



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 724 Newsy Stuff

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June 25 30 2011



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INDIA, ANGAMALY, JUNE 18 2011. FIRE AT FACTORY FUELS PROTEST

Champannoor Industrial Estate here witnessed violent scenes when the local residents gheraoed the officers of the Pollution Control Board and the Angamaly municipality in protest against their indifferent attitude in preventing the careless handling of dangerous goods in a chemical factory endangering the lives of the residents. In a devastating fire, a factory producing thinner, polish and turpentine was gutted at Champannoor, near here on Thursday night. The police, the Fire and Rescue Services personnel and the local people took more than four hours to bring the fire under control. However, no casualty has been reported. The fire broke out at Chemtech Chemicals situated at the Champannoor Industrial Estate at 10.35 pm. The first unit of the Fire and Rescue Services personnel reached the spot within minutes from Angamaly. A police team led by CI J Kuriakose and SI Kerson also joined the fire-fighting operation. They had a tough time clearing the road for the fire tenders to reach the mishap site. SP T Vikram and ASP Rahul Nair were also present throughout the night to monitor the operation. About 20 fire tenders from Ernakulam and Thrissur districts, Kochi Refineries Ltd, Indian Navy and the FACT took part in the operation. Meanwhile, the residents observed a hartal in Champannoor on Friday in protest against the slackness of the government officials and other agencies in forcing the factory management to follow the guidelines strictly. The factory is using acetone and toluene as raw materials to produce turpentine, thinner, polish and sealer. Both the raw materials and the products are highly inflammable. The four employees sleeping on the first floor of the factory office alerted the local people when the fire broke out. The people immediately informed the Fire and Rescue Services personnel and the police. Despite their efforts, the factory was almost gutted. A lorry parked inside the factory was also gutted. There were about 400 drums of 200-litres capacity inside the factory. A scientific expert from Aluva, the factories inspector, electrical inspector, Pollution Control Board officials and the municipal authorities conducted inspections at the factory. But the cause of the fire could not be ascertained. The local people alleged that the huge quantity of raw materials stored in the underground tanks violating the permitted limit might have led to the explosion and the subsequent fire. The police have taken the accounts manager, the marketing manager and four employees who were sleeping inside the factory at the time of fire into custody to collect evidence. But the owner of the factory could not be traced till late in the evening. The police are investigating the cause of the fire.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/fire-at-factory-fuels-protest/160566-60-116.html>

USA, CA, SANTA CLARITA, JUNE 19 2011. CAR SLAMS INTO GAS PUMP, EXPLODES

• **Watch the Video** [Caught on tape: Car slams into gas station pumps](#)

• **Watch the Video** [Raw Video: Car Slams Into Gas Pump, Explodes](#)

Two people were seriously injured after their car slammed into two pumps at a gas station causing one to burst into flames. Police say they had tried to pull the car over before the crash but the driver sped off.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/car-slams-into-gas-pump-explodes/2011/06/18/AGlv1LaH_video.html

ZIMBABWE, HARARE, JUNE 19 2011. PETROL EXPLOSION: 5 MORE DIE



The Sunningdale horror blast has claimed the lives of five more people, bringing the petrol tanker disaster death toll to eight. The five, who were among 13 casualties admitted at Harare Central Hospital after sustaining severe burns, died between Tuesday night and yesterday afternoon. Although senior hospital officials, acting chief executive officer Dr Tapiwanashe Bwakura and the principal nursing officer, Matron Lucia Godzongere, could confirm only the death of four people, our reporters who were at the hospital last night met with relatives of the fifth casualty whom they said passed away yesterday afternoon. Dr Bwakura said about half of the 13 patients admitted at the hospital had over 75% degree burns and that several were still in a critical condition. "This is a national disaster as you may appreciate and we have lost four of the 13 patients we admitted last week," Dr Bwakura said. "Most of them came with very severe burns – above 40% —

while some sustained as high as 75% burns, meaning 75% of one's body is burnt. Several are still in a critical condition, but some of them are now stable." Matron Godzongere had earlier confirmed the same. "The patients are still very ill, but unfortunately we lost the fourth patient last night (Thursday night)," she said. A doctor at the hospital revealed that most of the victims who died had inhaled a lot of hot air with petrol, resulting in them swelling internally. The hot air affected their lungs. NewsDay understands that one of dead was a 17-year-old boy while the only woman, who was admitted at the hospital, Loveness Kunaka (32), has also died. On Monday, the now deceased Kunaka had told NewsDay from her hospital bed that

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she and her friends had gone to the scene of the accident to see what was happening out of curiosity. She had a baby strapped on her back. "I was on my way back home when the explosion occurred," Kunaka related. "I would have made it had it not been that one of the men who was collecting fuel caught fire and was running in a ball of fire when he bumped into me while I was running away. "When he bumped into me, I immediately caught fire, lost balance and fell. I was burnt on my face, legs and hands and my child was burnt on the leg." Kunaka's baby is still in hospital. The latest deaths have brought a sombre atmosphere to the already mourning Sunningdale community which is still struggling to come to terms with the tragedy. The accident occurred when a tanker, carrying 35 000 litres of fuel, overturned last Saturday and residents rushed to siphon petrol while others were mere onlookers. The tanker then burst into flames, killing three on the spot.

<http://www.newsday.co.zw/article/2011-06-18-petrol-explosion-5-more-die>

CHINA, BEIJING, JUNE 19 2011. CHINA SETS DOWN RULES ON OIL SPILL COMPENSATION

China's Supreme People's Court (SPP) has issued a set of judicial explanations specifying compensation responsibilities in cases of vessels' oil spill. In a case where two or more vessels spill oil, both the amount and the types of leaking oil should be taken into consideration when determining the ensuing environmental damage and the amount of compensation fund that should be paid by the owner of each ship, said the document. If the damage cannot be determined for each ship, all ship-owners involved should take joint liability and pay equal amount for the parties suffering losses. According to the document, in a case of collision involving multiple ships, claimants have the right to demand full compensation from only those ships that spill oil. "There has been no disastrous oil spill accidents in China's territory yet, but a legal system needs to be improved in order to cope with potential major leakage," said an unnamed official with the SPP. Official figures show that a total of 718 vessel oil spill accidents were reported in China's sea areas from 1998 to 2008. These accidents resulted in the spill of 11,749 tons of oil. In addition, the country's maritime courts heard more than 300 cases concerning vessel pollution compensation in the past 10 years, and the number and severity level of these cases are on the rise, according to the SPP. The document will take effect on July 1.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2011-06/18/content_12729377.htm

USA, CA, SANTA BARBARA CO, JUNE 19 2011. FEDS SUE GREKA OVER OIL SPILLS

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.ksby.com/news/dept-of-justice-and-two-state-agencies-file-lawsuit-against-greka-for-oil-spills-in-sb-co/>



This image provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department shows a Greka Oil & Gas cleanup crew working on an oil spill flowing down a creek, Jan. 5, 2008, behind Firestone Vineyard, north of Los Olivos, Calif. Government officials in California are suing the oil company for 21 spills of crude oil and other harmful pollutants in Santa Barbara County waterways over five years. The U.S. Department of Justice along with state and federal environmental regulatory agencies filed the complaint Friday, June 17, 2011 in federal court.

Greka Oil & Gas, the Santa Barbara County firm that has leaked hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil during 21 spills and agreed to pay the county \$2 million for its environmental violations, faces a lawsuit from the federal government alleging that it violated state and federal water laws and ordering it to clean up its act. The suit, filed in federal court in Los Angeles, also alleges that Greka didn't have adequate plans in place at 12 facilities to prevent, respond to and clean up spills, according to a release from the U.S. Department of Justice. The suit seeks a court order for Greka to take "all appropriate action to prevent future spills," the release said. According to the federal release, Greka has changed its name to HVI Cat Canyon Inc. The name change is one in a long string for the company once run by Randeep Grewal, an elusive energy magnate who has resurfaced in mainland China with operations under the Greka banner. The company there is called Green Dragon Gas, and it is traded on the Alternative Investment Market of the London Stock Exchange. Last year, it had revenues of \$49.7 million, and its assets grew to \$963 million. Over the years, Grewal has moved some assets beyond the reach of courtroom adversaries and creditors. In the bankruptcy proceedings of Saba

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Enterprises, a firm Grewal controlled, officials found a tangled web of transactions among 30 companies over 20 years. Those transactions included the transfer of Greka Energy companies to entities that Grewal owned directly or indirectly, court documents said. Because of what officials called the "the curious absence in the books and records turned over" of details related to the transfer of the Greka Energy companies, officials have sought court orders compelling the Greka Energy firms to hand over more information about their transfer.

Related Links

- [County of Santa Barbara settles disputes with Greka Oil](#)
- [Crude oil spill contained at Greka site in Los Olivos](#)
- [Produced water and crude spill at Greka facility in Orcutt](#)
- [Greka oil spill contained and cleaned-up](#)
- [HazMat team called to spill at Greka facility in Santa Maria](#)
- [Third oil leak reported at Greka Energy this month](#)

http://pacbiztimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2414&Itemid=1

USA, IN, INDIANAPOLIS, JUNE 19 2011. CREWS CLEAN UP CHEMICAL SPILL



Hazmat crews clean up a chemical spill Friday at a business at Farnsworth Street and Holt Road.

Hazmat crews were called out to a chemical spill on the city's southwest side Friday evening. Officials said the spill at a business presented no public danger. Three departments – Wayne Township, Indianapolis and Decatur Township fire departments - were called to Hill & Griffith Co. at Farnsworth Street and Holt Road at about 6:30 to respond of an overturned tanker and a chemical spill. The labeling on the tanker, which had been parked in an area where the ground was soft and had subsequently sunk into the ground and overturned, indicated it held hypochlorite, a bleaching agent. Crews donned sealed suits and masks to work near the trailer and found about 25 gallons of the liquid chemical was contained to a grassy area, and the leak had stopped. Wayne Township Fire Department said the spill presented no danger to the public, and crews remained on the

scene to await a cleanup contractor employed by the tanker's owner, Switzer Tanklines from Mt. Summit.

http://www.wishtv.com/dpp/news/local/marion_county/crews-clean-up-chemical-spill

USA, N.Y, SARATOGA COUNTY, STILLWATER, JUNE 19 2011. TOXIC GAS KILLS 18-YEAR-OLD IN STILLWATER

An 18-year-old man died Friday evening after two chemicals mixed in a vehicle to create a deadly gas. Joshua J. Brisbin, 18, was found unconscious in his vehicle at 3 Riverside Drive, Stillwater, just before 7 p.m. on Friday. Brisbin's step-father, Peter Hoesel, called police after finding Brisbin, and a patrolman from Stillwater Police Department and sergeant from the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office responded. Upon arriving, they found Brisbin had succumbed to hydrogen sulfide, a poisonous gas that was created when two household chemicals mixed in the vehicle, according to the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office. Brisbin was pronounced dead at the scene by county Coroner Thomas Salvatore. The county HAZMAT team, several area fire departments and EMS crews, a team from Momentive Performance Materials and the state Department of Environmental Conservation spill response team were called to the scene to handle the toxic fumes. The patrolman from the Stillwater Police Department and sergeant from the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office were taken to Saratoga Hospital to be treated for exposure to the gas. The area has been cleared, and DEC officials said Saturday there is no danger to the public. The case is still under investigation by the Saratoga County Sheriff's Office.

http://poststar.com/news/local/article_612105a2-99cd-11e0-98a9-001cc4c03286.html

USA, W.VA, BECKLEY, JANUARY 19 2011. HAZARDOUS SPILL CLEANED UP ON TURNPIKE

mannix porterfield

Leaving nothing to chance, authorities closed a small portion of the West Virginia Turnpike after a box trailer lost the back end of its double load Thursday night, spilling a hazardous material between Tamarack and the Beckley Travel Plaza. By 2 a.m. Friday, the chemical was mopped up, and traffic was restored. "It wasn't quite as bad as we thought," said Tyrone Gore, the turnpike's director of operations. "But with something like that, you can't overdo it. You want to stay on the side of precaution

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and treat it with utmost respect." No one, including a large number of first responders and the unidentified driver, was hurt in the incident along Van Kirk Drive. The driver worked for Arnell Transfer. Just what caused the back portion of the double truck to come unhinged and topple down a curved section of the road wasn't immediately known, but Gore said an investigation of the accident would pursue that and other unanswered questions. Volunteer firefighters from Mount Hope joined the Bradley-Prosperity VFD in answering the call, along with a Beckley-based environmental firm, Evergreen, and state troopers, Gore said. A special team of hazardous materials experts from DuPont Chemical Co. in Belle was called in by the turnpike to direct the emergency situation. Gore identified the leaked chemical as potassium hydroxide, considered flammable and volatile when mixed with water. A late-night weather update indicated a rainstorm was heading toward Beckley after it formed just west of Charleston, but, as things developed, the spill wasn't exacerbated. "There was a concern about the rain source coming, but experts from DuPont advised it would just make the chemical a little hot if it mixed with it," Gore said. "They were there to handle that." Business went on as usual at both Tamarack, the West Virginia artisans complex, and the travel center, which features a number of food services. "We didn't have to do an evacuation," Gore said. "Both were so far away that the spill wasn't a threat to them. "We just shut down the ramp where it was located. Traffic on the highway was able to continue. We closed it down immediately as a precaution until we figured out what we had. Once we found out what we had and verified it after the fire departments arrived, we were able to let the traffic go on the main line without incident."

<http://www.register-herald.com/local/x357070646/Hazardous-spill-cleaned-up-on-turnpike>

USA, MD, BALTIMORE, JUNE 19 2011. EXXON MOBIL ACCUSED OF 'FRAUD' IN JACKSONVILLE GAS SPILL TRIAL >> AFTER SIX MONTHS, SECOND JACKSONVILLE GAS SPILL CASE GOES TO JURY

arthur hirsch

Lawyers for dozens of Baltimore County families suing Exxon Mobil Corp. closed a six-month trial Friday by arguing for punitive damages in a 2006 underground gasoline leak in Jacksonville, accusing the corporation of playing down the potential harm of the contamination and of committing "fraud." Lawyer Charles G. Bernstein told the nine-member jury in Baltimore County Circuit Court that "this is fraud, pure and simple. ... Their game was just plain damage control." James F. Sanders, representing Exxon Mobil, wrapped up his case earlier Friday by arguing that the company acknowledged its responsibility in the spill of about 26,000 gallons of regular unleaded gasoline and continues the work of removing the liquid gasoline and vapor. He portrayed this as a case of simple negligence, insisting that punitive damages — which would exceed compensation for lost property value and medical costs associated with the spill — would only discourage the company from cooperating with communities in such cases in the future. Closing arguments this week came after six months of testimony in the complicated case, which involves about 150 plaintiffs seeking payment for medical monitoring of potential health effects, as well as damages for claimed loss of property value, for emotional distress and an array of physical problems witnesses said arose from their anxiety about the spill. No medical conditions have been tied to exposure to the gasoline, which contaminated groundwater in the center of Jacksonville, spreading northeast and southwest from the gas station at the intersection where Jarrettsville Pike meets Paper Mill and Sweet Air roads. Homeowners in the more rural, northern section of the county depend on private wells. The jury is scheduled to begin its deliberations Monday, but it was hardly clear how long it would take to reach a verdict. The jury in the first case arising from the same spill deliberated for nearly two weeks in March 2009 before awarding \$150 million to about 90 other families. That verdict is being challenged by Exxon Mobil before the Maryland Court of Special Appeals, which is scheduled to hear further arguments in September.

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2011-06-17/news/bs-md-co-exxon-trial-closing-20110617_1_james-f-sanders-sweet-air-roads-underground-gasoline-leak

USA, ARK, NORTH LITTLE ROCK JUNE 20 2011. NLR CHEMICAL FIRE BREAKS OUT AT HALL TANK CO.

North Little Rock firefighters put out a chemical fire Friday at a steel storage tank business. It was at Hall Tank Company on East 5th street. Firefighters aren't sure how the fire started -- but say it was mostly paper and other materials burning. Because there was some resin and tanks near by, they didn't take any chances, and used foam to get the fire out in about five minutes.

<http://www.todaysthv.com/news/article/161702/2/NLR-chemical-fire-breaks-out-at-Hall-Tank-Co->

USA, OH, CALDWELL, JUNE 19 2011. OIL STORAGE TANK FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION >> NO INJURIES, BUT PLENTY OF DAMAGE REPORTED.

kevin howell

Caldwell and Belle Valley volunteer firefighters extinguished an oil tank storage fire Friday night. Emergency dispatchers said they got the first report of a burning tank at State Road 215 near Wolf Run State Park just after 5 p.m. Firefighters put out the

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blaze with chemical foam. Nobody was hurt, but the tank was heavily damaged. Dispatchers say there were electrical storms in the area at the time the fire started, but the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

<http://www.wtrf.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=101726>

USA, CA, SAN JOSE, JUNE 20 2011. DRIVER DIES DURING HIGH-SPEED PURSUIT >> SLAMS INTO EMPTY ETHANOL TANKER TRUCK

john coté

A San Jose man was killed this morning in a high-speed chase with Santa Clara County deputies after his pickup slammed into an empty ethanol tanker truck, police said. Jesus Loera, 21, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash on East Santa Clara Street just beyond the Highway 101 overpass, San Jose police Sgt. Jason Dwyer said. The passenger in the pickup, a 22-year-old San Jose resident, was taken to Regional Medical Center of San Jose with undisclosed injuries. The person was not identified. The tanker truck driver was not hurt, police said. The pursuit started after several residents on Cragmont Avenue and nearby streets in east San Jose called to report multiple vehicles doing doughnuts in the street and driving recklessly at about 5 a.m., Sheriff's Sgt. Rick Sung said. Deputies arrived and detained several people, but Loera's white Ford F-150 pickup sped off, Sung said. Loera drove west on Alum Rock Avenue pursued by two sheriff's cruisers, authorities said. The sheriff's office radioed San Jose police for assistance at 5:12 a.m., Dwyer said. Before police could join the pursuit, the crash occurred, he said. Loera had been driving west on Alum Rock Avenue, which becomes East Santa Clara Street once it passes over Highway 101, when he came upon the tanker truck, which was making a wide turn, Dwyer said. The truck "was in basically all of the lanes," Dwyer said. The pickup broadsided the larger truck in the tank area, shearing off the top portion of the pickup's cab as the F150 went under the tanker truck and slammed into a building in the 1400 block of East Santa Clara Street, police said.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/06/18/MN9G1JVT8E.DTL>

USA, N.J, CAMDEN, JUNE 20 2011. 7-ALARM FIRE AT CAMDEN CHEMICAL PLANT

 Watch the Video

 <http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/124152619.html>

 <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8199239>

 Photo's

 http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/06/19/6894673-fire-erupts-at-former-chemical-plant-in-new-jersey

 <http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/article/Blaze-erupts-at-former-NJ-chemical-plant-building-1430629.php>

 <http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/b2bcf7a3d2684f7183917cdc2d1bf8fa/NJ--Chemical-Plant-Fire/>

 <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8199239>



Firefighters work to control a multi-alarm blaze at the former Concord Chemical Company in Camden, N.J., Sunday, June 19. The blaze erupted at the vacant chemical plant just before sunrise Sunday in one of the country's poorest cities, causing the building to partially collapse and forcing firefighters to evacuate nearby homes. The fire at Concord Chemical Inc. in Camden, across the Delaware River from Philadelphia, comes more than a week after fires at an abandoned tire factory and a downtown warehouse.

Fire crews in Camden battled a 7-alarm fire in a vacant chemical plant early Sunday morning. The fire broke out around 5:15 a.m. at the Concord Chemical Plant on the 1700 block of Federal Street in Camden. Shortly after firefighters received reports of smoke coming from the building, flames began shooting from the upper floors. "My brother is like 'we gotta leave now, the soap factory

is on fire," neighbor Dennis Gonzalez said. "They told us we have to evacuate very quickly, the smoke was very harmful for us and we needed to get out of the area," neighbor Brian Wooten said. No injuries have been reported, but parts of the building collapsed and area homes had to be evacuated. Local fire companies battled the blaze for more than three hours before it was under control. Hazmat crews were called, with the concern of possible chemicals still being inside the building. However, the former soap making facility underwent a \$1 million EPA clean up in May, when many of the hazardous chemicals were removed. "Everything that was volatile and very toxic was removed. Anything that was miniscule that they didn't consider a

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hazard to us or anybody else was left in the building," Camden Fire Chief Michael Harper said. This is the fourth major fire in two weeks in Camden. This string of Camden fires started 10 days ago on June 9th with a [12-alarm inferno at a former tire factory](#) at Chestnut and Orchard streets. 13 homes were destroyed and 55 people were left homeless. Two days later, [an 8-alarm at an abandoned factory](#) on the 400 block of Winslow Court displaced 19 families. This past Monday, [a 1-alarm blaze broke out at an old furniture store](#) on Marlton Pike. ATF investigators along with the Camden County Prosecutor are now handling the investigation into this latest blaze. Arson appears to be the cause, but how the fire started has not been determined. Investigators are hoping residents will come forward to report anything suspicious in the early morning hours. The fire department says the building and others like it in the city have been inspected, but break-ins continue to be a problem. The prosecutor's office tells Action News no one is in custody, but detectives towed away a vehicle found near the building and are processing it to determine if it had a role in the blaze.

Related Links

- [Thieves to blame for massive Camden fires?](#)
- [2 major Camden fires leave many concerns](#)
- [Questions after 12-alarm Camden blaze](#)

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8199239>

USA, WI, ROCK CO, CENTRAL TWP, JUNE 20 2011. 4 INJURED IN BONFIRE EXPLOSION >> AUTHORITIES ARREST FOND DU LAC MAN

Four people were injured in an explosion after someone threw a bag of fireworks into a bonfire, Rock County sheriff's officials said. The incident happened at about 2 a.m. at a party in Center Township, which is just outside of Evansville. Rock County sheriff's deputies were called to Stoughton Hospital, where they spoke with Tanner D. Hall, 24, of Janesville; Amy L. Brzezinski, 25, of Janesville; and Kayln B. Schremp, 25, of Edgerton. All three were sitting around a bonfire at the party when Scott T. Bonnell, 41, of Fond du Lac, threw a bag with some form of pyrotechnic material into the fire, according to the Rock County Sheriff's Department. Authorities said the bag exploded in the fire, burning Hall, Brzezinski and Schremp. Bonnell was also burned from the explosion, officials said. Investigation at the scene revealed that a large amount of fireworks had been set off during the night, sheriff's officials said. Bonnell was transported to Mercy Hospital by Footville EMS but he refused treatment. Authorities said Bonnell suffered "substantial" burns to his legs. The Rock County Sheriff's Office Detective Division also assisted in the investigation and arrested Bonnell on suspicion of recklessly endangering safety. Hall and Brzezinski were transported to the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hospital for their injuries, which include burns to their hands and face. Both currently are in stable condition. Schremp was treated and released from Stoughton Hospital. Sheriff's officials said additional citations are pending and alcohol is believed to be a factor in the incident

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/28288790/detail.html>

USA, N.J, BRIDGEWATER, JUNE 20 2011. CHEMICAL SEEPS AT SITE WORRY ACTIVISTS >> OFFICIAL: PFIZER DEALING WITH THREAT TO RIVER

bob makin

• [Watch the Video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtwZW94rmKE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtwZW94rmKE)



Pfizer, owners of the American Cyanamid Superfund site, set up a barrier of carbon bags and bales of hay to keep toxic chemicals from seeping into the Raritan River. Environmentalists are concerned that the measures aren't strong enough from contaminating drinking water.

Township administrator Robert Bogart said he is confident that Pfizer is doing all it can to keep about a dozen chemical lagoons on the American Cyanamid Superfund site from seeping into the Raritan River. But environmentalists who discovered chemical seeps on the site a year ago said they don't share that confidence. In March, Pfizer, the site's parent company, began working with the Environmental Protection Agency when it found levels of carcinogenic and endocrine-disrupting benzene 20,000 times greater than the EPA standard. Pfizer's solution to the problem was to erect a barrier of carbon bags and bales of hay on the bank of the river to keep the chemicals from mixing with the groundwater. The solution was deemed acceptable by the EPA, said Russell Downey, Pfizer's project engineer. Downey said

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a study needs to be done to see if the effort worked. If not, the contaminated groundwater will need to be treated and returned to the river, he said. Plans also call for an interceptor trench to be built along the entire 435-acre site, Downey said. "We will work with the EPA to make there are no other seeps in the Raritan and other waters," he said. The seep was discovered last year by the Edison Wetlands Association while investigating an adjacent toxic site it claims is laced with arsenic. Robert Spiegel, the environmental organization's executive director, encountered young men driving their off-road vehicles through Cyanamid's chemical lagoons. He videotaped the encounter and posted it on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com). Edison Wetlands Association began pressuring Pfizer and the EPA to address the chemical seeps a year ago, Spiegel said. In January, Pfizer discovered the benzene in the river and reported it to the EPA in March, Spiegel said. Downey confirmed those dates. The carbon bags and bales of hay were put in place at the end of March, Downey said. Spiegel said he is convinced that benzene remains in the river and treating the water is not the solution. The chemical lagoons should be removed as soon as possible, he said, not only to keep benzene out of the region's drinking water but also as a measure of flood protection. Downey said that when the Raritan floods, chemicals have been washed into neighboring Bound Brook. Spiegel said he hopes assurances can be made to Bound Brook before hurricane season intensifies in Central Jersey. Bound Brook Mayor Carey Pilato said that in the wake of Hurricane Floyd in 1999, the chemicals that flowed through town were washed out into the ocean and none remained in the wake of the flood. Pilato said that the flood that followed Floyd was the only time that the chemical lagoons were an issue. A large remediated portion of the American Cyanamid site was turned into TD Bank Ballpark, where the Somerset Patriots play baseball. Long-term plans for the remainder of site include reusing it as a golf course by 2020, Downey has said. In the meantime, removing the chemical lagoons from the site will be difficult because it is hazardous to workers, Downey said. Spiegel said he would like to see Pfizer install tents over the chemical lagoons, while working on them to control toxic air emissions. Pfizer was one of the sponsors of the third annual Raritan River Conference last week at Rutgers University. The conference focused on the revitalization and restoration of the river. Spiegel said he found the sponsorship to be hypocritical. "They have these gigantic chemical lagoons that are discharging levels of a very toxic chemical over 20,000 times what's considered to be safe into the Raritan River," Spiegel said. "And they're not willing to remove the chemical lagoons because they claim that they have to study it more when they could actually erect tents and get rid of it. Instead, they're more content with putting a low-cost carbon Band-Aid when you have what I consider to be a cancer. When you have a cancer, you don't put a Band-Aid on it. You cut it out and get rid of it. That's what Pfizer needs to do with the cancer they have on the banks of the river. They're poisoning the river."

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20110619/NJNEWS/306190014/Chemical-seeps-at-site-worry-activists>

USA, W.VA, SISTERVILLE, JUNE 20 2011. LEAK CLOSES W.VA. 2

zach macormac

A chemical leak at a manufacturing facility on Sunday afternoon shut down a portion of W.Va. 2 in Sistersville as on-site crews worked to control it. According to John Scharf, company spokesman, at about 2 p.m., a facility at Momentive Performance Materials experienced a release of trichlorosilane, a combination of hydrochloric acid and silicon powder. Scharf stated the vapors were suppressed by 3 p.m. and there was no environmental impact or injuries as a result. The company's on-site "Emergency Response Brigade" responded immediately and applied a foam blanket to suppress the vapors. In addition, MPM reported the situation to the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the Tyler County Office of Emergency Services. "I just heard from the (West Virginia) Department of Homeland Security and the DEP and they said the company is handling (the leak) very well and the reported it properly," said Tom Cooper, director of the Tyler OES. "(MPM is) a good company and they took care of it correctly." "The company has initiated a full investigation as to the cause of this incident and the affected unit will remain shut down until permanent corrective actions have taken place and the cause of the incident has been determined," Scharf stated. Cooper said trichlorosilane carries the same dangers as hydrochloric acid if exposed to humans. Both the vapors and the liquid have a corrosive effect on the body with the potential to harm respiratory organs, eyes, skin and intestines.

<http://www.news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/556328/Leak-Closes-W-Va--2.html?nav=515>

USA, IN, FORT WAYNE, JUNE 20 2011. HAZARDOUS MATERIAL LEAK ON DUPONT ROAD AND I-69

k paul.mallasch

The ramp from Dupont Road to northbound I-69 has been closed due to a hazardous material leak. At approximately 11:40 pm, the Indiana State Police stopped to assist a broken down semi tractor trailer and a liquid was observed leaking from the back of the trailer. It has been determined that 40,000 pounds of a material called Betafoam, a product produced by Dow Chemical, was being hauled in an improperly placarded vehicle and that the driver has subsequently been arrested for OWI. It

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is not known at this time how much of the material has leaked out and a Motor Carrier Inspector from the Indiana State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division is on scene conducting an inspection of the vehicle while crews work to contain and clean up the Betafoam. It has been reported to the Indiana State Police that if BETAFOAM comes into contact with water, a poisonous vapor is emanated into the air. At this time, no such harmful combination of BETAFOAM and water exists at the scene. As a result of the leak and ramp closure, early morning traffic in and around the area of Dupont Road and I-69 may be affected until such time as the material is cleaned up and it is deemed safe for normal vehicular traffic to resume.

<http://www.munciefreepress.com/node/24007>

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W, SYDNEY, JUNE 20 2011. TANK IN FATAL WINERY BLAST 'NOT LABELLED'

stephen johnson



Glebe Coroners Court is investigating an explosion that killed Trevor Drayton and Edgar Orgo in 2008.

Storage of flammable liquid at a NSW winery where two men died in an explosion lacked basic safety rules and warning signs, a former worker has told an inquest. Colin Locock, who was a forklift driver at the Drayton family-owned winery, said he was not informed about the danger of the material and not given safety instructions. Boilermaker Edgar Orgo, 59, and winery owner Trevor Drayton, 52, died in the explosion on January 17, 2008, and a third man survived with serious burns. The liquid spiritus vini rectificatus, also known as SVR, or distilled spirits of wine, was stored in tanks at Drayton's Family Wines in

the Hunter Valley. The inquest, at Glebe Coroners Court in Sydney, heard on Monday that Mr Orgo had been welding a metal plate to tank 104 shortly before the explosion. Mr Locock said he did not see any warning signs around tank 104, which had contained 9000 litres of SVR in the weeks before the explosion. "Don't recall seeing SVR signs," he said. Under questioning from barrister Kristina Stern, assisting deputy coroner Hugh Dillon, Mr Locock said he was unaware that ethanol vapour was flammable. He also said he had not been instructed in safety procedures for handling the liquid, which is almost pure ethanol. Asked if he knew that SVR was stored around the winery, Mr Locock replied, "No." "Were you given instructions whether the machinery could be operated around tanks containing SVR?" Ms Stern asked. "No," Mr Locock replied. Rural Fire Service Superintendent Paul Jones, a structural fire investigator, said it was likely the fire started in the tank rather than around it. "I would have to say it was tank 104, by the damage to the tank itself," he said. "I can't determine whether the explosion happened, or the fire happened first." But under questioning, he agreed with the proposition that welding on the metal container had caused the fire. Police Detective Senior Constable Peter Muscio said the explosion happened before the fire started, in his opinion. He agreed heat from an area around Mr Orgo had ignited the fire and rejected suggestions a leak had caused the blaze. Assistant winemaker William Rikard-Bell was injured in the accident, with burns to 80 per cent of his body. He survived after diving into a nearby dam at the property in Pokolbin. Members of the Drayton family were present at the Glebe Coroners Court for the inquest on Monday. The hearing resumes on Tuesday.

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/national/8263220/lax-safety-before-nsw-winery-blast-court>

CHINA, FUJIAN PROVINCE, FUZHOU, JUNE 20 2011. EX-OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH GRAFT OVER TOXIC SPILL

Five former officials in charge of environmental protection and workplace safety in East China are facing charges of graft and neglect of duty over a toxic spill caused by a copper mine killing thousands of fish last year, local authorities said Monday. The officials were immediately investigated in the wake of the major pollution spill last July when 9,100 cubic meters of acidic waste water spewed from a poorly-built copper mine's sewage tank and polluted a river that runs through the county of Shanghang, east Fujian province, a spokesman with the Provincial People's Procuratorate said. Chen Jun'an, former director of Shanghang's environmental protection bureau and his deputy Lan Yong were charged with neglect of duty, corruption, and bribery in April by a local procuratorate. Chen was also accused of stealing and illegally dividing state assets, the spokesman said. Two officials with the pollution monitoring station in Shanghang were sentenced to 21 to 27 months in prison for neglecting the duty of supervision, the spokesman added. The prosecutors are still preparing the charges for Chen Zhengping, former head of Shanghang's work safety bureau. Last month, Zijin Mining Group Co, the operator of Zijinshan Copper Mine and its sewage facility, was ordered by a local court to pay 30 million yuan (\$4.6 million) in damages. Five of the company's staff were jailed for three to three and a half years. Zijin is China's leading gold producer. Operations at the Zijinshan mine were suspended after the toxic spill.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2011-06/20/content_12737389.htm

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SCOTLAND, GLASGOW, JUNE 20 2011. STRATHCLYDE FIRE & RESCUE FIREFIGHTERS TAKE PART IN CLYDE TUNNEL TRAINING EXERCISE



At 11.49pm on Saturday 18th June, exercise 'Helm's Deep' got underway in the northbound Clyde Tunnel in Glasgow. SFR's North Glasgow Area worked in conjunction with Glasgow City Council, which facilitated the closing of the tunnel from 10pm to allow the staging of a number of crash scenarios involving private cars, a flatbed truck, an LGV and a chemical spillage.

[Thanks to David Ritchie in Glasgow for the Heads-Up]

See Whole Report and pictures at:

<http://www.strathclydefire.org/news--campaigns/news/2011/june-/firefighters-take-part-in-clyde-tunnel-training-exercise.aspx>

USA, HI, HONOLULU, JUNE 20 2011. MILITARY STUDIES WAIKANE VALLEY BOMB CLEANUP >> A WINDWARD OAHU AREA LITTERED WITH OLD MUNITIONS IS BEING LOOKED AT BY BOTH THE MARINES AND THE ARMY

william cole

FORMER WAIKANE VALLEY TRAINING SITE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Marine Corps are conducting studies on clearing two areas, totaling 1,061 acres, of live ordnance.



Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Marine Corps

Up a rutted road in jungly Waikane Valley, past the old Ka Mauna 'o 'Oliveta Church, through a locked gate and beyond a security fence is the former Kamaka family farm, the now-defunct military training range that replaced it, and the long-held hope -- going on decades now -- that the land can be returned to the agricultural and cultural place it used to be. Waikane Valley is one of dozens of former military training sites in Hawaii undergoing the slow, arduous and sometimes painful process that goes along with demilitarization. Among those many sites, Waikane is considered by some to be a special place, and there's been momentum in recent years to clean up the munitions that litter it. The Marine Corps and Army Corps of Engineers are each conducting studies on removing ordnance from a total of 1,061 acres in Waikane Valley. Citizen advisory groups are asking Congress for millions in cleanup funds. "Things seem to be moving in a good direction -- at least things seem to be moving, which is a good direction," said Windward resident and attorney David Henkin, who is on the two restoration advisory boards for the land. Land in and around the former training area is valued as a cultural and natural resource. The city thought highly enough of the land in 1998 to spend \$3.5 million for 500 acres to the southeast of the Marine Corps land that are intended to become the Waikane Valley Nature Park. A private landowner, Paul Zweng, bought 1,400 acres -- part of which is in the former training area -- for a proposed Ohulehule Forest Conservancy to preserve and restore the endemic flora and fauna in the valley, officials said. "It's gorgeous. It's beautiful forest lands," said Kyle Kajihiro, who is on the restoration advisory boards for the valley. "There's a really important loi (taro patch) complex and some sacred sites in there." Waikane Valley is blanketed by the canopies of albizia trees that tower over mango, guava, hala, lilikoi and viney plants, which, in turn, harbor lots of mosquitoes and the objects causing all the concern: lots of unexploded ordnance. Despite the potential risk, off-road vehicles tear up Waikane Stream, and pig hunters cut through the fence that surrounds the 187 acres still owned by the Marine Corps. Between 1943 and 1953 the Army leased more than 2,000 acres in the Waiahole and Waikane valleys for jungle training; small arms, artillery and mortar fire; and aerial bombing, according to a recent Navy investigation. In 1953, the Marine Corps took over, leasing 1,061 acres for live-fire training. The report said live fire "apparently" stopped in the early 1960s, and that the lease was terminated in 1976. A Marine Corps clearance effort in 1976 removed 24,000 pounds of practice ordnance and fragments, and 42 unexploded munitions. In 1984 the Marines came back and recovered 480 3.5-inch rockets from what is known as the Waikane Valley Impact Area. A 2009 site inspection turned up 66 shoulder-fired rockets, one 2.36-inch rocket and three rifle grenades. The unexploded ordnance, or "UXO," as it's known, was so thick the Marines abandoned in 2003 a plan to conduct blank-fire jungle training in the valley, saying it was too dangerous. Despite that, community members working with the military

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on continuing studies say there's progress and hope that Congress will provide cleanup funding. "In terms of the threat posed by the munitions and the proximity to populated areas and the ease with which people access (the valley), my understanding is it's a pretty high priority for cleanup funds," said Henkin, a lawyer for the Earthjustice environmental advocacy group. "I think between the high priority inherent in the site and probably the assistance of Sen. (Daniel) Inouye -- we have a pretty good chance of getting some serious funding directed to that end," Henkin said. According to a 2010 state report, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Honolulu District, which conducts munitions cleanups under its Formerly Used Defense Site, or FUDS, program, had 140 such sites in Hawaii, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and Palau. The projected cost to clean up those sites was \$1.99 billion. With between \$15 million and \$16 million in funding a year, the cleanup work in the region would extend to the year 2134, the state report noted. Two remediation efforts are taking place in Waikane Valley. The Marine Corps said it is spending \$1.37 million to investigate the 187-acre impact area where the majority of the munitions are located and to develop a feasibility study for cleanup options that is expected to be released in the fall. The Army Corps of Engineers, meanwhile, is working on 874 adjoining acres that contain fewer munitions as part of the FUDS program. In addition to a \$1.34 million study, the Army Corps said it has a \$1.94 million ordnance clearance effort under way with Environet Inc. focusing on two parcels totaling 44 acres. Among the decisions the Marine Corps will have to make is whether to clean up the 187 acres it still owns and to what degree, as well as what to do with the land afterward. While some community members have complained about the number of plans put forth and the length of time for the Marine Corps to address the issue, an email response from Marine Corps Base Hawaii to the Star-Advertiser said the latest "munitions response program," which began in 2008, "is detailed and takes time to ensure potential risks to human health and the environment are thoroughly identified and appropriate cleanup action is selected." People have been injured and killed by mishandled munitions in Waikane Valley, though there have been no incidents recently, according to the Navy "remedial investigation" draft report issued in March. In 1944, two people were killed and two others were injured when a 60 mm mortar discovered in the valley accidentally detonated, the report said. Three children were injured in 1963 when a "souvenir" rifle grenade reportedly discovered in Waikane Valley exploded after it was thrown against a wall. There have been no other reports of injury attributed to munitions found in the valley, the report said. Raymond Kamaka, 72, said his family owned and farmed the Marine Corps land as far back as 1850 through a deed from King Kamehameha III, and he still lays claim to it. His great-great-great-grandmother, Racheal Lahela, who came from Waikane, was a half sister of Queen Liliuokalani, Kamaka said. Kamaka recalled playing in the valley as a kid. "It was our playground. Up there we used to swim," he said. He remembers three ancient heiau. The government later said it needed the land for wartime training, leased it from the Hawaiian family, and said it would clean it up and return it afterward. The lease was terminated in 1976, and the Marines conducted several cleanups. Kamaka, a one-time professional wrestler, returned to farm in the early 1980s. He grew taro and raised pigs and brought in schoolchildren for visits. When munitions were found on the property's higher reaches, the military condemned the land in 1989. Much of the family settled for \$2.3 million in 1994 -- but not Raymond Kamaka. "Nobody settled with me," said Kamaka, who claims to be the only rightful heir. The ensuing years have been "hell," Kamaka said. "I lost everything." He went to jail for two years in disputes with the government over the land, he said. He still expects to farm on the family land again one day. "Am I gonna come back? Yes," he said. Kajihiro, who also is program director for the American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker organization that supports Native Hawaiian rights, said "there is some political will to do some cleanup (on the Marine Corps land). To what level is a question of cost." "We're saying it should be cleaned up to the highest level possible to allow the broadest number of uses," Kajihiro said. He added that those uses "need to be mindful of, and consistent with, Uncle Raymond Kamaka and his family's vision and uses of the land -- which were agricultural and cultural uses."

Looking Back Waikane Valley's history as a military training range:

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Marine Corps

Early 1940s	U.S. Army leases more than 2,000 acres in Waiahole and Waikane valleys and uses the property for jungle training, artillery, mortar, small arms fire, maneuvers and as a bombing range for air-to-ground fire.
1944	Two people are killed and two are injured by a 60-millimeter mortar discovered in the valley.
1953	Marine Corps leases 1,061 acres. Training includes small-arms fire, 3.5-inch rockets and medium artillery.
Early 1960s	Marines stop use of live fire.
1963	Three children are injured when a "souvenir" rifle grenade is thrown against a wall and explodes.
1976	Marines conduct ordnance clearance sweeps.
1984	Marines conduct additional ordnance clearance sweeps and remove 480 3.5-inch rockets.
1989	U.S. government acquires title to the 187-acre ordnance impact area.
1992	A perimeter chain-link fence is installed around the impact area.
2002	Marines propose conducting blank-fire training on the site.

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- 2003 Marines abandon the idea when a study finds too much danger from unexploded ordnance.
2010 Marines conduct a "remedial investigation" on the 187-acre Waikane Valley Impact Area.
2011 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is investigating ordnance on 874 adjoining acres and removing munitions from 44 acres within that parcel.

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/hawaii/news/20110619_Military_studies_Waikane_Valley_bomb_cleanup.html

USA, WA, ISLAND CO, WHIDBEY, JUNE 20 2011. EMERGENCY PRACTICE TO TEST OIL-SPILL READINESS

A National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) practice oil spill response will be conducted June 21 through 23 to test the readiness and skills needed to effectively manage a major environmental incident. The Washington Department of Ecology, U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Navy and other federal, state, and local entities will partner to enact a rapid and well coordinated response to protect the state's highly valued environmental, cultural, and economic resources from simulated oil-spill damage. The training provides a valuable opportunity for these agencies to work together. They also will be evaluated on their ability to mount planned, first-stage response strategies using the Northwest Area Contingency Plan and Incident Command System processes. With the "spill" occurring in the waters west of Whidbey Island, the Command Center for over 200 drill participants will be located on the Seaplane Base at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station. No oil will be spilled, but containment booms, oil-skimming vessels, other boats and aircraft will operate in the area during the exercise.

<http://www.whidbeyexaminer.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=6159>

CROATIA, SISAK, JUNE 21 2011. REFINERY FIRE >> BLAZE IN SISAK REFINERY PUT OUT

• Watch the Video [Fire rages at Croatia oil refinery Rough Cut](#)

• Watch the Video [YouTube: Fire rages at Croatia oil refinery](#)



Firefighters attempt to put out a fire burning in a refinery owned by the oil and gas group INA in the Croatia's industrial town of Sisak, around 50 km (31 miles) southeastern of capital Zagreb, June 20, 2011. INA said that the fire was due the crude products igniting and that there were no casualties no danger to the environment.

The fire which broke out in the Sisak oil refinery around 1030 hrs Monday was completely extinguished shortly after 1400 hrs, local authorities reported on Monday afternoon. According to a report from the hospital in that city 50 kilometres southeast of Zagreb, four firefighters were admitted to hospital, with two of them having inhaled too much smoke and one having sustained burns of

the first and second degree. The fourth firefighter collapsed, and after receiving an IV infusion he will be discharged. More than 130 firefighters and some 60 fire-fighting cars from Sisak and Zagreb were engaged to put out the fire which could have spread to the refinery's reservoirs, the head of the National Protection and Rescue Directorate, Damir Trut, said this afternoon. The MOL group, a co-owner of the INA oil company, issued a statement expressing deep concern over the accident in the Sisak refinery.

<http://daily.tportal.hr/134562/Blaze-in-Sisak-refinery-put-out.html>

USA, VT, ESSEX JUNCTION, JUNE 21 2011. ESSEX JCT GAS LEAK MAY BE LARGER THAN THOUGHT

• Watch the Video <http://www.wcax.com/story/14943512/essex-jct-gas-leak-may-be-larger-than-thought>



A gas leak that brought an Essex Junction shopping center to a standstill may have been much worse than first thought. It was discovered in May, but state officials say it may have been going on for months. State officials say the Gulf Gas Station has likely been leaking gas since February and that records show a monthly inventory loss since then. The Agency of Natural Resources is now estimating 2,600 gallons may have leaked into the surrounding soil. The property owner, Dave Simendinger, says the state is exaggerating. He puts the number closer to 50 gallons. On May 24 business owners at the Post Office Square shopping plaza in Essex Junction smelled a strong odor of gasoline coming from

the parking lot. Eight fire and rescue crews-- including a state hazmat team-- responded to the scene. More than 15

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businesses were evacuated, but were allowed to open up shop the following day. State officials, however, are not convinced it was a minor spill from a fuel delivery as the gas station owner alleges. Last week the Agency of Natural Resources got an emergency order from the state environmental court to stop Dave Simendinger's operations at the Gulf. He was ordered to drain his tanks and remove them and any contaminated soil from the ground within five business days. That work is starting Tuesday morning. But Simendinger says he's being targeted. His tanks are 30-year-old single-walled, fiberglass tanks. He argues the state wants suppliers to switch to double-walled tanks. The state says 2,600 gallons is a serious spill and it's critical they fix the source of the leak. Once the tanks come completely out of the ground Wednesday Simendinger and the state will have a better idea of how much gas has leaked. Simendinger is complying with the order. And it is not clear if he could face any penalties.

<http://www.wcax.com/story/14943512/essex-jct-gas-leak-may-be-larger-than-thought>

USA, N.J, JERSEY CITY, JUNE 21 2011. TOXIC HUDSON COUNTY SITES TO BE CLEANED UP THANKS TO \$15 MILLION SETTLEMENT

christopher baxter



A chromium cleanup site on Garfield Avenue in Jersey City, shown in this 2010 file photo.

Three corporations will repay New Jersey \$15 million for the cleanup of several contaminated sites in Hudson County under a proposed settlement agreement announced by state officials today. Honeywell International Inc., Occidental Chemical Corp. and PPG Industries Inc. also agreed to accept responsibility for 42 other sites laced with hexavalent chromium, a cancer-causing chemical. "This is a major accomplishment in dealing with contamination that has long affected many residents of North Jersey," said Bob Martin, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection. If approved by a Superior Court judge, the pact would end six years of litigation between the state and the companies

over widespread chromium contamination in Hudson County, particularly in Jersey City. Bill Matsikoudis, an attorney for Jersey City, said the agreement was an "excellent step forward." Under the settlement, each company would pay \$5 million, and Honeywell would pay up to an additional \$1 million. The firms also agreed to clean up 42 "orphan sites" — those with no previous responsible owner. In addition, agreements between the companies and the state to clean up or monitor 126 other contaminated properties will be incorporated into the court settlement, according to the proposal. The companies will not be responsible for any other contamination at the sites they have agreed to clean, or for any contamination beyond the boundaries of the sites, unless it can be traced back to them. Victoria Streifeld, spokeswoman for Honeywell, said in a statement the company has been working with DEP to clean up chrome sites in Jersey City and will continue that work under the proposed settlement. Eric Moses, a spokesman for Occidental, said in a statement that it purchased its three sites from Maxus Energy Corporation in 1986 and that Maxus would pay for the clean up. A representative of PPG did not return a message seeking comment. Hudson County was once the capital of chromium chemical production in the United States. Two of the nation's six plants were in Jersey City, and another was located in Kearny, DEP said. The last plant closed in 1976. Chromium is used in a variety of industrial processes including the manufacture of stainless steel and colored glass. Its production results in a large amount of waste known as chromate ore that contains hexavalent chromium, a highly toxic heavy metal that can cause cancer and other health problems. The state Attorney General's Office sued in 2005 alleging toxic chromate waste had lingered at several sites throughout the county and, over time, created a serious public health risk. Jeff Tittel, head of the New Jersey Sierra Club, said the agreement was not enough for the people living near the toxic sites. "Chromium has (affected) large segments of the population in Jersey City and Hudson County, and this settlement lets the companies off the hook," he said. DEP spokesman Larry Ragonese dismissed the criticism and said the settlement was a "major agreement to do some important clean up." DEP will accept public comment on the pact before making a final decision.

Related Links

- [Federal court settlement on chromium cleanup ensures better enforcement of earlier state settlement with PPG Industries, environment expert says](#)
- [More than 50,000 tons of soil removed from chromium site in Jersey City](#)
- [N.J. fund to help homeowners fix underground tanks runs out of money, creates \\$33M of spill cleanups](#)

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2011/06/toxic_hudson_county_sites_to_b.html

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

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UK, NORTH NORFOLK, BACTON, JUNE 21 2011. SHELL'S "NEGLECT OF BASIC MAINTENANCE" COSTS IT £1.2MILLION

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-13805763>



Energy giant Shell UK must pay £1.24 million in fines and costs following an explosion and fire at its Bacton gas terminal in Norfolk. The explosion blew the concrete roof off a buffering plant inside the terminal, which hurled concrete and metal debris across the site and sucked a nearby drain out of the ground. Nobody was seriously injured during the incident, which happened on 28 February 2008. Ipswich Crown Court heard that the blast occurred inside a water-treatment plant at the site. Investigators identified the cause of the explosion as a leak of highly flammable hydrocarbon liquid into a concrete storage tank in the water-treatment plant. Once the contaminated water entered the tank it was heated by an electric heater, which raised the surface temperature significantly and caused the explosion. Investigators from the HSE and the Environment Agency (EA) also found that there was an unauthorised

release of 850 tonnes of firewater and fire-fighting foam into the North Sea during the incident. Shell UK failed to close the sea gate until an hour after the fire had started, and failed to notify the EA, as required, which meant the company and the emergency services did not receive vital advice on environmental protection during the incident, or its aftermath. The delay in notifying the EA also meant an assessment of environmental harm was not possible. HSE inspector Steve Johnson said: "The fact no one was seriously hurt in this incident was solely down to good fortune, as the company's internal report acknowledges. Shell UK neglected basic maintenance leading up to the explosion. "Our investigation found key components had been failing for some years and the company knew this, yet there had been no appreciation of the potential for an incident such as this. "In particular, there had been no attempt to assess the risk that arose from condensate entering the water-treatment plant, despite the fact that the plant was not designed to handle highly flammable liquids like condensate. "The investigation revealed significant failings in the safety management system operating on the plant, and, hopefully, other operators will take note of the outcome of this incident and maybe review their own procedures." Shell UK appeared in court today (20 June) and pleaded guilty to several breaches of health and safety and environmental legislation. These included:

- Reg.4 of the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 1999, contrary to s33(1)(c) of the HSWA 1974, for failing to take all measures necessary to prevent major accidents and limit their consequences to persons and the environment – fine £150,000;
- s2(1) of the HSWA 1974 – fine £150,000;
- s3(1) of the HSWA 1974 – fine £140,000;
- s23(1)(a) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, for failing to operate in accordance with the conditions of an IPC authorisation – fine £140,000; and
- three counts of breaching reg. 32(1)(b) of the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000, for failing to comply with a condition of a PPC permit – fine £140,000 for each breach.

The total fine amounted to £1million and the company was also ordered to pay £242,000 in costs. Following the hearing, a Shell spokesperson said: "What happened was completely unacceptable and falls well below the standards that we set for ourselves. Safety is our company's priority, so an incident like this is deeply disappointing. "We have admitted our fault, accepted the penalty, and learned the lessons. As a direct result of the investigations into the incident a significant number of improvements have been made. "Around £3 million has been invested in reviewing operations, processes, safety and integrity systems, and a new waste water-treatment plant is to be built with a design that incorporates enhanced safety features. "We deeply regret what happened here and are determined to exert all efforts to ensure it does not happen again." Environment Agency environment manager for Norfolk and Suffolk, Marcus Sibley, commented: "We are disappointed that a company such as Shell, with its experience in the fuel industry should have operated in this fashion. "This is a high-risk industry and that is why we expect high standards. The explosion could have led to a major environmental disaster, as other highly flammable materials were stored nearby."

Related Links

- [Shell 'Ignored Safety Warnings](#) 16 June 2011, Norfolk
- [Shell UK Pleads Guilty Over Blast](#) 04 May 2011, Norfolk

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- [Shell To Be Prosecuted Over Blast](http://www.shponline.co.uk/in-court-content/full/shell-s-neglect-of-basic-maintenance-costs-it-1-2million) 01 December 2010, Norfolk

<http://www.shponline.co.uk/in-court-content/full/shell-s-neglect-of-basic-maintenance-costs-it-1-2million>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, JUNE 21 2011. BRIGHT NEW LOOK FOR GULL SERVICE STATIONS



Gull has announced a new partnership with Kiwi convenience store chain Night 'n Day, a South Island company that has taken over the operation of Gull's 21 largest service stations. The final store, at Kingsland station in Auckland, opened on 11 May with a new, streamlined look and completely new stock. Gull General Manager Dave Bodger says customers will notice the excellent service provided by Night 'n Day's directors Denise and Andrew Lane, along with their hand-picked managers and franchise owners. While the stores have a consistent look and feel, managers have the flexibility to service their local community. "Like Gull, Night 'n Day provides choice to its customers. We pride ourselves on our

extensive range of products including grocery, health and beauty and hardware items to name a few. We are unique in that we have in-store ice-cream parlours, delicatessens, hot and cold café items that are made daily and fried foods. We have a wide selection to cater for everyone while still carrying traditional service station items such as drinks, confectionery, pies, magazines and automotive products," said Mr Lane. Mr Bodger approached Night 'n Day to replace Woolworths stores on Gull sites after hearing Andrew Lane speak at a conference. "I was very impressed by what I heard. Like Gull, Night 'n Day is a family-owned company that has the freedom to manage its stores in a way that suits local motorists and shoppers," said Bodger. "Andrew and Denise personally manage every aspect of setting up a new store so I knew they would do a good job." The Dunedin -based couple grew their network of franchises from one store 20 years ago to 28 stores in the South Island before this year. The partnership with Gull enabled them to launch a major expansion into the North Island, taking Night 'n Day to a total of 49 stores in just a few months. Mr Lane says learning the ropes of fuel retailing was a challenge. "We have had to up-skill ourselves, our franchisees and their employees on all aspects of environment, health and safety standards relating to the fuel industry to ensure the people that provide our service are fully competent, trained, meet certifying standards and provide a superior service".

<http://www.voxy.co.nz/business/bright-new-look-gull-service-stations/1861/92579>

USA, MO, ST. LOUIS, JUNE 21 2011. CHEMICAL PLANT FIRE IN CITY FORCES 500 TO FLEE >> TANKERS FILLED WITH ACETONE AND ETHANOL CATCH FIRE

 **Watch the Video** http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43464118/ns/us_news-life/

 **Watch the Video** http://ozarksfirst.com/fulltext?nxd_id=475427

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Firefighters-battling-fire-alarm-chemical-fire-124175789.html>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ktvi-chemisphere-corp-explosion-20110620.0.420918.photogallery>



For the second time in six years, a massive fire forced widespread evacuations, brought interstate traffic to a standstill — and served notice that industrial dangers can lurk awfully close to home. The fire erupted about 2:30 a.m. Monday at Chemisphere Corp. in the 2100 block of Clifton Avenue, in the city's Ellendale neighborhood. Most of the 500 residents who were evacuated were allowed back into their homes by about 7 a.m., and Interstate 44 reopened after being closed for hours. On June 24, 2005, a fire at Praxair Inc. erupted during daytime hours and brought part of St. Louis to a standstill by forcing the closure of Highway 40 and the evacuation of nearby homes and businesses. As in the wake of Praxair, Chemisphere neighbors reacted Monday with a mix of anger

and surprise. "I'm tired, and I'm upset that they would have something that could kill us right in our backyard," said Steve Richardson, 57, who has lived a few houses away from the Chemisphere property for years and did not know that anything there might present a danger. The company, a solvent distributor, has been in business here since 1974 and employs about 40 workers. It has a 14-car rail spur and the capacity to store 1.1 million gallons of chemicals, the company website says. The company brings products in by railcar, loads them into the facility and puts those solvents in containers for distribution. St. Louis fire Capt. Dan Sutter said it appeared that four railcars and a number of tanker trucks were near the fire. The company says its solvent distribution products include glycol ethers, alcohol, aliphatic hydrocarbons, alkalis, aromatic hydrocarbons, chlorinated solvents, acids, glycol ether esters, surfactants, glycols and glycerins, plasticizers and esters. By the time evacuees were permitted back into their homes early Monday, officials who had been monitoring air quality throughout the

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morning detected no danger, Sutter said. But Warren Lee, whose home on Clifton Avenue backs up to the plant, was still waiting to get back to his home for a change of clothes at 9 a.m., six hours after the plant fire woke him. He's a welder and couldn't go to work wearing what he fled the house in — shorts and flip-flops. "I woke up because my bed was shaking from the explosions," said Lee, 51. "I looked outside, and I saw this mushroom-shaped flame shoot up at least 100 feet." Lee hustled his 80-year-old mother and other family members into a car and left, even before authorities began to evacuate the neighborhood. Once firefighters arrived, they used protective gear because of the chemicals involved. An explosion injured three firefighters who were fighting the blaze from inside the plant, Sutter said. They were treated for undisclosed injuries and released. It took firefighters 2½ to three hours to bring the fire under control. No workers were at the plant, which spans about eight acres, when the fire broke out. The cause was under investigation. A man at the scene Monday who identified himself as the company president estimated that 10 percent of the plant was damaged by fire. He declined further comment. Messages left at company offices were not returned. When residents in the surrounding blocks were ordered to evacuate, they grabbed their shoes, their pets and car keys and fled. Many waited at parking lots outside the evacuation area until they were allowed back into the neighborhood. Some residents on Monday morning were skeptical of authorities who said tests showed no danger from chemicals in the air. Sutter said the primary hazard was the flammable nature of the chemicals involved, which "burned pretty hot, pretty fast." The incident highlighted again the potential danger of having industry so close to residential areas. In the city and in surrounding areas, dated and patchwork zoning and a changing urban landscape have created a touchy balance between neighborhoods and companies that handle dangerous materials. Because accidents happen so infrequently, and the zoning decisions were made by officials who served years ago, there is rarely a backlash. Mike Wilson, 47, who lives on Clifton Avenue, said the smell from Chemisphere — similar to the smell of fingernail polish — could wreck an otherwise pleasant summer evening outside. Wilson said the company had been expanding and recently plowed a lot across the street from him to make room for an employee parking lot. Wilson made two homemade signs to voice his anger. "No more traffic," one read. A December 2009 letter from Chemisphere to area residents talked about how the company had "grown substantially" and how the bulk trucks coming into the plant had no place to park while waiting to load or unload the products. Employees could park in the new lot, the letter said, and trucks wouldn't stack up waiting in line. Among other worries, Wilson didn't like the thought of more cars coming onto his narrow street. His family also worries about what dangerous products the trucks are hauling. Sutter said the Fire Department visited the site annually to look for safety issues and to become familiar with the layout and inventory. "Things went as well as could be expected considering the hazards on the property," Sutter said. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board is not expected to investigate the Chemisphere blaze, as it did after the Praxair fire, according to Daniel Horowitz, a board director. In the Praxair fire, the board concluded that relief valves on many propylene gas cylinders open too easily when high temperatures increase the internal pressure. As a result, the Praxair plant fire was probably ignited by static electricity while gas escaped from a propylene tank. That fire sent tanks rocketing through the storage yard and into the air and took five hours to bring under control. Large fragments were found in surrounding neighborhoods. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had someone on the scene at Chemisphere on Monday, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources is monitoring events, said George Hess, an environmental scientist with the EPA.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/article_6223587d-0a42-5a3d-8f9b-bd0745352720.html

USA, OH, OAKLEY, JUNE 21 2011. SULFURIC ACID LEAK LEADS TO PLANT EVACUATION IN OAKLEY

A sulfuric acid leak leads to evacuations at a plant in Oakley. Fire crews were called to Cast-Fab Technologies on Forrer Street just before seven Monday evening. Investigators say an employee was working on a 5,000 gallon tank that holds sulfuric acid when a pipe broke. Firefighters had to put on protective suits to go into the building. District Fire Chief Anson Turley described the scene this way, "By the time they got in level A and got into the building they had the leak plugged within 7 minutes. About 1,000 gallons of acid did leak out before we could complete the process." Power was shut off to the building because sulfuric acid is flammable. Hazardous materials crews were able to patch the leak. It is up to the company to complete the cleanup process. Workers do metal casting and fabrication at the plant.

http://www.local12.com/news/local/story/Sulfuric-Acid-Leak-Leads-To-Plant-Evacuation-in/AB_FLQkz9E-0WtWtJXPqig.csp

USA, TX, CULBERSN CO, JUNE 21 2011. MAN KILLED IN TANKER CRASH IDENTIFIED

A 44-year-old truck driver out of El Paso has died after an early morning rollover. It happened around 6:30 Sunday morning on Lease Road #44 which is 60 miles north of Kent and 46 miles north of Pecos. DPS Troopers say Javier Angel Ochoa was driving his tanker truck East when he veered left off the roadway and over corrected to the right, overturning the truck. Ochoa was not wearing a seatbelt and was pronounced dead at the scene. His body has been sent to the Pecos funeral home

<http://www.cbs7kosa.com/news/details.asp?ID=26569>

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