respond to a telephone message today seeking comment on the presidential panel's report.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-11/bp-engineer-guide-called-de-facto-leader-of-well-in-panel-s-spill-report.html>

USA, OH, BUTLER CO, LIBERTY TWP, JANUARY 14 2011. FAST RESPONSE AVERTED POTENTIAL DISASTER FROM GASOLINE TANKER SPILL >> DAMS BUILT AROUND SPILL KEPT NEARLY 6,000 GALLONS OF FUEL FROM GETTING INTO POND.

kareem elgazzar & kevin aldrige



Cleanup continues Tuesday at the scene where a tanker truck crashed and leaked fuel on Monday on southbound Interstate 75 near Ohio 129.

An Ohio EPA official is crediting the swift response and tactics of Butler County emergency personnel with averting a potential disaster Monday when a tanker truck overturned on Interstate 75, spilling almost 6,000 gallons of gasoline onto the highway. Dale Farmer, emergency response coordinator for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's southwest district, said four sand and earthen dams built by emergency response crews immediately after the crash helped contain the spill and prevented gasoline from flowing into a nearby retention pond and storm drains. That pond drains into a nearby creek, which winds into residential areas, Farmer said.

"Had (gasoline) got into that retention pond, it would have been a really tough situation," Farmer said. "No telling how long it would have taken us to clean this up without those dams. That really made a huge difference for us." The Ohio EPA is overseeing the cleanup at the site along I-75 near the Ohio 129 exit in Liberty Twp. Clean Harbors Environmental, a company that specializes in hazardous waste disposal, has been contracted by the owner of the tanker truck — Prescott Tank Lines Inc. — to remove contaminated soil and soak up gasoline remnants. Crews remained on the scene until after midnight Monday and resumed cleanup at 9 a.m. Tuesday. About 10 workers spent the day vacuuming a 300-yard-long drainage ditch along the highway, digging up and stockpiling contaminated soil and removing dead vegetation, Farmer said.

Poor Weather Aids Crew

Cold and snowy conditions Tuesday actually aided workers by creating a safer work site, Farmer said. The hard ground made it easier for backhoes and vacuum trucks to maneuver the site. Frigid temperatures also slowed the evaporation of the gasoline, which could have posed an explosive hazard under warmer conditions. "It's not comfortable," Farmer said of the snow and cold, "but it's really helped us out in the response." Farmer said crews would leave absorbent materials along the drainage ditch overnight Tuesday to soak up the gasoline the vacuums could not get. Crews are expected to finish today, and will monitor and maintain the site periodically afterward. "Things could have been a lot different had the initial response not been so good," Farmer said. "We do a lot of these, and this went very well. I've seen these (cleanups) take 10 to 15 hours.

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Eight hours is one of the fastest these ever go.” Farmer said he doesn’t anticipate the EPA handing down any penalties or fines to Prescott Tank Lines for the accident. “They’ve taken responsibility and the cleanup is going to be very costly on their part,” he said. Butler County Emergency Management Agency Director Jeff Galloway said no figures have been released on cleanup costs accrued by the public agencies involved. However, Galloway said under law through emergency management, they can recover costs from the hauler’s insurance company. The spill required assistance of Monroe, Hamilton, Liberty Twp., Fairfield Twp. and West Chester Twp. fire departments. Officials with Prescott Tank Lines did not return calls seeking comment Tuesday. According to EPA and Butler County EMA officials, the tanker truck was carrying 9,000 gallons of gasoline when the accident occurred.

About the Crash

The crash began when Caleigh Lakes, 21, of Franklin, was traveling southbound on I-75 and swerved left to avoid a box in the road, according to officials at the Ohio State Highway Patrol’s Hamilton post. Lakes lost control of her vehicle, struck the concrete wall, crossed back into the right lane and was hit by the tanker truck. The truck drove off the right side of the road, overturned and came to rest on the its left side. It was driven by Joseph Jones, 38, of Warsaw, Ky. He was taken to West Chester Medical Center, and Lakes was taken to Atrium Medical Center. Both were treated and released, according to the highway patrol. Lakes was cited by the highway patrol for “operating without reasonable control.”

<http://www.middletownjournal.com/news/middletown-news/fast-response-averted-potential-disaster-from-gasoline-tanker-spill-1052056.html>

LEBANON, JBEIL, JANUARY 14 2011. CLEANUP OF JBEIL AFTER 2006 OIL SPILL DECLARED A SUCCESS

patrick galey



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In its 8,000 year history, the town of Jbeil has been pillaged by Amorite tribesmen, ransacked by Crusaders and bombarded by British Navy cannon fire. But the battle against the greatest modern threat to the town’s World Heritage status was declared won Tuesday, as international efforts to protect Byblos’s archeological treasures from a four-year-old oil slick were deemed successful. Israel’s 2006 bombing of Jiyeh power station sent millions of gallons of oil gushing into the eastern Mediterranean – a slick which threatened to seriously damage Jbeil’s coastal archeological site, which comprises Phoenician, Roman and Crusader ruins and is one of Lebanon’s principal tourist attractions. Only emergency intervention from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco), supervised by the Culture Ministry and funded by the Japanese Embassy, succeeded in cleaning ancient edifices of polluted

waste and debris, a process completed Tuesday under the supervision of Culture Minister Salim Warde. “This is a very important project. The works were done by professionals under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture. We have achieved the elimination of the oil spill done by the attacks of 2006,” Warde said. “This site represents thousands of years of history.” As conservationists began the meticulous task of cleaning Jbeil castle’s coastal stonework, it was discovered that urgent reinforcement work was required on the town’s northern medieval port tower as well as on the foundations of the site’s Bronze Age temple tower. Koichi Kawakami, the Japanese ambassador, said that his mission not providing financial assistance to Jbeil’s clean up operation was unthinkable. “[Jbeil] is not only a jewel of Lebanon, but also a treasure of humanity across all borders,” Kawakami told reporters at the town’s castle. “[The archeological site] was in danger from pollution and it was not an option for us not to help our Lebanese friends.” Abdel Moneim Osman, Unesco Beirut director, said that the organization’s most senior antiquities experts were employed in a bid to limit damage sustained to castle promontories. “We began cleaning the oil spill and reconstructing the castle and today we’re celebrating the reopening of the castle with the help of the Japanese government, Ministry of Culture, and Directorate General of Antiquities,” he said. “We’re very happy to celebrate the end of this work and the reopening of the castle.” Lebanon is home to five Unesco World Heritage sites as well as several others on the organization’s “tentative” list. Last year it emerged that Unesco was considering downgrading the status of the Qadisha Valley, due to illegal construction and waste dumping. Although the funding for Byblos’ recuperation came from Japan, Warde assured the public that the government was doing enough to ensure the upkeep of the country’s cultural artifacts. “The Lebanese government does have funding for other jobs and has funding for the site of Jbeil and other sites,” he added.

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=123543#axzz1B0WMZwOh

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