



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 720 Newsy Stuff

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NEW ZEALAND, INVERCARGILL, JUNE 5 2011. FIREBALL ENGULFS MAN

An Invercargill man was seriously burned on his face and neck after his barbecue exploded when he used petrol to light it at the weekend. Invercargill Fire Brigade senior station officer Graeme Gilroy, in a statement, says the brigade was called at 5.50pm on Saturday to a Hargest house. Firefighters arrived to find a middle-aged man badly burned around the neck. "We administered first aid along with another occupant using a garden hose to cool the burns," Mr Gilroy says. It is understood the man had trouble lighting the barbecue and used petrol, which then ignited and exploded a full five litre drum he was holding. The fire ball engulfed him and he staggered towards the garage which then ignited from his clothes being on fire. In the words of the occupant himself "that was the bloody stupid thing I have ever done," Mr Gilroy says. The fire service reminds people of the explosiveness and flammability of petrol and extreme care when using and storing petrol. The man was taken to Southland Hospital for treatment. His condition is not known.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/5102407/Fireball-engulfs-man>

USA, TX, SMITH CO, JUNE 5 2011. TANKER WRECKS, SPILLS MORE THAN 7,000 GALLONS OF FUEL

layron livingston

Smith County authorities say a semi loaded with nearly 7,500 gallons of fuel has crashed, just northeast of Tyler. Crews are actively trying to clear the accident that happened on County Road 384 at County Road 391. At this point, there is no word on what caused the truck to roll off the road. Injuries are also unknown. A Hazardous material crew has been requested to clean up the fuel.

<http://www.kltv.com/story/14840629/tanker-wrecks-spills-more-than-7000-gallons-of-fuel>

USA, PA, LACKAWANNA CO, JUNE 5 2011. DEP: COMPANIES SETTLE IN TCE & PCE CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER CASE

renie workman



Two companies in [Lackawanna County](#) will spend millions for a new water system and more after state officials said they contaminated groundwater in several municipalities. On Friday, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection released details of a settlement with two companies located in an industrial park in Lackawanna County. Those companies are blamed for contaminating groundwater to hundreds of homes in Scott Township, Waverly (formerly Abington) Township, and North and South Abington Townships. DEP said Sandvik, Incorporated and Bostik, Incorporated, located at the Ivy Industrial Park near Waverly will have to pay fines totaling \$2.5 million and spend \$20 million to build and hook up water lines for more than 200

residents. The news got mixed reactions from residents like David Hubble who had his well polluted by chemicals and gets regular testing. "Well six years ago, we were informed that our wells had been contaminated, so on a regular basis, first monthly and then quarterly, our wells have been tested to see if the filtration systems are doing their jobs. Adjustments are made when those filters need to be changed, so people haven't continually been in and out of the house, monitoring it and we're using bottled water as much as we can as well," said David Hubble of South Abington Township. "Well we're pleased that the water system is finally here. Six years ago, that was the first thing that we were interested in, is having a safe water source. It's sad that it's taken six years for that to happen, but we're pleased that we've made that progress and the companies seem to be taking some responsibility for their actions, but there's more to be done," added Hubble. DEP began investigating the groundwater contamination at the Ivy Industrial Park back in August 2005 and, along with the [Environmental Protection Agency](#), sampled more than 500 wells in a two-mile radius of the park. It was determined Sandvik and Bostik were responsible for the groundwater being contaminated by TCE and PCE, which the DEP said are volatile organic chemicals. The two companies will have to build the new water source, including 21 miles of water mains. Five hundred homes in the area would be eligible to connect to the new system, but some people are not happy about losing their wells if they do. Grey Bossi has neighbors all around him with contaminated wells. His well is not contaminated, but he still will not drink the water. Instead, he has been buying six to eight gallons of bottled water a week, for nearly six years. "I'm happy right now with our water, as far as the water goes because it's not contaminated, but we still can't drink it. So for us to really have drinking water, we're going to have to hook up. I'm not going to be happy with a water bill, but I'd rather have something safe," said Grey Bossi of Scott Township, who is also concerned about property values. "I think in general, people are not happy to be going to public water. It's a necessary thing for most of us, but we live here, we've had wells, we've gone to the expense of drilling those wells, and

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we would prefer to be able to control our own situation. We're not looking forward to water bills, which we haven't had to pay and now that are being imposed upon us, and our wells are being taken away because somebody stepped in and polluted them," added Hubble. There is no word when construction of the new water line will begin. Sandvik Materials Technology president Peter Frosini released a statement Friday on the settlement: "Sandvik has worked with the Pennsylvania DEP, Bostik, Inc., the local community and other stakeholders for the past several years to evaluate environmental conditions at its Clarks Summit facility and the surrounding area and take actions necessary to ensure the safety of our neighbors' drinking water supply. The company has been diligent in responding to the requests of regulators and the needs of the community during this period, and is pleased to resolve these issues in a productive manner through these agreements with the Commonwealth." "Sandvik will continue its efforts along with Pennsylvania DEP, Bostik, Inc. and Pennsylvania American Water Company to establish a new water system for the community," the statement continued. DEP said the settlement documents are available for public review online, at the DEP office in Wilkes-Barre or at the four municipal buildings. The public has a 60-day comment period. A public meeting to discuss the case will be held on July 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lakeland high school auditorium http://www.wnep.com/wnep-lacka-dep-two-companies-settlement-groundwater-contamination_0.229300.story

USA, ILL, CHICAGO, JUNE 6 2011. US: CANADIAN OIL PIPELINE HAZARDOUS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

mark guarino



Protestors gathered near a large inflatable oil barrel outside the Canadian Embassy in Washington last July. They later marched to the White House carrying signs and a banner reading "No Keystone XL Pipeline, Clean Energy Now."

A controversial oil-sands pipeline operated by a Canadian oil company was ordered shut down Friday by the [US Department of Transportation](#) on charges that its continued operation "would be hazardous to lives, property, and the environment." TransCanada, a leading North American pipeline operator, started operation of Keystone I, a 36-inch pipeline system, in June 2010, making it possible to deliver Canadian oil to markets across Midwest farmland in several states, from the Dakotas through Illinois. The company wants to expand the system so that it snakes from the Canadian province of [Alberta](#), taking oil

southeast through Oklahoma and eventually into refineries located in Nederland, Tex., along the [Gulf Coast](#). The company says its new system, titled Keystone XL, will contribute \$20 billion to the US economy through job creation and local property taxes. However, the shutdown this week may create obstacles to getting final approval from the [US State Department](#), which is faced with weighing the benefit of receiving 1.29 million barrels, or 54 million gallons, of oil per day into US markets with the environmental risks of having potentially hazardous crude oil moving across thousands of miles of fertile farmland and into its primary freshwater aquifer. A decision is expected by the end of this year. The order to shut down the existing pipeline follows two leaks, on May 7 and May 29. The first, according to the order, released 400 barrels, or 16,800 gallons, of crude oil in Sargent County, North Dakota. The second involved a leak at a pump station in [Doniphan County, Kan.](#), which released 10 barrels, or 420 gallons, of crude oil into the environment. In his eight-page order, Jeffrey Wiese, an associate administrator for pipeline safety, said he is directing the shutdown due to "the proximity of the pipeline to populated areas, water bodies, public roadways and high consequence areas, the hazardous nature of the product the pipeline transports, the ongoing investigation to determine the cause of the failures, and the potential for the conditions causing the failures to be present elsewhere on the pipeline." The company is required within 90 days to submit a work plan for approval that shows corrective measures in place related to the leaks. Environmental groups warn that, besides the leaks, TransCanada is working against the public interest because it is being allowed to use thinner steel than is typically required for US pipelines. They also say that more leaks are certain since oil from tar sands is more corrosive than conventional oil, especially when moved under high temperatures and pressure. The leaks in May "should be a clarion call for the State Department to seriously consider the safety concerns posed by Keystone XL," said Anthony Swift, a lawyer with the [National Resources Defense Council](#), in a statement. Besides the concern over future oil leaks, local farming and ranching interests say that the pipeline, if extended, could damage their industry and way of life. The [National Farmers Union](#), a [Washington](#) organization which advocates for family run farms, sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Thursday asking for an extension of the public comment period, which ends Monday. Roger Johnson, the organization's president, says his members continue to have "serious concerns regarding the proposed Keystone XL pipeline." "While several alternate routes and potential impact to various land-use types, federal lands and bodies

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of water were considered ... we feel that [the federal environment impact statement] lacked sufficient analysis to reach an appropriate conclusion," he wrote.

Related Links

- [Oil spills hit on land, too: Aging pipelines imperil Midwest](#)
- [High stakes in Canada's vast oil-sands fields](#)

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2011/0604/US-Canadian-oil-pipeline-hazardous-to-the-environment>

KENYA, NAIROBI, JUNE 6 2011. ONE KILLED, 46 INJURED IN CITY BLAST

cyrus ombati

 [Watch the Video Kirinyaga Road explosion casualties](#)



At least one person was killed when a powerful explosion went off behind a petrol station along Kirinyaga Road in downtown Nairobi. It was a lucky escape for scores of mechanics and motorists who would have flocked the area if it were a weekday. The explosion injured 41 people, six of whom are critically wounded and undergoing treatment in various city hospitals. Most of the victims were hit by flying objects triggered by the explosion that occurred at about 11.30 am. The loud explosion could be heard more than two kilometers away, and city residents said they were taken aback with buildings shaking while those near the scene had windows shattered. A thick black smoke billowed later as a fire broke out at the adjacent Shell Petrol station. The blaze is suspected to have been caused by the explosion. The victim, a man, died at the Guru Nanak hospital where he was

rushed to soon after the incident, Nairobi PPO Anthony Kibuchi said. The area of the explosion is a busy street behind Kirinyaga Road that is dominated by motor vehicle spare part dealers. Most observers said things could have been worse had the blast not occurred on a Sunday when city streets have fewer pedestrians and vehicles. The street is usually heavily populated and a beehive of activities during weekdays, and the fatalities and injuries could have been higher. Police and military officials who rushed to the scene said the source of the explosion was an unoccupied room near the petrol station. But they could not immediately confirm the nature of the explosive that went off, shattering several buildings' windows, flinging eight cars and ripping open two 20-foot containers packed with motor vehicle spare parts. At Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) where a majority of victims were admitted, Dr Peter Wanyoike, the hospital's chairman in charge of disaster preparedness allayed fears there would be more fatalities. Dr Wanyoike said all victims admitted in KNH wards by 2.30pm were in a stable condition. He said majority had suffered burns, while others had fractures and injuries caused by sharp objects. "Actually 60 per cent of the victims suffered burns while five had fractured limbs. The rest suffered soft tissue injuries. Others had cuts from glass and other sharp objects," he explained. On Sunday, bomb disposal experts who arrived at the scene described the device as a high velocity explosive. It first ripped off the rear wall of the room, before shattering the steel containers and cars, some of which were on a slow motion, witnesses said. It was at that point the victims, some of them residents of a nearby residential house who were in their rooms during the explosion, were hit by flying shrapnel. The shock of the blast ripped through the windows and doors injuring several residents. Some who were cooking and those caught on the street suffered burns on their bodies. Director of police operations Julius Ndegwa visited the scene, but said the security personnel were yet to know the cause of the loud explosion. "The bomb experts here say the explosion came from inside the underground room causing the damages and injuries. We are yet to know what caused it," said Ndegwa. Other experts who arrived at the scene suspect the explosion was caused by a fuel leakage from the underground tanks that are at the same level of the room where the explosion started. But the station manager Wambui Kiago said that was unlikely because they had only what she termed as "dead stock" of petrol then. "We have dead stock which is about 1,000 litres and which is not usually touched until we refill. And I do not think there is any form of leakage here because we could have noticed," she said. Kiago said she was in her office at the station when the explosion went off, and dashed out forgetting her shoes. An attendant at the station, Boniface Mutua, also said he ran for his dear life after the explosion and stopped few meters away only to see the fuel pumps catch fire. "I saw fire from the pumps and knew a disaster would occur minutes later, forcing me to escape from the scene," he said. The fire was, however, contained by firefighters who arrived at the scene in time. Emergency services also rushed to the scene and police officers evacuated nearby buildings as the area was cleared. Another employee at the station said there was an unusual smell from the floor where the explosion occurred in the past two days, but they did not bother to check what it was. The employee pointed an accusing finger at leaked fuel as the source of the smell. Officials from the military and US embassy

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in Nairobi also visited the scene. Contingents of police were mobilised to control a huge crowd that surged to have a glimpse of the explosion. Prime Minister Raila Odinga also visited the scene and said the Government would seek ways of assisting the injured and those who lost property in the blast.

<http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/sports/InsidePage.php?id=2000036598&cid=4>

UK, WALES, CONWY CO, JUNE 6 2011. BETWS-Y-COED PETROL STATION FUEL SPILL FIRE WRECKS CAR

A car has been destroyed after catching fire on the forecourt of a filling station in Betws-y-Coed in Conwy county, North Wales. Fire and Rescue Service said they were called to the garage at Waterloo Bridge shortly before 1330 BST on Saturday. There was also slight damage to the garage kiosk. The fire service said the blaze was caused by a fuel spillage. No-one was injured.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-west-wales-13660121>

BANGLADESH, CHITTAGONG PORT, JUNE 6 2011. SUNKEN TANKER SPILLING OIL IN KARNAPHULI



Hours before the World Environment Day yesterday, an oil tanker sank in the Karnaphuli and discharged a huge quantity of oil polluting the river.

A tanker, which sank into the Karnaphuli River on Saturday and was spilling oil, could not be salvaged till last night. Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday in a letter directed the Eastern Bunker Services, owner firm of the tanker Moon, to salvage it within 48 hours. It could not be immediately estimated how much oil has already been spilled into the river, said CPA Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed. He, however, said it was loaded with nearly 150 tonnes of furnace fuel. A team of divers from Bangladesh Navy managed to tie the tanker to the jetty to prevent it from being washed away by high tide to the main channel, Farhad

added. Witnesses said the oil started spilling fast after tide began yesterday noon. Also yesterday, three sea-waste cleaners were sent to the spot to clean up the water. An official of one of the cleaner vessels said the oil has spread over an area of at least 10 square kilometres. Faridul Alam, director of CPA Environmental Management Unit, said, the cleaners have collected 45 tonnes of spilled oil. On Saturday night, the local tanker, which loads fuel from tanks in the jetties to supply to sea-going vessels, was anchored at Chittagong Port. It started sinking slowly around 11:30pm. The reason behind its sinking was still unknown. Meanwhile, to rescue the tanker, its owner firm hired a private company, Hiramoni Salvage Ltd, that started the job yesterday morning. A two-member team from the CPA has been formed to probe into the incident after senior port officials visited the spot.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=188788>

SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, JUNE 6 2011. INJUSTICE ON PETROL STATION FORECOURT LEAVES ME REELING

pinky khoabane

A year after BP's oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico - which left 11 people dead and did untold damage to the environment - you'd think that this company would have learnt a lesson about the importance of brand management, if nothing else. According to BP's annual report, it had to set aside \$20-billion to pay claims and compensation stemming from the disaster. A further \$500-million has been allocated for research on its impact on the environment. When its chairman, Carl-Henric Svanberg, in the same annual report, says that BP will do everything to ensure that it "is a company that can be trusted by shareholders and communities around the world", you'd think that the wider community to which he refers, includes employees, even those at its franchises. But, no. If the overseas group has learnt something from the PR mess that followed the oil debacle, it certainly hasn't filtered it down to the South African office. Just last week, I visited a BP garage one cold evening and noticed that one of the petrol attendants wasn't wearing a jacket. An inquiry into why she wasn't wearing one led me down a chilling path of low wages, worker abuse and a violation of labour laws. As it turned out, this petrol attendant wasn't wearing a jacket because she didn't have one. Her male colleagues later explained that she didn't have one because she couldn't afford to buy one, but they had devised a system whereby they lent her theirs when their shift ended. Right there my head spun a little. How does a company dictate that you wear its uniform but doesn't provide it for free? The jacket, priced at R250, was way above what she could afford with her measly salary of R600 per week. This salary is an industry norm, though. During our discussion, it emerged that the employees had to buy the entire uniform. The pants, shirt and cap came to approximately R650 and each bought at least two sets. In response to my question on the matter, BP's head of marketing and sales, Sipho Mbelle, had this to say: "BP's retail network is run on a franchise model. The franchise owners manage each

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dealership independently. "BP's policy is to provide the forecourt and staff uniforms to its dealers at cost. While BP encourages the dealers to provide the uniforms to staff at no costs, the franchise model prescribes that the dealer is free to put policies in place to manage their staff as they see fit." What? Does this man or this organisation know that there are guidelines which stipulate that workers in the motor industry should be provided with at least two sets of uniforms a year at no cost? Surely, an organisation with a global brand would not leave matters of its image in the hands of dealers? Forget about the health and safety of its employees; just think what a tattered uniform does to the image. This lackadaisical approach to the uniform policy also contradicts the Motor Industry Bargaining Council's contention that the oil companies placed onerous conditions on their franchises. "They dictate everything - from where the agent buys his bread to where he gets his newspapers," an employee at the bargaining council told me. It would seem that BP's commitment to quality extends to its products and marketing campaigns and not to the staff of its franchises. As I scratched deeper, I discovered that just about every aspect of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act were being broken here. The workers didn't have any contracts. They didn't receive salary slips or proof of any of the statutory deductions required by law. As one of the employees told me: "The money is simply handed to you. It doesn't even go into an envelope and you are then handed a piece of paper on which you are asked to put a signature next to your name." These workers cannot be described as temporary staff. I frequent this petrol station and they have been there for longer than the three-months period permissible by law for employees to be considered temporary. The workforce at this garage has a large contingent of foreigners, who are particularly vulnerable to employer abuse, stemming largely from their illegal stay in the country. While it is within the law to employ foreigners, it is a contravention to employ those without the necessary papers to stay in the country. The response from BP's Mbelle is plain hogwash. This company would want to wash its hands of this filthy mess, but we are not stupid. An organisation operating within the framework of the law should not simply "encourage" its dealers; it should enforce the laws of the country which are binding on it and its franchises.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/opinion/columnists/article1102184.ece/Injustice-on-petrol-station-forecourt-leaves-me-reeling>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, JUNE 6 2011. UP TO 1,200 GALLONS OF GAS SPILL INTO BRIGHAM CITY STORM DRAINS

cimaron neugebauer

A routine fuel station delivery at a grocery store in Brigham City ended with up to 1,200 gallons spilling into the city's storm drains, but was eventually cleaned up. The spill happened as gas was being delivered to a fuel station at Smith's, 120 S. Main, around 11 a.m., said Brigham City Emergency Services director Jim Buchanan. "One of the connectors broke and before it could be shut down they lost somewhere between 500 to 1,200 gallons of gasoline in the city's storm drains," Buchanan said. The event could have become explosive, but firefighters and public works officials worked quickly to contain the spill to a one-block area. "We were able to keep it out of the wet lands," Buchanan said. During the clean up, a two-block section of the area, including the fuel station was closed for about an hour. Buchanan said professional contractors were called in to finish cleaning up the rest of the fuel from storm drains Saturday evening.

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/51945334-78/draains-storm-brigham-buchanan.html.csp>

PHILIPPINES, SARANGANI, KIAMBA, JUNE 6 2011. ATTEMPT TO RE-FLOAT TANKER FROM BACUD REEF FAILS ANEW

After almost a month of being stuck in Bacud Reef in Sarangani Bay, the tanker M/V Double Prosperity remains stuck as of Friday as salvors failed in their third attempt to pull the ship off the reef. Salvor Malayan Towage Company was scheduled to conduct another operation Saturday, to take advantage of the high tide. No update of said operation was available as of posting. On Friday, refloating procedure was made from two to six in the morning but the ship failed to move. The salvor employed three tugboats to pull the ship but to no avail. The salvage company is under the command of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which has been securing the ship's vicinity from day one. On-scene commander of the PCG Lt. Commander Richard Marfe has been on board M/V Double Prosperity since May 9 with five other Coast Guard personnel. "The tide and current table indicated high tides from June 1 to 3," Marfe said. He said the ship's water ballasts have been emptied and pressurized in order to add buoyancy particularly at the fore of the ship. Last week, Marfe said, the salvor has already transferred 2,100 metric tons of cargo to a chartered ship that can carry up to 4,000 metric tons. A barge is also in the area to carry an additional 2,000 metric tons of cargo. The PCG's BRP Romblon commander Joseph Coyne is guarding M/V Double Prosperity and its vicinity. Bacud Reef is about 50 nautical miles from the Coast Guard station in General Santos City. Ship owner Yano Kaiun Co. Ltd. of Japan promised to compensate the Provincial Government with US\$ 800,000.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/davao/local-news/2011/06/05/attempt-re-float-tanker-bacud-reef-fails-anew-159518>

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USA, DE, NEWARK, JUNE 6 2011. OVERTURNED TANKER SPILLS FUEL, SHUTS DOWN RT. 896



Delaware State Police are investigating an accident that shutdown Route 896 in Newark. The accident happened at 10:30 Sunday morning when a tanker truck overturned on the Southbound I-95 off ramp to Southbound Route 896. It appears the driver misjudged the ramp when the accident occurred. The driver, identified as Percy Green, 58, of Willingboro, New Jersey, was able to climb out of the truck on his own and was evaluated on scene by medics but refused further treatment. According to police, Green appeared to be traveling at an unsafe speed prior to the crash. The tractor-trailer partially overturned, damaging the diesel fuel tank of the truck. The tanker is transporting non-hazardous latex. Police say there does not appear to have been any release of that material.

About 150 gallons of fuel spilled on to the highway. Route 896 at Welsh Tract Road along with the Southbound off ramp from I-95 will be shut down for several hours while crews clean up the spill. Green has been cited for driving at an unsafe speed.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=resources/traffic&id=8171282>

CHINA, ZHEJIANG PROVINCE, JIANDE, JUNE 6 2011. PHENOL LEAK POLLUTES RIVER IN EAST CHINA

A tanker traveling along a highway rolled and leaked toxic chemical phenol into a river in east China's Zhejiang Province late Saturday night, local authorities said on Sunday. The chemical substance spilled out of the tanker and was washed by heavy rain into the Xin'an River at about 11 p.m. Saturday, said a spokesman for the publicity office of Jiande City where the accident occurred. Xin'an River, which feeds into the Fuchun and Qiantang rivers, is the source of drinking water for several cities in Zhejiang, including the capital city of Hangzhou. The local environment protection authorities are working to contain the pollution, the spokesman added. Phenol and its vapors are corrosive to the eyes, skin and respiratory system. Skin contact with the substance may cause burns. It can also harm the central nervous system, heart, lung and kidney.

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2011/06/05/1781s641151.htm>

CANADA, ONT, JUNE 6 2011. LION'S HEAD HARBOUR, BEACH OPEN AFTER SPILL PROMPTS EVACUATION >> TWO MEN ONLY SLIGHTLY HURT IN BOAT EXPLOSION

bill henry



Officials reopened the beach and harbour at Lion's Head Sunday afternoon. An explosion Friday night destroyed a classic wooden cabin cruiser and spilled hundreds of litres of gasoline, prompting an evacuation and closure which was lifted Sunday at about 12:30 p.m. The boat's owner and another man on board when it blew up escaped with only scratches and an injured shoulder. The blast at about 7:40 p.m. rocked buildings within several blocks at the small Bruce Peninsula community. Boat owners and people from several nearby cottages were ordered to leave the area, some spending Friday and Saturday at the local arena or motels. "I just heard the loudest explosion I've ever heard. It was like a bomb. Just a huge explosion," said Rachel Thompson. She was with her husband below deck on their sailboat moored nearby when they heard the boom. "We ran up on board to see really quickly a fireball go up into the sky. Thick, thick smoke and a huge gas fire broke out on that beautiful wooden boat,"

Thompson said Sunday from their home in Tiverton. She photographed the blaze and said firefighters arrived quickly to douse the fire, then work with some of the owners to move boats away from the spill area after the burning boat sank. Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Chief Mike Henderson said the wooden cabin cruiser was moored at the fueling station and had taken on 1,300 litres of gasoline an hour earlier. The blast happened when the owners switched on the ignition to move from the fuel pumps. The boat was completely destroyed above the deck and fire also burned some of the adjacent wooden dock. The large fuel spill prompted safety and environmental concerns and Henderson said he closed the area and ordered the evacuation Friday night. The beach and harbour reopened and cottagers went home soon after a noon meeting with Canadian Coast Guard officials, who have jurisdiction over fuel spills on water, Henderson said. Despite the size of the spill, the gasoline floats on water and was expected to evaporate completely within a few hours, Henderson said after the meeting Sunday. "The Coast Guard don't feel there's a safety issue," Henderson said. A cleanup to recover any more boat parts from the water and resolve any other concerns has been ordered and will be covered by the boat owner's insurance, the fire chief said. The owner

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recently purchased the classic cruiser in Port Elgin with plans to live aboard, Henderson said. "It was a miracle that they survived it. There's no question about it." It's likely a spark ignited gasoline fumes but investigators with the Ontario Fire Marshal's office were at Lion's Head Sunday trying to determine exactly what happened. "We know that once the ignition was turned on there was an explosion," he said Sunday. "People felt it several blocks away. You could hear it all through the village. It was quite an explosion." It took firefighters about 30 minutes to get the blaze under control, then much of Saturday to salvage what was left of the wooden 42-ft. 1960s Christ Craft cabin cruiser. A crane pulled the boat from the water late Saturday afternoon and it was taken on a flat bed truck to a nearby landfill where officials were investigating. Henderson said one of two fuel tanks blew Friday night. Firefighters savaged about 800 litres from the boat's intact tank, leaving as much as 500 litres spilled in the harbour. Because of the size of the fuel spill, he ordered the area closed and sealed and people evacuated. "To put a number on how much fuel is still in the harbour is almost impossible, but there's a large amount," he said Sunday morning, before meeting Coast Guard officials. "And of course there is local concern that there's some environmental damage." About a dozen people staying or living on boats in the harbour were housed at the arena as an emergency evacuation centre and provided with meals through a local restaurant. Residents of six nearby homes or cottages were also evacuated, Henderson said. Thompson said boat owners there Friday night were stunned by the explosion but eventually took things in stride and rallied to relocate boats before leaving the area. "Everybody really did just sort of come together and help and solve the problem," she said. "We're all just so thankful that nobody was seriously hurt. There could have been third degree burns. There could have been a death. It was a really huge fire. It's amazing how quickly things can get out of control. It was incredible how fast it burned. On Friday night there were a lot of shellshocked people walking around displaced and so sad at the loss of that absolutely beautiful boat."

<http://www.markdalestandard.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3156188>

MALAYSIA, SABAH, TAWAU, JUNE 6 2011. DEATH FROM PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION

A 34-year-old man died while his wife and son are still in critical condition after consuming water stored inside a weedkiller container at Wakuba, recently. District police chief ACP Ibrahim Chin said a villager had noticed the husband, his wife and a child unconscious at their home around 10am and immediately rushed them to the hospital before lodging a police report. "We believe the family was having their meal and drank from the container which contained the dangerous substances and fainted." "The father died while both his 25-year-old wife and 8-year-old son are still in hospital."

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=78175>

USA, AZ, PRESCOTT VALLEY, JUNE 6 2011. TEEN PLAYING WITH FIREWORKS IGNITES BLAZE IN PV

doug cook

A teenage girl who lit an illegal firework and lost control of it behind her home on the town's west side early Saturday afternoon caused \$50,000 in fire damage, a Central Yavapai Fire District spokesman said. The blaze broke out around 12:53 p.m. when a 15-year-old ignited a Roman candle unsupervised on a wood deck in a backyard along the 7600 block of Acoma Lane north of Spouse Drive off Agua Fria Drive, CYFD Assistant Chief Charlie Cook added. No one suffered any injuries in the fire and apparently no one else was at home at the time. Firefighters on three engines from CYFD and one engine from the Prescott Fire Department corralled the blaze in 20 minutes, but they spent nearly three hours completely extinguishing it. "She lit the firework on the porch and caught the deck on fire," Cook said of the young girl. "The fire moved to the inside of the house before they (firefighters) were able to stop it. It also extended out to the yard and burned a portion of the fence in the yard, threatening the neighbor's home." With the extremely dry and windy weather that has been present across the state over the past week, Cook said residents must understand that fireworks are dangerous. He added that legal fireworks are to be used only under the supervision of an adult. "I realize the governor (Jan Brewer) tried to legalize some fireworks for people to use, but we are in such dry conditions right now," Cook said. "This happened not only to vegetation, catching the grass on fire, but someone's home, someone's residence." Cook added that the girl who accidentally started Saturday's blaze told a CYFD investigator that she received the Roman candle firework from a friend a while ago. This past week, Cook said he heard a couple of complaints over the phone about people allegedly selling fireworks at Peddler's Pass, a park and swap at 6201 E. Highway 69. "I spent most of the morning there (Saturday), going up and down the aisles," he said. "I do have one vendor there that's selling novelty fireworks, which are deregulated fireworks." Cook added that the fireworks he spotted at Peddler's Pass included some smoke bombs and tall sparklers. For the time being, he said his main concern is getting some clarity from the governor's office about which fireworks are legal and which ones are not. "They say sparklers are legal, but then other people say some sparklers are not," Cook said. At Peddler's Pass, Cook added that he found another concessionaire from the Phoenix area selling legal fireworks that the individual bought down there. However, Cook said, that vendor had not received

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the required permit from CYFD and the proper signage from the [Town of Prescott Valley](#), which says a person must be 16 years old to buy fireworks and currently can't shoot them off within Yavapai County because of recent fire restrictions. "We pretty much confiscated the fireworks that he had there," Cook said. "He (vendor) was very polite about it. I'm not picking on anybody, but I had to follow up." Cook added that Saturday's fire offers an important lesson. "This is a great eye-opener for these people (who use fireworks)," he said. "It's not any different than these forest fires we're seeing (in eastern Arizona) from people being careless."

<http://www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=94594>

USA, ME, SEARSPORT, JUNE 7 2011. WELDING EYED AS CAUSE OF SEARSPORT TANK FIRE >> IRVING SPOKESWOMAN: COMPANY APPRECIATES WORK OF VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

steve fuller



A satellite photo of the storage tanks at Mack Point. According to the Mack Point website, the set of tanks on the right (the ones spaced more closely together) are among those used by Irving Oil. Station Avenue, which runs from Route 1 to the facility, is visible in the top right corner.

A day after upward of 70 firefighters spent more than seven hours at the scene of a fuel tank fire at Mack Point, an Irving Oil official said the fire may have been caused by welding work that was being done on top of the large tank. Carolyn Van der Veen, an Irving spokeswoman, said Tuesday, June 7 that Irving Oil is conducting an "internal investigation" of the fire that happened a day earlier at the company's terminal in Searsport. The day of the fire, Van der Veen said the fire broke out in the tank while routine maintenance and upgrade work was being done Monday afternoon. Tuesday, she specifically mentioned that there was welding being done on top of that particular tank as part of that work. The tank was empty at the time, she said, and the fire started in a rubber ring, or lip,

around the top of the tank. The fire was contained inside the tank, she said, and none of the other tanks — there are approximately a dozen tanks at the Irving facility — were involved. The tank in question, according to Van der Veen, typically contains heating oil. She said the tank has a total capacity of 175,000 barrels, which equates to 7.35 million gallons (a barrel of oil is 42 gallons), but reiterated that the tank was empty when the fire broke out. Van der Veen said officials do not yet have a dollar estimate of how much damage was done to the tank, and said the company will need to determine the exact extent of the damage before they know what needs to be done to repair the tank. The Department of Environmental Protection responded to the scene, according to Van der Veen, to check on the air quality there. Van der Veen said she was unsure if any other agencies were involved. The day after the fire, Van der Veen said the terminal was fully functioning again and back to "business as usual" as of that morning. She said the fire would not disrupt operations at the Searsport terminal. Van der Veen said company officials had spoken with some Searsport residents and local business owners following the fire, to explain to them what had happened and to try and answer questions about the fire. "They were extremely appreciative to hear, first-hand from the company, what was being done," she said, describing the reactions from locals. She said Searsport is a "close-knit" town and "great little community," and she said the company wants to be a good neighbor to the people who live there. Van der Veen had nothing but praise for the volunteer firefighters and others who responded to the scene. She said people were "very gracious in how they responded," and that the emergency responders from the community worked well with Irving employees and officials at the scene. "We are appreciative of everything the fire departments have done," she said. "We appreciate what the volunteer firefighters did." Searsport Fire Chief Jim Dittmeier was in command of the firefighters' efforts at the scene Monday, and speaking Tuesday afternoon he said the fire presented a challenge for the approximately 70 firefighters from at least seven departments that responded to the fire. Firefighters and trucks from towns including Belfast, Bucksport, Frankfort, Northport, Prospect and Stockton Springs joined the Searsport Fire Department at the scene at the end of Station Avenue, where the oil company's large storage tanks are part of the Mack Point Marine Intermodal Cargo Terminal. Tanker trucks from the various departments helping to fight the fire were seen shuttling in and out of the gate at the end of Station Avenue, bringing water in to be pumped into the tank, then traveling back out to Main Street (Route 1) to be refilled from hydrants. Dittmeier said the water supply at the scene was problematic, in that the hydrant system was not supplying enough water. That is why water had to be shuttled in by the tanker trucks from hydrants at other locations. The logistics of overseeing such a large response were also a challenge, according to Dittmeier, but he said he called in the Waldo County IMAT — Incident Management Assistance Team — to help with those matters. According to the IMAT's website, the group's

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goal is "to provide a trained team of incident command staff to augment the incident command structure formed for an emergency or disaster event." Dittmeier said for the Searsport fire, the IMAT kept track of personnel, dealt with financial issues and got food for firefighters. That allowed Dittmeier and others to focus on fighting the fire. Dittmeier said fire officials estimated that crews poured about 80,000 gallons of water on the fire, which firefighters first responded to around 4 p.m. Monday. The fire chief said firefighters tried numerous approaches to extinguishing the fire, but in the end it just required "a lot of water and foam." Irving employees and Clean Harbors personnel provided some technical assistance to firefighters, Dittmeier said. The fire was extinguished around 9 p.m. Monday, Dittmeier said, and firefighters remained on scene until around 11:30 that night. He said no firefighters were injured, and that no equipment was broken. Van der Veen said no one else was injured, either.

<http://waldo.villagesoup.com/news/story/welding-eyed-as-cause-of-searsport-tank-fire/407065>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, JUNE 7 2011. 'FOUL FUEL' FROM UNITED PETROL SITE PUTS DRIVER OFF ROAD

benjamin millar

A student facing almost \$2000 in repairs to his car claims it was ruined by contaminated petrol bought from a Sunshine petrol station. Johnathan Patatsos said his car became undriveable after he purchased petrol at the Sunshine-Albion United service station on April 19. But United denies the station was at fault, citing stringent daily testing requirements that failed to show up any contamination. Mr Patatsos said his 2000 Nissan Pulsar had been travelling without a problem until five minutes after he purchased the fuel. "The car was shaking and I took it to the mechanics," he said. "It has done about \$2000 worth of damage. There's no way you can have melted spark plugs like that without something being wrong with the fuel." The mechanic provided Mr Patatsos with a sample of the fuel, but he said it would cost him hundreds of dollars to have it independently tested. Last week, the Weekly revealed that a BP service station in Kealba had received a number of complaints from customers about possible water contamination. This followed heavy rains in mid-April, the same time period in which Mr Patatsos experienced problems. A United spokesman said any such claims were thoroughly investigated. United required daily testing of fuel at all its sites and any claims of contamination would be checked against the test results. The spokesman said that if water had found its way into the fuel tanks at the station, other motorists would have been affected. The company would weigh up all the evidence before deciding whether, on balance, it appeared to be liable.

<http://www.brimbankweekly.com.au/news/local/news/general/foul-fuel-puts-driver-off-road/2187813.aspx>

USA, WYO, CHEYENNE, JUNE 7 2011. WYOMING REGULATORS, SINCLAIR REACH \$5.4 MILLION SETTLEMENT FOR REFINERY VIOLATIONS

jeremy fogleberg



The owner of an oil refinery near Rawlins with a raft of pollution problems in recent years has agreed to a multimillion-dollar settlement with state regulators regarding a 2010 incident that killed dozens of birds. Sinclair Wyoming Refinery Co. will pay \$850,000 for releasing oil into a wastewater evaporation pond at its refinery, the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality announced Monday. Sinclair also agreed to spend \$4.5 million on equipment upgrades and training. On April 25, 2010, the company notified state environmental regulators that oil had been released into one of the refinery's wastewater evaporation ponds. After the release, 80 migratory birds were found dead in the polluted pond, a company spokesman said shortly after the incident. The final number of birds affected was far higher, state regulators say. In August the department issued a notice to the company for a wide range of violations related to the

handling and management of hazardous waste -- including the oil release and failing to follow benzene discharge limits -- and the damage caused to wildlife. In the harshly worded violation notice, state regulators identified what they said was a pattern of violations and concerns regarding the management of wastewater from the refinery. The company had "derived economic impact" -- made or saved money -- from its failure to follow state rules meant to protect the environment, the department claimed. On Monday, a representative of the department had much kinder words for the refinery and its owners. "It's an operating refinery -- you're going to have problems, you're going to have violations," said Charles Plymale, project manager for enforcement and compliance at DEQ's Solid and Hazardous Waste Division. "We've got a good working relationship with Sinclair, and when things happen, they do notify us. They want to make us aware, they want to fix problems and have a path

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forward," he added. Through the deal, Sinclair will also pay \$4.5 million for significant upgrades to its wastewater treatment equipment, train workers in how to respond to wildlife affected by oil, remove a large oil-water separation tank, and test its wastewater and evaporation pond systems for salt levels. The company has worked with regulators to clean up the oil in the pond, used noise cannons and vehicles to keep birds off the surface, and conducted daily patrols to check the situation, according to the settlement agreement. "We have worked very closely with the Wyoming DEQ and other government officials," said Mike Achacoso, vice president of refining for Sinclair, in a media release. "This settlement shows our commitment to upgrade the refinery's wastewater treatment system in a good faith effort to try to prevent an accident like this from happening again." The bird-killing oil release and the other violations dealt with in the settlement are just the latest problems for the refinery, which produces more than 2 million gallons of various kinds of fuel a day and was first built in 1923. Since the start of 2009, Wyoming Sinclair Refinery Co. has paid \$1.67 million in penalties to state environmental regulators. That total includes a \$660,000 penalty for the release of 3 million gallons of gasoline-grade fluid in May 2009. Other violations charged to the refinery have covered incidents including improper storage of hazardous waste in March 2010, causing excessive odors in September 2009, and the release of 1,089 pounds of hydrogen sulfide gas into the air in May 2009. In a settlement of violations related to the hydrogen sulfide gas release, Sinclair agreed to pay a \$10,000 penalty to state regulators.

Timeline Sinclair Refinery violation notices and settlements: 2010

- Aug. 9 Violation: Wide range of violations regarding hazardous waste handling, storage and permitting that killed migratory birds in late April 2010. Settlement: It was announced Monday that Sinclair agreed to pay an \$850,000 penalty and another \$4.5 million for equipment upgrades, training and various other activities.
- March 12 Violation: Improperly storing hazardous waste. Settlement: Sinclair agreed to pay a \$139,740 penalty.
- Feb. 28 Violation: An alleged lack of equipment testing and failure to obtain permits for air compressors. Settlement: Pending.
- Feb. 10 Violation: Allegedly released 1,080 pounds of hydrogen sulfide gas on May 26, 2009. Settlement: Agreed to pay a \$10,000 penalty; Sinclair admits no fault or liability.
- Jan. 14 Violation: Causing excessive odors in mid-September 2009. Settlement: Sinclair agreed to pay \$10,000 penalty.

2009

- Dec. 30 Violation: Released 3 million gallons of gasoline-grade fluid when a storage tank was punctured on May 3, 2009. Settlement: Agreed to \$660,000 penalty.
- July 30 Violation: Allegedly failed to comply with the nitrogen oxide limits for the No. 11 boiler during the first quarter of 2009. Settlement: Still in negotiation.
- June 8 Violation: Allegedly released material from a fluid catalytic cracking gasoline relief valve into the sewer in March 2009. Settlement: No information available.

PDF Document:

[Settlement totaling \\$5.4 million between Sinclair Wyoming Refinery Co. and Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/article_139bbde9-c5a5-5c7c-9c1b-de912156a800.html](http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/article_139bbde9-c5a5-5c7c-9c1b-de912156a800.html)

USA, PA, PITTSBURGH, MONTGOMERY TWP, JUNE 7 2011. WIDESPREAD BURNS FROM FUEL TANK EXPLOSION KILL MAN >> DARRELL BOWSER BADLY BURNED IN MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP

An Indiana County man died Monday in a Pittsburgh hospital after being injured in an explosion. According to police, Darrell Bowser, 66, was trying to fix a fuel leak on a bulldozer when the tank exploded. It happened near Route 286 in Montgomery Township. The Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office said the man suffered burns over 93 percent of his body. His death was ruled an accident.

<http://www.wtae.com/allegheny/28153064/detail.html>

SAUDI ARABIA, JEDDAH, JUNE 7 2011. MARINE POLLUTION CAUSED BY OIL TANKER ACCIDENTS IN FOCUS

md al-sulami

Saudi coasts witnessed 12 oil-tanker accidents last year that polluted seawater due to the leakage of 2,103 barrels, said an official from the Presidency of Meteorology and Environment on Monday. Sameer Ghazi, undersecretary for environmental affairs, said the leakage of oil in the sea declined in 2010 by 103 barrels compared to the leakage the previous year. He said

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12 places were affected by pollution caused by the oil slick in the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea, adding that the pollution was created by the leakage of oil and by tankers hitting corals. He said the removal of leaked oil from the sea was expensive. "The removal of a single barrel of oil will cost about \$1,000 in normal circumstances," he pointed out. The presidency has set aside a toll free No. 988 to receive information about marine accidents. "There is a national strategy to combat oil pollution," he added.

<http://arabnews.com/saudi Arabia/article449643.ece>

USA, CT, FARMINGTON, JUNE 7 2011. STUDENTS EVACUATED AFTER FUEL OIL OVERFLOWS

ann bryant,



Number 2 fuel oil overflowed from a pipe during a delivery at Mt. Blue Middle School in Farmington on Tuesday. The oil covered the brick wall, lawn and crushed rock beneath it.

About 40 gallons of fuel oil were cleaned up from a catch basin in the Mt. Blue Middle School courtyard Tuesday afternoon, said Glen Wall from the Department of Environmental Protection. An alarm failed when an oil tank was overfilled and fuel flowed from an overflow pipe, he said. Students at Mt. Blue Middle School were evacuated to the sports fields behind the school Tuesday at about 12:30 p.m. after Number 2 fuel oil gushed from a courtyard pipe as a local oil dealer made a delivery. About 350 students, their teachers and school personnel left the building due to the odor from the courtyard located between the older and newer portions of the Middle Street school. It's an odd system, Wall said. The fuel tank is filled from the front of the school, but the tank and vent are in the back. An electric alarm failed to alert the delivery person. The oil came out the vent, sprayed the side of the building, lawn and crushed rock, he said. Members of Farmington Fire and Rescue responded and called for the town to bring loads of sand, but Chief Terry Bell didn't think it would be used. A portion of the brick wall on one side of the school gym was covered

in fuel from the overflow as a C.N. Brown truck delivered about 1,500 gallons of fuel to the school. Most of the oil went into the tank, David Leavitt, director of support services, said at the scene. A student at the school spotted the fuel gushing from a pipe and alerted school officials, Superintendent Michael Cormier said. They decided to keep the students at the school and send them home on the usual bus run which was only about an hour away, he said. The Department of Environmental Protection was then alerted to the incident and Wall came from Augusta. A crew from Environmental Projects Inc. (EPI Services) in Auburn came to clean up the fuel from the courtyard. The crushed rock will be removed and the area cleaned with detergent, Wall said. Tony Couture of Precision Tanks Inc. from Jay was testing the alarm system to see why the alarm didn't work. He expected the school would be open on Wednesday. If they keep the windows in the courtyard closed, the odor should be fine. It may take a few days to totally dissipate, he said.

<http://www.sunjournal.com/franklin/story/1042473>

UK, STANSTED AIRPORT, JUNE 8 2011. FUEL TANKER DRIVER KILLED IN HORROR CRASH

A tanker driver has today been killed after his lorry loaded with fuel ploughed through the central barrier of the A120. Police shut the dual carriageway in both directions following the smash at 9.23am while six fire crews – including teams from Newport, Stansted, Dunmow and Leaden Roding battled to contain the leakage. The crash happened near the A120's Dunmow West junction, where the major route meets the B1256 from Takeley and Little Canfield. Police, who are turning around vehicles trapped in a queue on the eastbound carriageway, hope one lane of the westbound carriageway will reopen by 12.30pm. The rest of the major road is expected to reopen around 4pm. All three emergency services were still working at the scene at noon.

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/Home/Fuel-tanker-driver-killed-in-horror-crash-08062011.htm>

SINGAPORE, KALLANG RIVER, JUNE 8 2011. MINOR OIL SLICK ON KALLANG RIVER CLEANED UP

A minor oil slick on the Kallang River was cleaned up yesterday. National water agency PUB confined the spread of the film of oil to a stretch of the river lining Potong Pasir Avenue1 and called in contractors to remove it. The source of the pollution is being investigated and the water quality there will continue to be monitored, said a PUB spokesman. The oily film was first noticed on the river next to Blocks 114 and 115 at Potong Pasir Avenue1 yesterday afternoon. Contractors placed booms on the water to confine the slick to a 100m stretch and sopped up the oil in the evening. The PUB said in a statement that the oil film was not expected to affect water quality, but water samples have been taken for tests

http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Singapore/Story/STIStory_677491.html

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USA, TX, BEAUMONT, JUNE 8 2011. UPDATE: FIRE EXTINGUISHED AT DOWNTOWN EXXONMOBIL REFINERY

jessica lipscomb & dan wallach

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kfdm.com/articles/fire-43207-beaumont-downtown.html>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.kfdm.com/articles/fire-43207-beaumont-downtown.html>



Smoke billows from the ExxonMobil Refinery in downtown Beaumont Tuesday afternoon.

Update:

A storage-tank fire at [ExxonMobi](#) was extinguished at 1:35 p.m., according to the company. Spokeswoman Kathleen Jackson said there is no more smoke coming from the tank. No injuries were reported in the fire, and all personnel are accounted for. ExxonMobil will continue to monitor the area, she said.

Update:

No injuries are being reported in a fire at ExxonMobil, according to the company. Spokeswoman Kathleen Jackson said the fire started in a hydrocarbon storage tank and has since been contained. All personnel are accounted for and no action is needed by surrounding communities, Jackson said. There is no information on

the cause of ignition nor is there specific information on the type of hydrocarbon or the amount. Jackson said ExxonMobil has notified [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) to make the required report. Jackson said "it takes time to get the fire out," in responding to whether the fire was completely extinguished.

Previous Reporting:

Workers are currently responding to a fire at the ExxonMobil refinery in downtown Beaumont. A photographer at the scene said it did not appear that anyone was being evacuated from the plant or the homes around it. Spokeswoman Kathleen Jackson said she did not have further information at this time. A dispatcher said the [Beaumont Fire Department](#) is not yet responding and that ExxonMobil is working the fire independently.

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/Update-Fire-extinguished-at-downtown-ExxonMobil-1413335.php>

BEIRUT, LEBANON, JUNE 8 2011. BLAST RAISES GAS STATION SAFETY CONCERNS

patrick galey



The dust had barely settled on the ruined forecourt before the accusations began to fly. Monday night's fuel explosion, which killed at least four and injured several more at a Beirut gas station, formed a timely reminder to lawmakers, security services and vehicle owners alike of the perilous state of Lebanon's petrol pumps: mainly illegal, frequently unsafe and criminally under-maintained. At the root of the potentially – sometimes literally – explosive problem, as usual, lies a political struggle. Caretaker Energy and Water Minister Gibran Bassil, whose ministry is tasked with issuing gas stations licenses to operate, said greater regulation was needed to avoid a repeat disaster. "We called for strengthening measures against illegal gas stations and for them to increase safety measures. This was last discussed in Feb. 2010 but it has never been passed due to the level of hindrance within the [parliamentary] Energy Committee. This law would be the

solution to the chaos surrounding gas stations in Lebanon," Bassil told The Daily Star. But MP Mohammad Qabbani, head of said committee, begged to differ. He claimed he had asked security forces nine months ago what they needed in order to ensure that safety standards at gas stations were upheld. He said he never heard a reply. "There are no inspections, no safety and no accountability. This is not good enough. Ministers do not give a damn about what happened," Qabbani said. "Usually licenses are a process that is handled by the interior and energy ministries. After that, nobody cares about [renewing] licenses." He added that while the level of quality control for petroleum at Lebanon's pumps was reasonably robust, "there is no authority nearly capable of providing people who will supervise or check the safety of gas stations. "No ministry has said that it could supervise the security and safety of these stations." And so a systemic lack of regulation and law enforcement looms into view. The problem, so Bassil argued, is not solely political; of Lebanon's 3,250 gas stations, less than 45 percent own the paperwork required to operate. The Wardieh station in Adlieh, site of Monday's deadly explosion, was legally owned and supposedly properly maintained. One gas station owner, who declined to be named, said that in general, the country's

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petroleum distribution was safely managed. "We have fire extinguishers, and encourage our workers not to smoke. Things are safe. Gasoline is not as flammable as you might think. A cigarette won't set it off. The only dangerous part of [running a station] is when the gasoline is delivered," he said. "That is when you get the dangerous vapors. But it happens under controlled conditions and is safe." Not everyone shared the owner's confidence in gas station safety. "What happened is like a warning alarm," Bassil said. "This was actually an accident in a legal gas station. It is not yet clear if they were implementing proper safety measures, but the situation could be far worse in illegal stations." Qabbani added that given Lebanon's density of what are in all probability poorly maintained stations, it was remarkable Monday's accident had been so long coming. "It is really strange that these accidents do not happen more often. This is something extremely dangerous and no country in the world would allow it," he said. "We need inspections, both for car safety and for the safety and competence of gas stations' [staff]." Aside from the legal statuses of gas stations and their owners, there is also the issue of liability when accidents do take place. The Wardieh gas station owner was killed Monday night, along with at least one Egyptian employee. Several other station workers were hospitalized. Assad Mirza, head of the Insurance Companies Syndicate, said that in an incident such as Monday's blast, the station owner is liable. "It's about compensation but this isn't a fixed amount. It depends on who [the victims] were, and what sort of job they had," he said, adding that the amount handed out for Lebanese victims was likely to be far greater than for Egyptians. Mirza spoke of the wider problem of a lack of mandatory liability insurance, particular in perilous lines of work, such as gas station employment. "Liability insurance should be for all businesses. Petrol stations are among the most dangerous places to work. The government should enforce liability insurance [in gas stations] and it should be for a large amount," he said. Qabbani warned that the political deadlock holding up sorely needed legislation and the administrative void at present barring any legal adjustments meant gas stations were likely to remain potential accident sites. More fundamentally, there is not currently the will to see the situation rectified, he argued. "What happened yesterday is something we are obviously sorry about," he said. "[But] in two or three days the dead will be buried, the injured will either recover or die and then everyone will forget about it."

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Jun-08/Blast-raises-gas-station-safety-concerns.ashx#axzz1Ose4JDvN>

USA, MAINE, WALLAGRASS, JUNE 8 2011. GASOLINE ODOR HAS DEP CREWS SEARCHING FOR SPILLED FUEL IN WALLAGRASS

jen lynds



Officials with the Department of Environmental Protection were in Wallagrass again Tuesday after a resident reported smelling the odor of gasoline one week after a [significant spill](#) in the community. A DEP spokesperson said that officials have started to see gas coming out of the ground and can smell it in some locations. The spill took place last Tuesday, after a tractor trailer belonging to the John T. Noble trucking company of Caribou overturned on Route 11 after becoming unstable when it drifted close to the soft shoulder of the roadway. The truck, driven by Joe Nichols, was hauling 8,000 gallons of gasoline for Daigle Oil Co. of Fort Kent at the time of the crash. An estimated 5,000 gallons spilled out and seeped into the ground when a tank was breached. Nichols was slightly injured in the accident and treated at a nearby hospital. Samantha Depoy-Warren, DEP spokesperson, said Tuesday that the DEP tested

private wells in the area last week and found no contamination. Over the weekend, however, a resident reported the odor of gasoline in a ditch approximately a quarter of a mile away from the accident scene. "We have been on site every day walking the ditch line and we hadn't seen or smelled any odor, so this appears to be a new development," she said. Finding some gas in ditches a quarter of a mile from the accident scene, however, "is good because it gives us clues to where we should check the bedrock to hopefully locate the remainder of the gas that was spilled." Officials have said that the gas could be in the bedrock above the water table or in another area. Eventually, gas in the bedrock will degrade. Depoy-Warren said that the insurance company for John T. Noble has stepped up and hired a contractor to work on the investigation and environmental remediation at the site. They will finance the work. Crews have installed surface water recovery systems to pull the detected gas away from the water and trap the fuel. Depoy-Warren said that crews will be drilling at the site where gas was found tomorrow to see if they can locate the larger pool of gas in the bedrock. "We have installed signs to let people know about the spill," she said. "The last thing we need is to have someone come by and toss a cigarette into the ditch and cause a major explosion." After the crash, crews worked to control the gas vapors, and [another truck arrived to pump the remaining fuel from the overturned tanker.](#)

<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/06/07/news/gasoline-odor-has-dep-crews-searching-for-spilled-fuel-in-wallagrass/?ref=latest>

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KENYA, NAIROBI, JUNE 8 2011. GAS EXPLOSION CAUSED NAIROBI BLAST

bernard momanyi



Sunday's powerful explosion near a fuel station on Nairobi's Kirinyaga Road may have been caused by a high concentration of gasses at an underground store, according to preliminary investigation reports. Detectives investigating the cause of the blast that claimed the lives of two people told Capital News that tests had revealed that there was presence of Hydrogen concentration the basement stores where the explosion started and caused a massive fire. "We are waiting for the report from the government chemist and other government agencies but so far tests have revealed that there was a high gas concentration in that basement," a senior police officer involved in the investigation said. The detectives believe that in the absence of any bomb remnants at the site, "it is most likely that the concentration of Hydrogen gas was high, thus causing the fire." Police said that with Hydrogen concentrations as high as 75 percent by volume, such a powerful blast is possible. "Experts have also examined the nature of injuries sustained by the victims in hospital and said that they are consistent with burns that can result from fire that is fuelled by such gases," the officer said. Bomb experts from the CID headquarters have been conducting the investigations jointly with personnel from the Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC), the City Council of Nairobi's Fire department as well as those from the government chemist. Police believe that the fire was ignited by activities of motor vehicle mechanics in the area, thus causing the blast that killed two people and wounded at least 42 others. Most of those admitted to hospital had been discharged by Monday afternoon. At least 16 people were still admitted to hospital, some with serious injuries-including one man whose leg was amputated on Sunday night. One person died on the spot while the second succumbed to injuries at the MP Shah on Monday, on the day that CID director Ndegwa Muhoro ruled out possibilities that the explosion was caused by a bomb. "After the investigations, we have ruled out a bomb explosion. We have not established the exact cause of the blast but the investigations are going on," Mr Muhoro said.

<http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/Kenyanews/Gas-explosion-caused-Nairobi-blast-13110.html>

USA, LA, BAPTISTE COLLETTE PASS, JUNE 9 2011. US COAST GUARD LOOKING INTO OILY SUBSTANCE OFF LOUISIANA

ryan dezember



A charter fishing captain took this cell phone photo of a suspected oil slick off the coast of Plaquemines Parish on Wednesday.

The U.S. Coast Guard said it is investigating the origins of an oily substance spotted offshore Wednesday in Louisiana's Breton Sound. At about 7 a.m. a fisherman reported an oily substance on the water's surface about two miles southeast of Baptiste Collette Pass, which links the Mississippi River with the sound, the Coast Guard said in a [news](#) release. Petty Officer Steve Lehman said the fisherman told the Coast Guard that the slick was "several miles long." The service, however, hasn't yet verified that claim, Lehman said. The Coast Guard and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement have dispatched investigators to the scene. The source of the oily substance, samples of which are being collected and analyzed, hasn't yet been identified, the Coast Guard said. Breton Sound is a body of water separated from the open

Gulf of Mexico by a series of slender barrier islands that form the Breton National Wildlife Refuge. Federal officials have also mobilized oil-spill cleanup contractor Oil Mop LLC, which has deployed three barges, a pair of work boats and a trailer of spill-containment booms to Venice, La., which is near where the substance was spotted. The Coast Guard also said it has opened the Oil Spill Liability [Trust Fund](#), a federal coffer that holds oil royalties to cover spill-cleanup costs. Oil spills in the heavily drilled northern Gulf have come under increasing scrutiny in the aftermath of [BP's](#) deadly Deepwater Horizon disaster last year, which led to the largest-ever offshore spill in U.S. history. Short of a massive explosion such as the one on the Deepwater Horizon rig, the sources of spills can be difficult to trace in an area that is crisscrossed with under-water pipelines and dotted with platforms and wells--many decades old. In March, federal and state officials responded to a spill that led to oil washing ashore along several stretches of Louisiana's coastline. While suspected from the onset, it took nearly a week for investigators to determine that the crude leaked from a platform owned by Anglo-Suisse Offshore Partners LLC while the

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facility, some 30 miles offshore, was being permanently shut-in. The closely held Houston company was held responsible for the spill and made to pay for its cleanup.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201106081746dowjonesdjonline000627&title=updateus-coast-guard-looking-into-oily-substance-off-louisiana>

USA, MS, GROTON, JUNE 9 2011. BIOFUEL FIRE SPURS CLEANUP ORDER IN MASS >> FOR LOCAL FIRE OFFICIALS, THE INCIDENT IS A REMINDER OF A NEW FRONTIER IN FIREFIGHTING: DEALING WITH BIOFUEL

hiroko sato

The smell of soot often indicates there has been a fire in a building. In the case of last week's garage fire at Steve Sampson's Groton home, the telltale sign is the odor of grease that now wafts across his yard. That's because the fire caused as much as 50 gallons of vegetable oil to leak, burn and possibly seep into the ground, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. In other words, the kitchen grease that the homeowner had meant to use to power up his "green" vehicles ended up fueling the flames, said Groton Fire Chief Joseph Bosselait. Fire officials do not know whether the oil played a part in starting the fire. But for them, the incident is a reminder of a new frontier in firefighting: dealing with biofuel. "It's getting very common throughout the state," Bosselait said of conversions of diesel vehicles to make them run on vegetable oil. Most fires involving biofuel stem from processing of kitchen oil into bio diesel, and not from the storing of the fuel, according to the state Fire Marshal's Office. There was no processing taking place on Sampson's property. Nonetheless, biofuel is a fire hazard that can leave a mess behind if it catches a fire. Contractors retained by the DEP are cleaning up the ground at 444 Nashua Road after 50 gallons of vegetable oil were released to the environment during a fire that broke out in the early-morning hours of June 2. According to Bosselait, a neighbor reported the fire at 2:36 a.m., and a patrol officer from the Pepperell Police Department rushed to the scene on the town border and woke up Sampson. As firefighters arrived, flames were visible from the back of the 3-car detached garage, where the roof eventually caved in. No one was inside the garage and there were no injuries reported. There was also no damage to the house. It took 20 Groton firefighters and their counterparts from Pepperell and Dunstable about 90 minutes to put out the fire, according to Bosselait. The Fire Marshal's Office was involved in the investigation of the fire, but could not pinpoint the cause with certainty, Bosselait said. But Bosselait said Sampson told him during the fire that there were vegetable-oil drums at the back of the garage and that it was for his vehicles that were converted to run on kitchen grease. Sampson indicated he owned two such vehicles, Bosselait said. "It's obvious that there was oil because we had it all over the place," Bosselait said. "The amount, that's hard (to say)." The amount was 50 gallons, Joseph Ferson, spokesman for the DEP, said yesterday. The quantity makes it a "reportable release," which triggers cleanup enforcement, according to Ferson. The DEP has retained Corporate Environmental Advisors, a company based out of West Boylston, to do the cleanup at Sampson's property. Sampson is responsible for all of the cleanup costs, Ferson said. An estimate was not immediately available, nor was a timetable for the cleanup. Bio-diesel is usually a processed product that requires multiple chemicals to make, according to Jennifer Mieth, the public-information officer and manager of fire data and public education unit at the state Department of Fire Services. The oil released at Sampson's property was real vegetable oil and not processed, Mieth said. Ferson said the CEA crews already completed vacuuming the oil and the water from the fire suppression, which became mixed with the oil. The workers have also excavated the soil to remove oil that leaked during the fire and testing the remaining soil. They will be sampling the private well, as well, Ferson added. Multiple Dumpster-type containers with tarps covering the content could be seen placed across the front yard yesterday. Sampson declined to comment on the fire. Bosselait said vehicle conversion has grown popular in recent years amid the soaring gasoline prices and the movement to cut back on fuel consumption. But these environmentally minded vehicle owners may not necessarily know the regulations to go with production and storing of biofuel. Having five gallons or more of gasoline requires a permit from a local Fire Department, and there is a similar rule for bio-diesel, Mieth said. Environmental officials were cleaning up and storing waste from 50 gallons of vegetable oil behind 444 Nashua Road in Groton yesterday after it was released to the environment during a garage fire there early Thursday

<http://www.firerescue1.com/fire-attack/articles/1059464-Biofuel-fire-spurs-cleanup-order-in-Mass/>

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