



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 730 Newsy Stuff

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

July 12 2011



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### UK, LEIGHTON BUZZARD, JULY 5 2011. RED DIESEL SCAMMER JAILED

The front man of a £10m fuel laundering operation that sold red diesel to haulage companies has been jailed for more than two years. Nigel Barrett pleaded guilty at Chester Crown Court to money laundering and causing pollution of the Grand Union Canal following a large diesel spill. The court heard how the [Environment Agency \(EA\)](#) began to investigate after the major spill in Leighton Buzzard in 2005. The trail led officers to a nearby illegal fuel laundering operation set up to remove the chemical marker from low duty fuels, which were then sold on to hauliers as legitimate duty paid road diesel. A total of 60,000 litres of fuel was removed from the site. The investigation uncovered a network of individuals spanning the country and led to the four-year jail sentence of "mastermind" Brian MacAtavey earlier this year. The EA says Barrett skipped the country during the prosecution and failed to attend court, but he was apprehended in France in January and extradited back to the UK. He has been disqualified from being a company director for five years and given a Serious Crime Prevention Order preventing him from handling or dealing with hydrocarbon oils and fuel derivatives for five years.

<http://www.roadtransport.com/Articles/2011/07/04/139176/Red-diesel-scammer-jailed.htm>

### USA, FLA, TAMPA, JULY 6 2011. 5-YEAR-OLD DIES AFTER BEING HIT BY SUV AT GAS STATION

george h. newman



*The driver of the SUV had just finished pumping gas and was leaving the station.* A 5-year-old boy on vacation in Florida died Monday after being struck by an SUV backing out of a gas station at 1501 E. Fowler Ave. Cameron Lewis, of Doe Run, Ga., died after being hit by a 2002 Mitsubishi SUV driven by Chavillia M. Jefferson, 34, of Tampa, police said. The investigation continues. However, it does not appear any charges will be forthcoming against Jefferson, according to police. The boy was with 10 to 15 family members traveling in three cars when they stopped at a gas station as they travelled from Georgia for the holiday, police Lt. David Goodman said. Police received calls from several sources about 3:20 p.m. saying Lewis had been run over by a vehicle at the Gas Kwick station. "When police arrived, they found the child lying on the ground in what was seemingly very critical condition," Goodman said. "Paramedics responded and

began treatment immediately. The boy was taken to Tampa General Hospital." Police said Lewis ran behind the SUV as if to enter the store when he was struck by the SUV as it was backing up at idling speed. "There is nothing to indicate at this point that there was any speed involved in the accident," Goodman said.

<http://www2.tbo.com/news/breaking-news/2011/jul/04/7/five-year-old-critical-ar-241801/>

### USA, MI, GREEN OAK TWP, JULY 6 2011. FIREFIGHTERS STOP BLAZE AT GREEN OAK BUSINESS

jim totten

[Watch the Video](#)

[http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/wayne\\_county/reports-of-large-explosion-near-industrial-facility-in-brighton-township](http://www.wxyz.com/dpp/news/region/wayne_county/reports-of-large-explosion-near-industrial-facility-in-brighton-township)

[Photo Gallery](#)

<http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20110706/NEWS01/107060303/Firefighters-stop-blaze-Green-Oak-business-photo-gallery->



*Green Oak Twp. Firefighters battle a blaze at the rear of Budget Paving on Rushton Road. The flames spewed a column of black smoke visible from 3 miles away, and charred nearby fuel tanks.*

A blaze with the potential to turn into a big fire was put out quickly by Green Oak Township firefighters just after 11 a.m. Tuesday. Kory Rollison, captain for Green Oak Township [Fire Department](#), said firefighters were dispatched to a "reported explosion" at Budget Paving at 7527 Rushton Road, north of Silver Lake Road. Smoke could be seen three miles from the scene. He said firefighters arrived within minutes and found a fire burning near two large fuel tanks in the rear of the pole-barn building. The fire was burning a pile of tires and a forklift, which has a

propane tank in the rear. "It looked like the beginnings of an extensive fire," Rollison said, saying firefighters made a "great stop." No injuries were reported. All employees of the company were reportedly out on jobs at the time of the incident. Rollison

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said the blaze was put out in 10-15 minutes, and there was no damage to the building. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation. Josh Tinsley was working at a nearby business, Superior Sanitation, when he noticed the heavy black smoke and called the Fire Department. Tinsley said he didn't hear any big explosions. "There was some pops," Tinsley said, but he figured it was the tires of the forklift popping from the heat. The tires of the fork lift were melted, exposing the metal rims, and the wall of a nearby portable toilet had melted, causing it to partially cave in. Township responders were assisted at the scene by the Brighton Area Fire Department, the Hamburg Township Fire Department, the South Lyon Fire Department and the Lyon Township Fire Department. The owners of Budget Paving could not be reached for comment.

<http://www.livingstondaily.com/article/20110706/NEWS01/107060303/Firefighters-stop-blaze-Green-Oak-business-photo-gallery->

### USA, FLA, MARGATE, JULY 6 2011. TANKER COLLIDES WITH SOUTH FLORIDA BUS, 25 INJURED >> AUTHORITIES ARE CONTINUING THEIR INVESTIGATION INTO THE MORNING MISHAP.

ayinde o. chase

 **Watch the Video** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c\\_MpLQ5CnGQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_MpLQ5CnGQ)

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/broward/margate/fl-margate-bus-crash-20110705.0.4929100.story>

A Tuesday morning crash involving a passenger bus and tanker truck left 25 people injured. The incident occurred in Margate, a suburb of Fort Lauderdale, after an empty Urbietta gasoline tanker truck rear-ended a Broward County transit bus filled with passengers. According to officials, the accident happened at about 9 a.m. on northbound U.S. 441 near Margate Boulevard. It appears that the tanker rear-ended the transit bus, however it's not known what exactly led to the crash. Twenty-two people were taken to area hospitals by rescue crews. One person appeared to have suffered serious injuries and was taken to North Broward Medical Center, a trauma center. Three other people were treated on the scene for minor injuries. The driver of the tanker truck and the bus driver were not injured. Authorities are continuing their investigation.

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/90053433?Tanker%20collides%20with%20South%20Florida%20bus%2C%2025%20injured>

### USA, N.H, COLEBROOK, JULY 6 2011. DOL RESOLVES OSHA CITATIONS AGAINST EXPLOSIVES MAKER FOLLOWING BLAST THAT KILLED TWO WORKERS

OSHA cited Black Mag LLC in October 2010 for more than 50 willful, egregious, and serious violations of safety standards in connection with a May 14, 2010, explosion at the company's Colebrook, N.H., facility in which two employees died while manufacturing a gunpowder substitute.

As part of an agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor, Black Mag LLC, doing business as BMI and as Black Mag Industries, and Craig Sanborn, the company's president, managing member, and primary owner, have surrendered Black Mag LLC's explosives manufacturing license and will permanently refrain from employing workers in any explosives-related business enterprise. "What we seek in all cases is for the employer to eliminate hazardous conditions and take effective action to prevent their recurrence," said Marthe Kent, New England regional administrator for OSHA. "This resolution accomplishes those goals by ensuring that neither Black Mag LLC nor Mr. Sanborn will ever again place employees at risk in any kind of business that uses or makes explosives." OSHA cited Black Mag LLC in October 2010 for more than 50 willful, egregious, and serious violations of safety standards in connection with a May 14, 2010, explosion at the company's Colebrook, N.H., facility in which two employees died while manufacturing a gunpowder substitute. The employer contested the citations and fines to the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. Black Mag LLC since has withdrawn its notice of contest and agreed to entry of an order that it violated the Occupational Safety and Health Act. The company has certified that the violations have been abated by termination of all production operations, which occurred when the 2010 explosion destroyed its facility and put it out of business. Because it was licensed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the company was required by OSHA to execute ATF's Notice of Discontinuance of Business, which the department has turned over to the ATF. Black Mag LLC and Sanborn also agreed to the entry of a summary enforcement order in the U.S. Court of Appeals. Violation of such an order would permit the department to initiate proceedings for contempt of court, in which potential sanctions could include incarceration to secure compliance. In the resolution papers, Sanborn agrees that he will not conduct, establish, own, or manage by himself, with, or through others, any current or future business that is covered anywhere under OSHA's explosives or process safety management standards if that business employs workers or independent contractors. Additionally, he will have no involvement in any enterprise that has employees if it is located within 1,000 yards of another business that is covered under OSHA's explosives or process management safety

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standards. "While nothing can ever bring Jesse Kennett or Don Kendall back to their loved ones, this resolution is designed to prevent future deaths or injuries," said Michael Felsen, the Labor Department's regional solicitor for New England. "It includes a provision that will allow the Labor Department to charge Mr. Sanborn with contempt in federal court if he violates the terms." The settlement agreement has been filed with the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission and will become the Commission's final order on July 21, 2011. After that, the department will file the papers for an enforcement order in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit against both Black Mag LLC and Sanborn.

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/07/05/dol-resolves-osh-citations-against-explosives-maker-following-blast-that-killed-two-workers.aspx?admgarea=news>

### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, BLACKBURN, JULY 6 2011. TRADERS RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE WITH BLACKBURN FORMER CALTEX SITE

stacy allen

August marks the 15-year anniversary of Caltex closing its Blackburn Rd service station and traders are fuming the site is still desolate and contaminated. They want a resolution between Caltex and J and J Dynamotive, located across the road, over the cause of contamination so the site can be cleaned up and developed. And the Environment Protection Authority has threatened heavy fines if they fail to comply with clean-up notices. Blackburn Chamber of Commerce president Fay La Galle said the traders had renewed motivation to push for the clean-up. "We've now got the bit between our teeth and we're not letting it go," she said. "The more people get on the bandwagon the better, we've got to keep at it until the site is clear. Ms La Galle said there needed to be a much nicer entrance to Blackburn Village to encourage people to visit the centre. "It is absolutely (detrimental) and certainly not a welcoming introduction to the centre," she said. "I think 15 years is more than long enough for something to lay vacant like that. Ms La Galle said anything would be better than the derelict site. "Whatever's going to be put on there couldn't be any worse than what's there now," Ms La Galle said. "I call it the Beirut bomb site. The former Caltex owned petrol station at 22-24 Blackburn Rd has been closed since 1996 and contamination at the site, as well as the former petrol station at J and J Dynamotive, have stalled development. Chamber of Commerce member Bruce Law said he was concerned Caltex did not have any financial motivation to clean-up the site. He said the cost of the clean-up could be much higher than the resale value of the land. Mr Law is the commercial manager for Blackburn Village Optical, which is close to the Caltex site, and said it must be cleaned up to give the village a more enticing southern entrance. Tony Andriessen, who runs the Blackburn Newsagency in South Parade said cleaning up the site would definitely have a positive effect on business in the village. Mr Andriessen called for any sort of development.

<http://whitehorse-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/traders-running-out-of-patience-with-blackburn-former-caltex-site/>

### USA, OH, COLUMBUS, JULY 6 2011. OVERTURNED TANKER IN GAHANNA

 **Watch the Video** <http://www2.nbc4i.com/news/2011/jul/05/14/tanker-truck-rolls-section-s-hamilton-rd-closed-ar-588850/>

 **Watch the Video** [http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top\\_stories/videos/wsux\\_vid\\_11961.shtml](http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wsux_vid_11961.shtml)



*A worker examines an overturned truck at the intersection of Morrison and Hamilton roads in Gahanna. The truck, hauling sulfates, flipped over and temporarily trapped the driver.*

An overturned tanker is blocking lanes of S. Hamilton Road in both directions from Interstate-270 to Rocky Fork Drive North, ABC6/Fox28 News has learned. Overturned Tanker in Gahanna Crews, including two cranes, are working to prep the tanker to be uprighted and removed from the scene. Updated reports indicated the 4,500-gal. ammonium sulfate load on the crashed tanker would not have to be transferred to another vehicle, ABC6/Fox28 News' A.J. Ross reports. Earlier reports of ammonium sulfate -- a water treatment chemical -- leaking from the tanker turned out not to be true.

There was no reported Hazmat situation or any area evacuations. While what exactly caused the crash was not confirmed by 1 p.m. Tuesday, Ross reports the driver was making a left-hand turn onto South Hamilton Road when the tanker overturned. The driver was injured and taken to Grant Medical Center. He was listed in serious-but-stable condition, Ross reports. It's possible the affected stretch of S. Hamilton Rd. could be cleared in time for evening rush-hour.

[http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top\\_stories/videos/wsux\\_vid\\_11961.shtml](http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wsux_vid_11961.shtml)

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#### USA, WI, COTTAGE GROVE, JULY 6 2011. HAZMAT TEAM CALLED TO COTTAGE GROVE CHEMICAL LEAK >> LEAK OCCURRED AT COUNTY N, COMMERCE PARK

The Cottage Grove Fire Department requested assistance from the city of Madison Fire Department's Hazardous Material Team for a leak of hydrochloric acid Tuesday. The leak occurred at County N and Commerce Park, according to Madison Fire Department spokeswoman Lori Wirth. Wirth said the driver of a truck carrying a container of the chemical was alerted to the spill by someone who saw it leaking from the truck. Wirth said the hazmat team brought the leak under control quickly. She said what could have been a 200 gallon spill wound up being less than 10 gallons. There were no injuries, Wirth said. Wirth said the hazmat crew was handing the scene back to the Cottage Grove Fire Department on Tuesday evening to maintain it until a contractor can come to pick up the damaged container.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/28454661/detail.html>

#### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, JULY 6 2011. MAN 'TRIED TO SET PETROL STATION ON FIRE' BECAUSE THERE WERE NO SAUSAGE ROLLS AT CALTEX ON TOOMBUL RD



*No sausage: A man threatened to blow up a Caltex service station because it ran out of sausage rolls.*

A Man who allegedly threatened to blow up a service station because it was out of sausage rolls has been bailed by a Brisbane court. Scott Jason Bryant, 40, of Roma, held his head in his hands in the dock of the Brisbane Magistrates Court after he was charged with making a bomb hoax at the [Caltex Service Station's shop on Toombul Road](#) about 12.30am today. He also faced counts of committing an act intended to cause grievous bodily harm to the console operator after he allegedly poured petrol on the ground. Police opposed his bail but defence lawyer Katia

Vandenbroucke argued for his release. The court heard while Bryant had been charged with making a bomb hoax, he'd actually said: "if you don't give me what I want, I have something in my bag and I will press the button". Magistrate Alan Taylor said the 40-year-old's criminal history didn't cause any great concern. "But pouring petrol over the grounds of a petrol station is another matter and that's what concerns me," he said. Mr Taylor said the allegation was that Bryant had threatened to blow up the service station because he couldn't get a sausage roll. "That's a very extreme reaction, not being able to satisfy someone's need for the munchies when they've had something to drink." The court was told Bryant had been discharged from Toowoomba Hospital to live with a friend, and was due to undertake rehabilitation for his alcohol issues. "He was intoxicated on this night," Ms Vandenbroucke said. She said police may have real issues proving intention and that charges may eventually be downgraded. Bryant was bailed on conditions he live with his friend at Banyo and report to police three times a week. He will reappear before the court on July 19.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/man-tried-to-set-petrol-station-on-fire-after-argument-with-attendant-at-toombul-rd-service-station/story-fn6b3v4f-1226088208124>

#### USA, CA, BAKERSFIELD, JULY 6 2011. HAZMAT EMERGENCY CLOSES BAKERSFIELD ROADS

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/125044944.html>



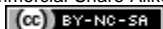
Bakersfield's Schlumberger plant.

Golden State Highway was closed Tuesday afternoon between Snow Road and 7th Standard Road as hazmat crews responded to a reported explosion at the Schlumberger plant on Snow Road. Snow Road was also closed between Fruitvale Avenue and Golden State. That closure remained in effect as of 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, though Golden State had reopened. County fire and public health crews were faced with a fire in a tank containing the oxidizing chemical diammonium peroxodisulphate, which can be a skin and respiratory irritant. The fire released a large plume of smoke. The cause of the fire was not immediately known. Eyewitness News viewers reported hearing large explosions and smelling

sulfur, although fire crews said there were no explosions. The fire department recommended that people in that area stay indoors, but that recommendation was lifted around 5:30 as any danger dissipated. The Schlumberger plant is just west of Highway 99 and the Meadows Field airport. Highway 99, which runs parallel to Golden State Highway, was never closed. No injuries were reported.

<http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/125044944.html>

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#### USA, WA, JULY 6 2011. 4th OF JULY AFTERMATH: AT LEAST 2 FIRES, MULTIPLE INJURIES IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

Officials and witnesses said fireworks were to blame for at least three fires and several injuries in Western Washington on the Fourth of July.

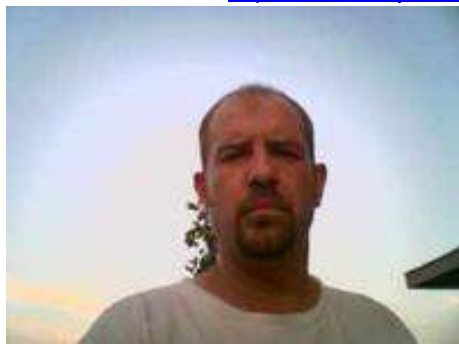
- The Kent Fire Department said [a house was damaged after sparks from airborne fireworks landed on its roof](#) Monday evening. No one was injured.
- Another [home in Kent burned](#) just after midnight Tuesday. An official cause hasn't been determined yet, but neighbors said fireworks were to blame and when KIRO 7 Reporter Rick Price showed up to the scene, he saw the street littered with burnt-out fireworks. No one was injured but the family that lived at the home was displaced.
- A house fire in Tukwila on Beacon Avenue South started after a family cleaned some used fireworks and put them in a van, investigators said. Some of the shells were still lit.
- An 18-year-old man [lost one of his fingers](#) when a homemade firework exploded in his hand at the West Queen Anne Play Field late Monday night. The man was taken to Harborview Medical Center, where he was listed as stable.
- A Bothell teen was recovering Tuesday after a mortar went off in his hand in a field at a school. Witnesses said two teenagers ran for help after the firework exploded.
- A 25-year-old man was airlifted from Indianola in Kitsap County to Harborview on Monday night after a powerful firework apparently blew up in his hand. No word on his condition.
- A Clallam County fire captain said the [fire that destroyed the New Peking Restaurant](#) in Port Angeles early Tuesday morning may have been caused by fireworks.
- Several other fires were reported overnight, but we haven't confirmed whether they were fireworks-related.

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/28456209/detail.html>

#### USA, N.D, FARGO, JULY 6 2011. 41-YEAR-OLD FARGO MAN DECAPITATED IN FIREWORKS ACCIDENT

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.wday.com/event/article/id/48714/group/News/>

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.valleynewslive.com/story/15025504/man-dies-in-apparent-fireworks-accident>



*41-year-old Jesse Burley was lighting his second commercial-grade firework of the night when witnesses say he was decapitated.*

Police have identified the victim of Monday's fatal fireworks accident as Jesse William Burley, 41. An eyewitness says a Fourth of July fireworks accident decapitated the Fargo man Monday night. Chris Hanson, who lives down the street from the victim, was packing up his car to leave north Fargo's Riviera Heights mobile home park when the accident happened as tornado sirens sounded just before 9:30 p.m. Burley, Hanson's neighbor, was getting ready to set off a second round of what Hanson said he believes was either a homemade or illegal artillery shell firework. "He went over into the middle of the street, and within 10 seconds of us talking to him, he lit it and all we saw was a cloud of smoke, a bang," Hanson said. What Hanson saw next sent him immediately into shock, he said. "When I walked up to his body, it was nothing but his shoulders

down," Hanson said this morning. Police are still investigating exactly what happened, but it appears the accident involving some type of mortar-style firework caused the man's death, said Sgt. Chris Helmick, adding it's unknown if the firework was bought in a store or homemade. Earlier in the evening, Burley called Hanson over to his trailer to check something out. Burley showed him fireworks that contained a warning that read, "If found please report to the U.S. government," Hanson said. "Right there and then I knew that I had to get away because I was not going to be involved in that," Hanson said. His neighbor ignited the first firework, which went off with no injuries but a big bang, Hanson said. "You could see the shock waves in the air," he said. An hour and a half later, the neighbor lit the fatal second firework, Hanson said. The accident should be used as an example of how dangerous fireworks can be, Hanson said. "I'm never going to light a firecracker off again in my life," he said. Police continued the investigation today and had not yet confirmed the identity of the man. "At this point, we don't know if he was struck or if the munition blew up, but it appeared based on the information we got during our investigation that it was caused by the fireworks in some manner," Helmick said. The victim's injuries included massive head wounds from what appeared to be caused by a mortar type firework, police said. "It appears that he was lighting the device off, and so we don't feel that there were others involved in the incident at this point," Vettel said. Vettel said fireworks are illegal within the city limits

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of Fargo, yet police respond to hundreds of fireworks-related calls every year. "We also understand that people want to shoot them off, and at the end of the day, people just need to understand that there's a risk involved," he said. "And if people understand that there is, they hopefully will take more precautions to make sure if they are shooting them off, they find a safe location outside of city limits, but more importantly, they do them safely."

<http://www.bemidjipioneer.com/event/article/id/100029825/group/homepage/>

### USA, MA, BOSTON, JULY 6 2011. FIREWORKS BARGE GOES UP IN FLAMES >> BOSTON USED PLATFORM FOR FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS SHOW

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/28445922/detail.html?source=bos>

 **Watch the Video**

[http://www.necn.com/07/05/11/Developing-Fireworks-barge-fire-in-Charl/landing\\_newengland.html?blockID=539223&feedID=4206](http://www.necn.com/07/05/11/Developing-Fireworks-barge-fire-in-Charl/landing_newengland.html?blockID=539223&feedID=4206)



*Boomtown: Boston and Cambridge firefighters battle a fire yesterday on a July Fourth barge.*

The fireworks barge that contained Boston's Fourth of July fireworks Monday night erupted in flames early Tuesday morning and raged for about an hour before fire crews knocked it down. The fireworks on the barge were used during the city's Hatch Shell celebration, which was seen by hundreds of thousands of spectators. The Boston Fire Department rushed to the scene and was able to quell the blaze using marine boats as thick, black smoke spread over the Charles River. It was not immediately clear what started the blaze. No one was hurt. The Fire Department said there were still about 15 unexploded charges in a metal canister on the barge. "We weren't sure there were unexploded fireworks on barge, and it turns out there were," Boston Fire Department Deputy Chief Steve Dunbar said. Firefighters said getting water to the fire was the toughest part. "It was a lengthy wait for the fire boat to come in because the lock was shut down," Dunbar said. Firefighters said the fire started in some wood framing that held the mortars that

were used to shoot the fireworks. One firefighter said it's not uncommon for sparks to remain after a fireworks display. The production company that runs the show said safeguards were taken Monday night, and the tubes on barge were checked five to six times to make sure embers were not smoldering. The fire department said the protocol will change next year. "In the future, they will have to keep people on the barge to make sure it doesn't happen again," Dunbar said. Investigators are looking for the cause of the blaze and divers were in the river near the barge checking for environmental damage. Some morning traffic was affected as fire crews and police blocked off part of the Massachusetts Avenue bridge heading toward Cambridge in order to fight the fire.

<http://www.thebostonchannel.com/news/28445922/detail.html?source=bos>

### CHINA, BOHAI BAY, JULY 6 2011. FISHING INDUSTRY BRACES FOR OIL-LEAK IMPACT

wang qian and zhao ruixue



*A staff worker from the State Oceanic Administration is taking the oil samples.*

Dead seaweed and rotting fish in the water around Nanhuaqcheng Island in Shandong province, which is close to the site of a recent oil leak, suggest the local waters were polluted by the incident, say observers. "The oil leak will definitely influence the fishing industry nearby but we must carry out further investigations to see if the oil leak is the direct reason for the dead seaweed and fish," said a representative from the fisheries association in Changdao county. The county administers Nanhuaqcheng Island. "The environmental impact caused by the oil leak is long-term," the man named Xiao told China Daily on Monday. Nanhuaqcheng Island is about 40 nautical miles (74 kilometers) from the offshore oilfield in Bohai Bay where the leak originated. A local fishmonger

surnamed Gao told China Daily some pollution definitely exists in the area. However, an official surnamed Song from Nanhuaqcheng's local government told China Daily on Monday that the authorities have not yet received any reports of

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pollution. The State Oceanic Administration plans to brief the media on Tuesday afternoon about the oil leak but has not commented on it so far. According to a report from ConocoPhillips China, the company that operates the Penglai 19-3 oilfield from which the leak originated, an oil sheen was first seen on the surface of the sea "in early or mid June", a spokesperson from the China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) said in an e-mailed statement on Friday. Cleanup work has almost finished and the source of the spill has been identified and brought under control, the statement said. The affected area was only about 200 square meters, China National Radio quoted a representative from CNOOC as saying on Sunday. The reason for the oil spill is under investigation but no injuries or reports of an impact on wildlife, fishing or shipping activities were detected, the report said. Those claims were repeated by ConocoPhillips China spokesperson Donna Xue. She said in an e-mailed statement to China Daily: "The size of the sheen is under investigation. There have been no reports of any impact on wildlife or fishing and shipping activities." Zhai Yuxiu, deputy director of the Yellow Sea fisheries research institute at the Chinese Academy of Fishery Sciences, said on Monday 200 square meters is a relatively small area, so the environmental impact is likely to be slight. According to earlier media reports, the oil leak was not publicized by the authorities at the time it happened but was exposed on Sina Weibo, a popular Chinese micro-blogging site, on June 21. The leak was not the first that the public was told little about. On May 13, an oil leak was reported to the North China Sea branch of the State Oceanic Administration but few details were made public. And on April 22, the CNOOC said that a problem detected in its oil storage equipment in Bohai Bay led to four oilfields being shut down, but again offered few other details. CNOOC, which was founded in 1982, is a large State-owned enterprise and the largest offshore oil and gas producer in China. It produced 65 million tons of oil in 2010. China Daily was unable to reach a CNOOC spokesperson on Monday.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/05/content\\_12833049.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-07/05/content_12833049.htm)

### USA, OK, CHECOTAH, JULY 6 2011. CHECOTAH FIREFIGHTERS RECOVERING AFTER EXPLOSION AT FIREWORKS SHOW

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.newson6.com/story/15030250/checotah-firefighters-recovering-after-fireworks-explosion>

A Fourth of July fireworks show turned into a fire fighting emergency in Checotah. Two separate explosions injured two firefighters, sparked a grass fire, and abruptly ended the show early. Both firefighters ended up with concussions, but are expected to be okay. "We done plenty of grassfires, house fires, and wrecks. You do a little fireworks show and you get hurt. It's amazing," Will Ferguson said. As a Checotah volunteer firefighter, Ferguson has worked the fireworks show three years in a row. But now he's sworn off it. "All I remember is lighting it, turning, and when I turn next thing I know face first into the dirt and rolling around on my back. And everyone being right above me," he said. A picture captured the firework as it exploded, practically before it left the ground. "It was actually exploding when it was coming out of the canister, I mean it was right there," Ferguson said. Ferguson's fellow firefighters got him in the fire truck. Believing it was a fluke, the show went on. But 15 minutes later, another firefighter was caught in a second explosion. "Apparently it blew the helmet off him and got through the nomex and onto the back of his head," Ferguson said. "We look to the right, back to the east and the field starts catching on fire. So we got him on the ground, me in the truck, and we're over there fighting fire." The second firefighter, Jeremy Mathews, spent the night in the hospital. Luckily, all of the firefighters involved were wearing full gear. "My bunker helmet, shield down, earplugs, my bunker uniform, and, probably if we didn't have that on, I can't tell you what it would have done," said Ferguson. Ferguson still ended up with a concussion, hearing loss, and a hole in his right eardrum. "Nah, I think I should be somewhere else. The good Lord is behind all of us," he said. "Beyond crazy. I wouldn't want to do it again. I'll tell you that. After seeing the photos, don't want to do it." Will Ferguson says they did everything by the book. The city installed the tubes used to launch the fireworks. And everything checked out okay before the show. He believes Checotah ended up with a couple of bad fireworks that simply didn't have enough lift powder to get them up in the sky, before they exploded.

 **Related Stories** [Two Checotah Firemen Injured In Explosion At Firework Show](http://www.newson6.com/story/15030250/checotah-firefighters-recovering-after-fireworks-explosion)

<http://www.newson6.com/story/15030250/checotah-firefighters-recovering-after-fireworks-explosion>

### USA, GA, COLUMBUS, JULY 6 2011. 2 INJURED AT RECYCLING PLANT FIRE

*meredith armstrong*

 **Watch the Video** <http://www2.wrbl.com/news/2011/jul/05/7/two-injured-recycling-plant-fire-ar-2068840/>

Witnesses said they saw gasoline pour from junked vehicles just before witnessing a [metal](#) saw ignite the pile of cars in a fiery explosion. Sandriel Grier said she was at [ABC Metal Recycling](#) trying to sell some [aluminum cans](#). She said, "It just said boom! And it kept going off. Boom!" Grier said she saw [gas pouring](#) from the scrapped vehicles then she heard six explosions. The witness said, "It just blew up, and the man was on fire. One man fell. He fell over in the fire when it blew up. The fire

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just surrounded him. He landed. Somehow or another the lord got him up. He got up out of the fire. He rolled in the dirt. The red dirt." That man, [Fire Marshal Chief Rickey Shores](#), says is 53- year-old [Mitchell Thomas](#). Grier described what [Thomas](#) looked like after he caught fire. "His neck was like pink. He face was dark. It was shaded. It was dark, real dark. His arms were pink and white. You could see the black. The pink and white and black." Fire [Marshal Chief Rickey Shores](#) said, "Certainly a burn of that magnitude could be considered life threatening. A very serious burn injury." Grier said she was shocked and scared after the explosion. "My stomach, my heart went to my stomach because I couldn't help the man. I couldn't do anything but call 911." [Chief Shores](#) said 38-year-old [Joseph Knight](#) was also injured. He is suffering from burns to 15% of his body. The fire [marshal](#) said the business itself didn't have much damage. "Certainly the vehicles that were burned were being demolished. So we don't have any monetary information on the demolished vehicles value. None of the structures that were on the facility were burned as a result of the fire." [Chief Shores](#) said it took firefighters about 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze.

<http://www2.wrbl.com/news/2011/jul/05/7/two-injured-recycling-plant-fire-ar-2068840/>

### CANADA, OTTAWA, JULY 6 2011. FEDS RECORDED 100 PIPELINE SPILLS AND ACCIDENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS

*mike de souza*

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada has logged 100 different incidents and accidents on federally regulated Canadian oil and gas pipelines over the past two years, new documents released to Postmedia News reveal. The log entries by investigators are dominated by two Alberta-based companies, Enbridge and TransCanada, which are involved in nearly three quarters of the reported cases, including 21 incidents on the latter's brand new, multibillion-dollar Keystone pipeline, which launched the first phase of its commercial operation in June 2010. An investigator from the Transportation Safety Board said the number of incidents is low, considering that there are more than 80,000 kilometres of pipelines that deliver fuel for cars and homes across the country. In most cases, the incidents, disclosed through access to information legislation, involved the release or spillage of small quantities of crude oil or natural gas due to loose pipes, vibrations, thermal expansion of the products from heat, blown fuses and other maintenance factors. "A lot of it is a leaky valve or a leaky connection," said Larry Gales, manager of operations investigations at the board's pipelines division. "Some of them do, some of them don't leak . . . and some companies have a more robust program and they can get to them, but if they detect anything, they have to report it. So everything gets looked at." In one case on the Keystone pipeline, the board noted that crude oil leaked in January from a threaded connection due to vibration at a pump station in Hardisty, Alberta. It was repaired after the "threads were re-taped." The most recent incidents on the new Keystone line include three cases from early June of leakage at pumping stations in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Only one accident — a February explosion on a TransCanada natural gas pipeline near Beardmore, Ontario — prompted a full investigation, which is expected to conclude by next year. The other incidents mainly involved minor releases and leaks. The list does not include provincially regulated infrastructure such as the Rainbow pipeline operated by Plains Midstream Canada, which was shut down this spring after causing one of the largest oil spills in Alberta history. Gales noted that the pipelines play an essential role in ensuring the security of supply of fuel for Canadians. But he said that about 100 to 150 incidents or accidents are reported on pipelines every year, representing a small percentage of about 6,000 annual cases for the board. A U.S. environmental group said the incidents suggest a risk of catastrophic leaks — particularly for the Keystone pipeline, which is already having problems in its first year of delivering oil sands crude. "While these problems have been minor, they just go to show that a lot of the risks (of Keystone) are long term," said Anthony Swift, a policy analyst from the Natural Resources Defense Council who authored a report suggesting there was a risk of major spills and accidents on the pipeline because of the chemical composition of oilsands crude. "These are sort of the canary in the coal mine so to speak. When the canary dies, it's not a big deal, but it suggests that a bigger problem is afoot." TransCanada is hoping to expand its existing Keystone route to the U.S. Gulf Coast, opening up a new market for oilsands companies and other Canadian crude oil producers, but their plans have been stalled by a series of leaks and warnings from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about the project's safety. The U.S. government has indicated it will make a decision on whether to approve the project by the end of the year. Enbridge is proposing also to build a new pipeline, Northern Gateway, that would link Edmonton with itimat on the west coast of British Columbia. Meantime, a spokesman for a Canadian industry association representing pipeline companies stressed the importance of distinguishing between "serious incidents" and "precautionary measures" taken by the operators to protect their assets. "From an industry's perspective, our goal is zero incidents and we have been working at it for many decades," said Philippe Reicher from the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association in an email. He said the companies have reduced ruptures on federally regulated pipelines by 55 per cent

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between 2002 and 2009 through new technology and the sharing of best practices. He also said that only a fraction of one per cent — two litres for every million transported — leaks out of the system.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Feds+recorded+pipeline+spills+accidents+since+2010/5053005/story.html>

### UK, LONDON, JULY 6 2011. OIL AND GAS SPILLS IN NORTH SEA EVERY WEEK, PAPERS REVEAL >> DOCUMENTS LIST COMPANIES THAT CAUSED MORE THAN 100 POTENTIALLY LETHAL – AND LARGELY UNPUBLISHED – LEAKS IN 2009 AND 2010

rob evans, richard cookson & terry macalister

*More than 100 potentially lethal oil and gas spills took place on rigs in the North Sea in 2009 and 2010.*

Serious spills of [oil](#) and [gas](#) from North Sea platforms are occurring at the rate of one a week, undermining oil companies' claims to be doing everything possible to improve the safety of rigs. Shell has emerged as one of the top offenders despite promising to clean up its act five years ago after a large accident [in which two oil workers died](#). Documents obtained by the Guardian record leaks voluntarily declared by the oil companies to the safety regulator, the [Health and Safety Executive\(HSE\)](#), in a database set up after the [Piper Alpha disaster of 6 July 1988](#) which killed 167 workers. They reveal for the first time the



names of companies that have caused more than 100 potentially lethal and largely unpublished oil and gas spills in the North Sea in 2009 and 2010. They also deal a significant blow to the government's credibility in supporting the oil industry's fervent desire to drill in the Arctic. Charles Hendry, the [energy](#) minister, has said operations to drill in deep Arctic waters by companies such as [Cairn Energy](#) off Greenland are "entirely legitimate" as long as they adhere to Britain's "robust" safety regulation. Shell has been at the forefront of plans to drill in the Arctic waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas. The documents, released under freedom of information legislation, record leaks classed by the regulator as "major" or "significant", which, if ignited, could cause many deaths.

The two rigs with the most frequent [oil spills](#) are owned by [Shell](#) and the French conglomerate [Total](#). Shell executives regularly claim in public that safety is their most important commitment. Last November, Peter Voser, the Shell chief executive, said: "Safety is, has been, and forever will be, our number one priority. It is our core value." The Shell-run platform responsible for the most spills, [Brent Charlie](#), first began pumping oil in 1976 from its location 115 miles (180km) north-east of Scotland. The documents record seven leaks on it over the two-year period, with the worst happening on 26 April last year when four tonnes of leaked gas from one of its columns led to a shutdown of production. On another occasion, on 30 September 2009, safety inspectors ordered Shell to stop producing oil from Brent Charlie after gas leaked from its ventilation system. Last Friday, the HSE formally threatened to close down some operations on Brent Charlie within two weeks over undisclosed safety issues. Since January this year, Shell has stopped exporting oil from the rig and three others in the Brent oilfield as the company struggles to put right safety problems. Critics say the oldest rigs, built in the 70s when oil was found in the North Sea, are the most dangerous and fear safety is neglected as the platforms come to the end of their productive commercial life. Shell came under intense criticism over its safety record in 2006 when a judge ruled that it could have prevented the deaths of two men if it had properly repaired a hole in a corroding pipeline on a platform in the Brent field. In the same year, [one of Shell's own safety consultants, Bill Campbell](#), alleged that safety procedures in the North Sea had been ignored for years. Shell's then chief executive, Jereon van der Veer, [admitted in a private email](#) at the time that the company had a second-rate safety record and pledged to spend substantial sums of money to improve it. A Shell spokesman said: "No spill is acceptable and we have made progress. We work closely with regulators and invested over a billion dollars in recent years to upgrade facilities across the North Sea to continue this improvement of our performance." Other major oil companies which are high in the spills league include the Danish conglomerate [Maersk](#) and Canadian firm [Talisman](#), which both have a rig with five leaks. Four spills came from a rig known as Mungo Etap, which is owned by BP. Whistleblowers have told the Guardian that the list of spills recorded in the documents is the tip of the iceberg. Other accidents are kept quiet, they claim, because workers fear they cannot report them in case they lose their jobs. One veteran said that although everyone is formally told to report anything that goes wrong, staff adhere to an informal code to remain silent to avoid a halt in drilling that loses money for the companies. The HSE documents also undermine claims by the major oil companies that last year's [Deepwater Horizon explosion](#) in the Gulf of Mexico that killed 11 workers was unlikely to ever happen to them. Jake Molloy, general secretary of the [Offshore Industry Liaison Committee](#) (OILC), a union representing North Sea workers, said Deepwater Horizon showed that "even the most up-to-date, cutting-edge safety technology can go wrong if it is not maintained properly and not operated by competent people". He added: "We have been very lucky in the UK that we have not had another major incident with multiple fatalities. We have

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come very close on several occasions, very, very close. It is more luck than good management in some cases. Some operators don't give a damn. Because of the high price of oil, they are cutting corners. Some of them are overdue for prosecution." Robert Paterson, health and safety director of the [Oil & Gas UK](#), which represents the industry and aims to make Britain's [oil industry the safest in the world](#), said oil companies last year agreed to "redouble efforts to reduce the number of leaks by 50% over three years and many companies are building this target into their business plans". He rejected the whistleblowers' concerns: "We believe there is a very high standard of compliance when it comes to companies reporting offshore incidents to the regulator and a constructive culture in the workforce when it comes to reporting health and safety concerns." The disclosures have provoked criticism of the government over its claims that regulation of the oil industry in the North Sea is one of the toughest in the world. Chris Huhne, the energy secretary, claimed in January that the UK's safety and environmental regime was "one of the most robust in the world." Frank Doran, Labour MP for Aberdeen North, said: "Chris Huhne needs to have a rethink. There is a continuing problem, of particularly gas leakages, and that is a sign that the infrastructure in the North Sea is ageing and that maintenance and investment is still not sufficient to ensure the safety of offshore workers. There is still a long way to go."

**Related Links** [Oil Spills by North Sea Rigs: Which is the Worst? >> See which North Sea Oil Rig has had the most Leaks](#)  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/jul/05/oil-gas-spills-north-sea>

### USA, MT, BLUE CREEK, JULY 6 2011. OIL SPILL SENDS WOMAN TO EMERGENCY ROOM

angela douglas

**Watch the Video** <http://www.ktvq.com/news/oil-spill-sends-woman-to-emergency-room/>



Since early Saturday morning, Alexis Bonogofsky and her husband Mike Scott have been documenting the impact of the oil spill on their riverfront property in the Blue Creek area. But on Monday, the oil spill started taking a toll on Bonogofsky's health. "I got dizzy, I got nauseas, I got a headache, and my throat started to feel kind of swollen almost," explains Bonogofsky. "My tongue started to feel swollen and I got this taste in my mouth that was kind of... I don't even know how to describe it." After an emergency room visit complete with tests and x-rays, doctors diagnosed Bonogofsky with acute hydrocarbon exposure. "It was my body's reaction to those fumes basically," Bonogofsky states. Doctors gave her fluids and anti-nausea medication, but other than that the only solution is to avoid the oil. Something difficult for Bonogofsky to do. "He told me to stay away from the oil and he also cautioned me about coming back to the house, but I've

got so many farm animals to take care of we have a lot to do because of the spill," Bonogofsky says. The oil spill is not only affecting Bonogofsky's health, but also the health of her livestock, which also her livelihood. "Our summer pastures and our hay fields are flooded and there's some spots that are worse than others, but basically it could be more than half of our property is unavailable to us for our livestock," she explains. Although the Blue Creek landowner doesn't know how long they'll be affected by the spill, she's pleased with the response of the ExxonMobil cleanup crew. However she's not happy with the lack of answers from ExxonMobil executives. "Is there still stuff lingering in the air? We haven't got our water tested. No one's been down to test our soil. I want answers to those questions," says Bonogofsky. An ExxonMobil insurance adjuster toured Bonogofsky's property on Tuesday. About 40 reports have been made to ExxonMobil from landowners about oil on their property. If you have oil to report on your property you can call ExxonMobil's claims hotline at 1-888-382-0043.

<http://www.ktvq.com/news/oil-spill-sends-woman-to-emergency-room/>

### CHINA, BEIJING, JULY 7 2011. CHINA ADMITS EXTENT OF SPILL FROM OIL RIG

andrew jacobs

Oil that spewed from an [offshore drilling](#) rig in northeastern China for two weeks last month has spread over 320 square miles, government officials acknowledged Tuesday, amid public uproar over why it took so long for fishermen, local residents and environmental groups to be informed of the spill. News of the accident emerged in late June on the microblogging site Sina Weibo and was not confirmed by the state-owned operator until last Friday. The government sought to play down the significance of the leak, saying the environmental repercussions were most likely insignificant and blaming the rig's Western operator. "There is no visible floating [oil](#) on the sea and the leak is now under control," said a spokesman for the State Oceanic Administration, according to a transcript of a news conference posted on its Web site, although another official acknowledged

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that a small slick could be seen from the two platforms involved in the accident. Officials at the agency said [ConocoPhillips China](#), a subsidiary of the Houston-based energy giant that operates the rigs with a Chinese state-owned company, "should take the blame" for the accident, which occurred in the mouth of the Bohai Sea, a largely enclosed body of water that touches on three provinces and the city of Tianjin. Speaking at a news conference on Tuesday, an official at the oceanic agency's Beihai branch, said the minimum fine would be about \$30,000, a figure that could rise depending on the extent of the economic and ecological damage. In an emailed statement on Wednesday, ConocoPhillips China said its workers quickly addressed the leaks and that there was no apparent impact on wildlife, fishing or shipping activities." Upon observing the sheen, ConocoPhillips took prompt action, promptly reporting the incident to Chinese authorities and activating response procedures," the statement said. The company owns a 49 percent stake in the venture, Penglai 19-3, which is the country's largest offshore oil discovery, reportedly producing 150,000 barrels a day. It operates the rig with China's National Offshore Oil Corporation. In recent days, several Chinese media outlets have reported die-offs among fish farmed in ocean enclosures, but such accounts could not be verified Tuesday. According to the oceanic agency's Web site, a leak was first detected June 4 and then again on June 17. It said the spills occurred during the drilling process, when water is forced into the earth's crust. By June 19, the problem was under control, the agency said, and by Monday, 40 cubic meters of oily water had been removed from the sea. Yang Fuqiang, a senior adviser on climate and energy at the Beijing offices of the Natural Resources Defense Council, an environmental group based in the United States, said that even if the environmental damage turned out to be minimal, the long delay in publicizing the accident erodes public trust in the government and its state-run energy companies. "According to the regulations, any [oil spill](#) has to be reported to the public," he said. "People who live in coastal areas have a right to know so they can make preparations." In [a commentary](#) published in the Global Times on Tuesday, Han Xiaoping, a columnist for the Web site [China Energy Network](#), accused the state-run oil company of evasion and the government of playing a role in a cover-up. "We do everything to protect state-owned enterprises, which eventually leads them to think they can always get support from the government when they get into trouble," he wrote. The case comes nearly a year after a major oil spill near Dalian, not far from the Bohai Sea, that also raised questions about whether the government was giving an honest accounting — and whether there was lasting impact on aquatic life. In that spill, an explosion ruptured a pipeline at an onshore oil storage site run by the state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation, forcing emergency workers to empty the contents of an enormous oil tank. More than 11,000 barrels of oil flowed into the Yellow Sea, the government said, fouling miles of beaches and a large stretch of ocean. Environmental groups like Greenpeace, however, say the figure was much larger.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/06/world/asia/06china.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/06/world/asia/06china.html?_r=1)

### YEMEN, JULY 7 2011. PIRATE ATTACK LEAVES MILLION-BARREL OIL TANKER ON FIRE OFF YEMEN'S COAST



A tanker carrying about 1 million barrels of fuel oil is on fire off the Yemeni coast after pirates used a rocket-propelled grenade to attack the ship in a maritime corridor handling about 20 percent of world trade. The 274-meter (900-foot) *Brillante Virtuoso* was going to China from Ukraine, said Andreas Louka, legal adviser to Suez Fortune Investment Ltd., the owner. A rocket-propelled grenade probably caused a fire in the ship's accommodation block, Central Mare Inc., the vessel's manager, said in a later statement distributed by MTI Network. "Pirates go for targets of opportunity, and if they see a ship and it's clear they have a chance, they will go for it regardless of size," said Jakob Larsen, a maritime security officer at the Bagsvaerd, Denmark-based Baltic and International Maritime Council, which represents the owners of about two-thirds of the global fleet. Pirates attacked a record number of ships worldwide in the first quarter,

taking 344 sailors hostage and killing seven, data from the London-based International Maritime Bureau show. Average ransom payments rose to \$5.4 million last year, compared with \$150,000 in 2005, according to Louisville, Colorado-based One Earth Future Foundation, a non-profit group.

#### Unarmed Guards

The ship is being towed by two tugs and there is no risk of a spill, Louka said by phone from Athens today. The 26 Filipinos were rescued from a life-raft by the USS *Philippine Sea*, a guided-missile cruiser, the Combined Maritime Forces said in an e-mail. The *Brillante Virtuoso* was attacked overnight London time as it approached the port of Aden to collect unarmed guards, Louka said. The fire is in the accommodation block of the ship, known as a suezmax and with a carrying capacity of 149,601 deadweight tons, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Suezmaxes are the biggest tankers that can navigate Egypt's

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Suez Canal while fully laden. It would be the first attack on a suezmax in the region since June 11, said Cyrus Mody, the London-based manager for the IMB, whose Piracy Reporting Centre has monitored incidents since 1991. That incident was unsuccessful, he said. A total of 142 attacks were reported worldwide in the first quarter, the most for the period since at least 1991. If it were an attack by pirates and they started the fire, it would be the first such incident, said Harrie Harrison, a spokesman for European Union Naval Force, or EU Navfor. The group has yet to confirm pirates were involved, he said.

### **Distress Call**

The crew issued a distress call saying they were under attack by pirates, the Combined Maritime Forces said in its statement. When the Philippine Sea arrived at the Brillante Virtuoso it found no pirates and rescued the crew, the CMF said. The 25-nation maritime coalition patrols the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Somali Basin, Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf. As many as 25,000 ships sail through the Gulf of Aden a year, Giles Noakes, head of security at the Baltic and International Maritime Council, said in January. Including a wider stretch of the Indian Ocean where the pirates also operate, as many as 40,000 are at risk, he said. EU Navfor estimates 20 percent of world trade passes through the Gulf of Aden between Yemen and Somalia. Ships use it to get to the Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea. It is the fastest crossing from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean, according to the Suez Canal Authority.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-06/oil-tanker-is-ablaze-off-yemen-following-pirate-attack-vessel-owner-says.html>

### **USA, N.D, CAVALIER, JULY 7 2011. OIL TANKER ROLLOVER NEAR CAVALIER SPILLS ABOUT 5,000 GALLONS, INJURES DRIVER**



A semi pulling two trailers full of oil rolled into a ditch near Cavalier, N.D. on Monday night, spilling about 5,000 gallons of oil from one of the trailers, according to the North Dakota Highway Patrol. The semi, driven by Jakob Neumann, 24, of Manitoba, was coming from Winnipeg, when it drifted off the right shoulder on N.D. Highway 18 about five miles northeast of Cavalier. Neumann was unable to correct, according to the release, and the semi and both trailers rolled into the ditch. The first trailer of oil broke open and spilled 5,000 gallons into the ditch, the Patrol said, while the second trailer remained intact and came to a rest on top of the first. Neumann sustained injuries, but the extent of those injuries has not yet been released. The rollover occurred at around 6 p.m. The crash remains under investigation by the Patrol.

<http://www.grandforksherald.com/event/article/id/208764/>

### **USA, LA, LAKE CHARLES, JULY 8 2011. VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF LOUISIANA REFINERY PLEADS GUILTY TO CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS >> HYDROGEN SULFIDE**



**Click-2-Listen** [EPA audio file](#)



Byron Hamilton, 66, vice president and general manager of Pelican Refining Company (PRC), pleaded guilty today to two misdemeanor counts of negligent endangerment under the Clean Air Act. The violations endangered people's health by releasing hazardous air pollutants, such as benzene, a carcinogen, toluene and xylene, which can cause liver and kidney damage, and hydrogen sulfide, an extremely hazardous substance that can cause eye irritation, fatigue, and in extreme cases, death. "The violations found at this facility made for nothing short of unsafe operating conditions. Unsafe for workers and unsafe for the surrounding community," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Today's guilty plea ensures that the flagrant disregard for worker safety and our nation's environmental laws cease at this facility. In March 2006, the EPA and the

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality conducted an inspection of PRC's crude oil refinery and asphalt plant in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Inspectors found numerous unsafe operating conditions, including unpermitted releases of hydrogen sulfide, storing crude oil in unrepaired storage tanks, failure to repair emissions monitoring and control equipment and placing plastic children's pools under numerous pieces of leaking equipment. "Polluters will be held accountable for violations of federal laws set to protect public health," said Al Armendariz, EPA Regional Administrator. "As this conviction shows, we will

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aggressively prosecute those who deliberately ignore the nation's Clean Air Act." In November 2007, federal search warrants were carried out at PRC's corporate headquarters in Houston, Texas, and at the refinery in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Further investigation revealed multiple instances of workers being ordered to take hydrogen sulfide measurements from storage tanks without the use of personal protective equipment, despite management's knowledge of tanks containing unsafe levels of hydrogen sulfide. Reducing illegal air pollution and cutting toxic air pollution in communities are two of the EPA's National Enforcement Initiatives for 2011-2013. This prosecution advances the EPA's enforcement efforts in both areas and protects communities from illegal, and in this case criminal, actions that impact air quality. The proceedings took place in the United States District Court for the Western District of Louisiana

### Related Stories

- [Refinery official admits to violation](#)
- [Oil Refinery Vice-President Pleads Guilty to Air Pollution Causing Negligent Endangerment](#)

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/c73a19525995c2f1852578c5006ce8e5?OpenDocument>

### USA, ILL, WOOD RIVER, JULY 7 2011. CONTRACT WORKER DIES IN FALL AT ILL. REFINERY SITE

Federal workplace-safety officials are investigating the death of a contractor who fell nearly 50 feet while doing welding on an above-ground tank at a southwestern Illinois oil refinery. Madison County Coroner Stephen Nonn said Bradley Edmund, 38, of Taylorville died at the scene of the accident Tuesday afternoon at the ConocoPhillips site in Hartford, just northeast of St. Louis. An autopsy Wednesday showed that Edmund suffered head and chest trauma, Nonn said in a news release. A specific ruling on what caused his death is pending the outcome of toxicology tests. Nonn said Edmund was working for Tulsa, Okla.-based Matrix Service Co., which provides construction, repair and maintenance services largely to energy companies in the United States and Canada. Hartford police and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration are investigating. Kevin Cavanah, Matrix Service's chief financial officer, said 22-year-old Matrix was cooperating with investigators and doing its own inquiry into the accident he called "a tough time for our company." "We're saddened over this unfortunate accident," Cavanah said, noting that Matrix Services is "a very employee-centric company, and safety is our highest priority." Cavanah cited the unfolding investigations in declining to offer any details about the accident, including whether Edmund was using safety equipment such as harnesses or tethers to the tank at the time of his fall. "We're going to do everything we can to work with authorities to get to the bottom of this and figure out what happened," he said. Edmund's funeral arrangements are pending with Zieren-Day Funeral Home in Carlyle.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/business/7642148.html>

### USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, JULY 8 2011. SOUTH LOS ANGELES GIRL BLINDED IN RIGHT EYE BY ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

 Watch the Video <http://www.wsbt.com/news/ktla-south-la-illegal-fireworks-girl-injured,0,5758503.story>



*Fireworks were seen littering the South Los Angeles street where a 12-year-old girl was struck in the eye by a firecracker-like device.*

A 12-year-old girl from South Los Angeles has lost sight in her right eye and may lose the eye following an accident involving the use of illegal fireworks on the Fourth of July. Erika Rodriguez "suffered a very severe injury to her right eye from a direct hit by an exploding firework that resulted in severe trauma," said Thomas Lee, an eye surgeon at the Vision Center of Children's Hospital Los Angeles. "The firework actually went straight into the eye," Lee said. "I've never seen a case like this before. The target zone this had to hit is less than half a centimeter." The incident was perhaps [the most notable tragedy arising from](#)

[local Fourth of July celebrations](#). Other incidents are suspected in fires in Chatsworth and San Francisco. The girl had been in front of a home using a sparkler when another person discharged a "firecracker-like" device near her face shortly before 11 p.m., according to Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Brian Humphrey, citing witnesses. Officials said the accident occurred in the [600 block of West 42nd Place](#), where participants were apparently lighting various fireworks, all of which are illegal in the city of Los Angeles. A team of six firefighters worked to stabilize the injury and rushed the child to Children's Hospital in East Hollywood, officials said. Lee said it was there that he confronted a situation unlike any he had encountered. He said the explosive device directly hit the white part of the eye adjacent to the cornea, an impact that may have caused the blindness. Then, the device deflected into the eye socket between the bone and the eye lodging inside. "It was almost the size

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of the eye itself," Lee said. During early-morning surgery, when he found the object and eased it outward, the fragmented explosive popped out because of the pressure. An experienced anesthesiologist almost became sick at the sight, he said. Lee noted that Children's Hospital braces for serious injuries on the Fourth of July, with the most common being to hands. But the eye also is particularly vulnerable. "I cannot understand why it's legal in any state to give a kid an explosive device," Lee said. "Parents should never let their children go out and observe fireworks unless it's being performed by a licensed professional." Erika remains hospitalized and may require further surgery. Police are continuing to investigate the incident. Elsewhere, 55 firefighters and four helicopters extinguished a half-acre grass fire at Stoney Point, a popular park in Chatsworth. Witness noted "a thunderous explosion" before the fire erupted among rocky outcroppings, the Fire Department's Humphrey reported. Witnesses also said they saw that a man and a woman had been badly burned but apparently eluded fire personnel attempting to aid them, he said. Firefighters took custody of a large cache of fireworks that they found. In San Francisco, illegal fireworks are suspected in a blaze that burned at least three dozen vehicles at a car rental lot and caused the temporary evacuation of a nearby hotel.

**Related Story: Girl Permanently Blinded After Illegal Fireworks Accident: The 12-year-old girl was struck in the right eye.**  
<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2011/07/south-los-angeles-girl-blinded-in-right-eye-by-illegal-fireworks.html>

### USA, IN, MORRISTOWN, JULY 8 2011. TRAIN DERAILS INTO BLUE RIVER >> SEVERAL FREIGHT CARS KNOCKED OFF TRACK INTO RIVER, DENATURED ALCOHOL INVOLVED

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/28466903/detail.html>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wthr.com/story/15042581/clean-up-continues-after-morristown-train-derailment>



A CSX train derailed into the Blue River in Morristown on Wednesday, knocking several freight cars off track, officials said. The derailment happened just before 6:30 p.m. on a trestle near U.S. 52. Morristown fire chief Steven Davis said the train's conductor said he noticed a bent rail on the trestle which is believed to have been a factor in the derailment. "The (conductor) stated that as he was crossing the bridge over Blue River, he saw a bent rail and applied the brakes," Davis said. Jacob Carlton witnessed the derailment, which he said happened right behind a trucking company, 6News' Ericka Flye reported. "We were back there working on a semi right beside the tracks. A train came rolling by, just regular and normal and all, then everything started shaking real bad and banging

real loud," Carlton said. Chad Abernathy also witnessed the train go off its tracks and was jolted from his feet. "Train goes by, next thing you know it's in the river," Abernathy said. "It felt like a bomb, I don't know. I've never heard one go off, but it was like the loudest thing I've ever heard." Skycam 6 flew over the derailment, where several train cars toppled into the Blue River. "Cars started topping off, water was splashing everywhere," Abernathy said. About 16 cars behind the locomotives derailed. The impact also took out the bridge, officials said. HAZMAT crews were called out to the scene because of the chemicals inside the cars that landed in the water but didn't spill. "Tank cars that contained residual denatured alcohol, we haven't confirmed if any of those are leaking or not," Davis said. "We've set two booms across Blue River to potentially trap any contaminants or HAZMAT that may be on the river." CSX officials said they would be investigating if there was any contamination and what caused the bent rail. There were no injuries reported.

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/28466903/detail.html>

### LEBANON, BEIRUT, JULY 8 2011. TANKER DRIVER MAKES OFF WITH 20,000 LITERS OF GAS JULY 08, 2011 01:38 AM

A tanker truck carrying 20,000 liters of gasoline was stolen by its driver, who sold the fuel to a gas station in Kfar Shima Thursday, according to the National News Agency. The owner of the truck filed a complaint with police that his driver, Ahmad Abu Adas, stole a 1980 Hino tanker truck, license plate M38776, that was carrying 20,000 liters of gasoline bound for Rammal gas station on the airport road. The driver allegedly unloaded the gasoline at another station in Kfar Shima, receiving cash in return, and fled to an unknown destination. The truck's description was given to police who are working to apprehend Abu Adas.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Jul-08/Tanker-driver-makes-off-with-20000-liters-of-gas.ashx#axzz1RUVY7MSO>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/07/07/sean-ogden-fireworks-coffee-grinder\\_n\\_892367.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/07/07/sean-ogden-fireworks-coffee-grinder_n_892367.html)

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### USA, MT, HELENA, JULY 8 2011. EXXON: 40 LANDOWNERS REPORT PROPERTY FOULED BY SPILL

emilie ritter



*Oil mixed with water from an oil spill along the Yellowstone River is pictured in Laurel, Montana, July 5, 2011.*

About 40 Montana landowners have reported contamination of their property by crude oil spilled from a ruptured Exxon Mobil pipeline into the flood-swollen Yellowstone River over the weekend, the company said on Wednesday. As the scope of property damage came into sharper relief, Montana's governor accused Exxon of underestimating how much oil spewed into the one of America's most pristine rivers 150 miles downstream from Yellowstone National Park. "This cleanup would go a lot better if we could get accurate information from Exxon Mobil," Governor Brian Schweitzer told Reuters, expressing frustration at what he characterized as the company's changing story in recent days. Citing

disparities in accounts of how long it took to stop the leak, he disputed Exxon's assertion that up to 1,000 barrels, or 42,000 gallons, of oil had spilled from the time of the rupture until the company had completely sealed off the broken pipeline. Schweitzer, in a letter to the company, also demanded it preserve all documents and evidence related to the spill, and asked that government representatives observe all work on the pipeline. The company told reporters in a conference call that it stood by its original spill estimate. Exxon Mobil Pipeline President Gary Pruessing said the actual amount of escaped oil was likely closer to 750 barrels than 1,000. The company initially said it took roughly 30 minutes to shut off all the valves necessary to keep oil in the line from draining into the river once the pipe had burst. But documents released late on Tuesday by the U.S. Transportation Department put the interval between the rupture and complete shutdown at 56 minutes, nearly double the time. "Now it ran nearly twice as long but the amount of oil dumped into the river is the same? Maybe we aren't smart enough to do their math," Schweitzer said by telephone. "The timeline is double what they initially said, but they're still confident in their estimate about how much oil spilled? ... I have a \$2 calculator: they can have it when I'm finished with it." Pruessing acknowledged the company earlier had cited a pipeline shut-off time of about 30 minutes, but said its spill volume estimates were based on the "actual" time of 49 minutes that it reported to the Transportation Department. Either way, he said, the spill estimate stands.

#### Tainted Shoreline

The Transportation Department said surveillance flights over the spill zone as recently as Sunday revealed "oil deposits as far as 240 miles downstream" in Terry, Montana. Pruessing, however, said Exxon's best information had confirmed oil-fouled shoreline extending just 25 miles downstream, with most of the contamination between the rupture site near the town of Laurel and Billings to the northeast. He said the company had received about 90 calls to a special telephone hotline set up in the aftermath of the spill, with 36 to 40 of those coming from landowners reporting that their property had been tainted by oil. But Pruessing said the company lacked an estimate for how much acreage was involved. About 350 personnel have been assigned to spill response teams so far, most of them walking the river banks with oil-absorbent pads to blot up as much crude as possible, he said, adding that was a sufficient number for the time being. The so-called Silvertip pipeline normally carries about 40,000 barrels of crude per day from the Montana-Wyoming border north to Billings, connecting to two of the state's three major refineries. The line burst on Friday night at a point where it crosses the Yellowstone beneath the riverbed at Laurel. The cause of the accident is under investigation, and Pruessing said the damaged pipe remains under 18 feet of water raging through the Yellowstone after a spring season of heavy rains and runoff from record snowmelt in the mountains. Investigators have focused on the possibility that high water washed away some of the riverbed around the buried pipe, exposing it to debris carried downstream. Pruessing said restoration of the severed pipeline is not expected for at least two weeks and that cleanup from the spill remained the company's chief concern. Exxon said it briefly shut down the pipeline in May when officials in Laurel raised concerns about erosion from flood waters but reopened it after a safety review concluded the line was sufficiently covered.

<http://planetark.org/wen/62557>

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