



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 722 Newsy Stuff

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

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USA, CT, WATERFORD, JUNE 11 2022. FIRE DESTROYS GAS STATION >> 76 BOSTON POST ROAD ENGULFED BY FLAMES AS TOWN EXPERIENCES OUTAGES

paul petrone

 **Watch the Video** <http://waterford.patch.com/articles/fire-destroys-gas-station#video-6511462>

 **Photo Gallery** <http://waterford.patch.com/articles/fire-destroys-gas-station#>



BestWay Gas Station, also known as Raj Convenient Mart, was destroyed by fire on Thursday night. Jordan Fire Company Chief Tim Sullivan said that dispatch received a report at 9:12 p.m. that the Exxon gas station, located at 76 Boston Post Road, was on fire. Jordan Fire Company, as well as trucks from the other fire companies, responded. Fire was burning out two windows, Sullivan said. Firefighters directed the fire away from a propane tank storage area at the gas station, managed to break the door down and then knocked the fire out within 10 minutes of arrival, Sullivan said. "It worked like clockwork," Sullivan said. "All the training, all the work we do all paid off." If the fire had spread too close to the propane tanks, it would have represented a "significant hazard," Sullivan said.

The fire was far away from reaching any of the gas station's gasoline lines. Once the fire was put out, firefighters began searching the building for people. Nobody was found, Sullivan said. The owner, who is from Branford, was called, Sullivan said. The inside of the gas station was "destroyed," Sullivan said. The cause of the fire was being determined by the fire marshal's office, and no determination had yet been made, he said.

<http://waterford.patch.com/articles/fire-destroys-gas-station>

USA, MI, FRUITPORT TWP, JUNE 11 2011. TWO FRUITPORT TOWNSHIP FIREFIGHTERS SUFFER MINOR INJURIES IN BASEMENT BLAZE

emily pfund



Firefighters with Fruitport Fire Department and Norton Shores Fire Department respond to a basement fire at 5983 Stringer Road in Fruitport on Thursday night. A gasoline-powered generator caught fire in the basement of a Fruitport Township home around 9:45 p.m. Thursday, and two township firefighters were injured fighting the blaze. Fruitport Township Fire Chief Ken Doctor said the fuel tank on top of the generator ruptured as firefighters entered the room, causing a flash which burned two of them. One firefighter received second-degree burns to his leg, while another received first-degree burns to his face. Both were examined at the scene and were in stable condition. "They were not transported to the hospital, but they may seek treatment later," Doctor said. Three men had been in the home at 5983 Stringer and escaped without injury. Doctor said the home had been without power for about 30 days, possibly as a result of a

"nonpayment issue," and the residents had been using the generator instead.

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2011/06/ready_to_edit_fruitport_fire.html

USA, CA, DEL NORTE CO, MAY 2011. THIEVES HIT UNDERGROUND GASOLINE TANKS >> ABOUT 325 GALLONS TAKEN FROM STATIONS

anthony skeens

Three gas stations in outlying communities of Del Norte County have had underground storage tanks siphoned this month. The fuel raiders have stolen a total of more than 325 gallons from Eller's Fort Dick Market, Pem-Mey Fuel Mart in Klamath and the Hiouchi Hamlet. "Those dishonest people prey upon honest people who work for a living," said Clyde Eller, owner of Eller's Fort Dick Market on Lake Earl Drive. "It's a very discouraging situation when you live in a small community and find people in the community doing those types of things." About 226 gallons of gas were taken from the market sometime from last Friday night to Saturday morning, said sheriff's Commander Bill Steven. Authorities have no description of the thieves or their vehicle, Steven said. "We're taking precautions to prevent the same thing from happening in the future," said Eller. Pem-Mey Fuel Mart off U.S. Highway 101 in Klamath lost about 100 gallons of fuel early June 1, said Troy Pruitt, manager of the store. "Whoever is doing this has definitely done this before and will definitely do it again," said Pruitt. "With gas being as high as it is right now

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and the economy being as tough as it is, even though in Del Norte County it has always been tough, people are up to doing anything." The Hiouchi Hamlet on U.S. Highway 199 in Hiouchi also had gas siphoned from its tank this month, said an employee. Steven would not speculate whether the three attacks were related. He did, however, elaborate on the technique that could have been used to steal the gas. A vehicle, such as a van or truck, with a drum in the back and a hole in the bottom could be parked over the tank's cap and a pump used to siphon the gas, Steven said. He also said that it could be a setup as simple as a truck with a barrel or tank in its bed. "If somebody driving by sees (the vehicle) in the parking lot they may not realize there's a line going through the floorboard of the vehicle into the tank," said Steven. Such thefts are rare and an indication of the current economic state, Steven said. "It makes people more desperate to do things that you wouldn't normally see occurring," said Steven. Any suspicious activity in gas stations, especially during the night, should be reported to the Sheriff's Office, Steven said, adding that people in general should call authorities if they see anything perceived to be suspicious. "If they think it's something that qualifies as an emergency, then don't be afraid to dial 911," said Steven.

<http://www.triplicate.com/20110610112264/News/Local-News/Thieves-hit-underground-gasoline-tanks>

USA, TN, KINGSPORT, JUNE 11 2011. TANKER FIRE AT HOLSTON ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT; WORKER RECEIVES ACID BURNS

sharon hayes

 **Watch the Video** <http://www2.tricities.com/news/2011/jun/10/6/breaking-tanker-fire-bae-systems-ar-1099560/>

A tanker truck fire at Holston Army Ammunition Plant has sent one BAE Systems employee to the hospital with acid burns. HAAP spokesperson Nancy Gray said the incident occurred around 11 a.m. Friday when a tank truck offloading nitric acid developed a small leak in the discharge hose, causing the truck's tires to catch fire. Black smoke could be seen billowing from inside the plant. A BAE Systems employee who was there to help offload the truck was burned by the nitric acid and was transported to a local hospital for treatment, Gray said. The name of the employee was not released. By 1 p.m., the fire was under control and the accident was being investigated. Nitric acid is a core ingredient in the production of explosives. BAE Systems is the operating contractor for Holston Army Ammunition Plant.

<http://www.timesnews.net/article.php?id=9032770>

USA, MO, JEFFERSON CITY, JUNE 11 2011. 2 KCMO GAS STATIONS SUED FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK VIOLATIONS >> ATTORNEY GENERAL KOSTER SUES FIVE GAS STATIONS.

Attorney General Chris Koster today filed suit against five gas stations for violations of Missouri's Underground Storage Tank (UST) Law. He said all five of the gas stations are operating without insurance. Missouri law requires owners and operators of petroleum USTs to have a financial responsibility mechanism in place – most often insurance – to ensure that owners and operators clean up any contamination from underground storage tanks and pay for any damage caused to the public. Each of the five gas stations are operating without the required insurance, putting the environment and the public at risk. Koster is asking the courts to order the defendants to shut down until they comply with the Missouri UST Law and to pay a civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per day for each violation of the law. "Underground storage tanks that are not in compliance with the law can pose a serious health threat to Missourians," Koster said. The owners/operators of the five gas stations are:

- George's Store, LLC, Aurora
- Uyoata Udo, Kansas City
- Bal Sharma and Ghassan Darwish, Kansas City
- Owen Richelieu, Alexandria and St. Charles
- Hagos Kiros and Energy Power, LLC, St. Louis

<http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/47791/>

KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND, MBABANE, JUNE 11 2011. OOPS! TOTAL MESS AS PETROL CARS FILLED WITH DIESEL

samkelo ngwenya

There was a commotion on Friday at Total Garage Filling Station when customers confronted the management after a Unitrans truck filled a petrol tank with diesel. This saw petrol customers' vehicles filled with diesel instead of petrol. The livid customers then returned to the filling station to register their complaints. The customers said they realised the problem immediately after leaving the filling station after their cars developed mechanical faults by emitting smoke, jerking and switching off the engine in the middle of the road. Some claimed to have left their vehicles on the roadside. However, some hired other cars to tow their vehicles to the filling station. Close to 20 drivers were found embroiled in a heated argument with

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the filling station staff at around 4:10pm. When our news crew arrived, the drivers were impatiently waiting for management to resolve the problem while the Unitrans truck driver was found standing forlornly next to the truck, obviously perturbed by the incident. The complainants comprised public transport drivers and private ones. Management was admonished for their failure to verify if the Unitrans truck had filled the tanks with petrol. "The petrol cap is clearly inscribed as such on the outside; there is no way we could have asked for diesel yet our cars use petrol," shouted a fuming customer.

Pains

The manager of the filling station, Thembi Motsa, was at pains trying to calm down the fuming customers, promising them the situation would be dealt with. Speaking to this newspaper afterwards, Motsa acknowledged that the mistake was caused by the Unitrans' truck driver. "We understand there is currently a shortage of petrol in Matsapha, so when the Unitrans truck driver said he had come to fill petrol, we were happy. He and a supervisor filled the tanks, only to realise the mistake hours later after a petrol attendant noticed the fuel was greasy. Then complaints flooded from customers at around 4 pm, informing us their cars had been filled with diesel instead of petrol," she said. Motsa assured the affected customers that their complaints would be attended to. She said she had already told the customers to take their cars to garages, and the filling station would take care of all the expenses. A tow-away vehicle had already arrived to tow the vehicles from the different locations, where they had been parked soon after developing mechanical faults owing to the fact that they had been wrongly filled with diesel. "We will bear the costs of all the vehicles. We deeply regret the inconvenience caused. As a company we promise that in future this will not happen. "We will use the surveillance cameras to verify if the car did actually come to the filling station," she said.

<http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=25885>

USA, MD, ANNAPOLIS, JUNE 11 2011. MULTIPLE AGENCIES INVESTIGATING DIESEL SPILL FROM BOAT TAKING OFF IN ANNAPOLIS >> AN ANNAPOLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAYS ABOUT 200 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL WAS SPILLED.

mary mcguirt



Multiple state and local agencies were on the scene at Compromise Street and City Dock in Annapolis Friday night after 200 gallons of diesel fuel spilled from a boat that took off from the Yacht Basin Company at Spa Creek in Annapolis. Tony Spencer, a spokesman from the Annapolis Fire Department (AFD), said the spill appeared to have been caused by a malfunctioning part on the boat that caused the driver to lose all of the fuel. Spencer said the boat came in to Ego Alley and then out on the Severn River toward Arden on the Severn. The fuel is believed to be contained to the area of the Yacht Basin Company, Spencer said. Initially officials said it was unclear at what point the boat emptied out completely. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Department of the Environment and the AFD were on the scene Friday night. Officers from the Annapolis Police Department (APD) also were on the scene directing traffic. Coast Guard crews arrived later. Spencer said APD received the initial call at 8:11 p.m. Friday.

<http://historiccannapolis.patch.com/articles/multiple-agencies-investigating-diesel-spill-into-spa-creek-severn-river>

USA, LA, CATAHOULA, JUNE 11 2011. FLOODWATERS MARKED WITH SPILLS

claire taylor

Catahoula crawfisherman Roy Savoy was checking his traps in the Atchafalaya Basin a few weeks ago when he came across an oil spill. The current, swifter than normal because of floodwater from the Mississippi River, had carried the oil about a half-mile down a pipeline and into the woods, he said. What Savoy spotted was the largest oil spill identified in the Atchafalaya Basin during the high water of 2011 said Chris Piehler, inspection division administrator with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The spill consisted of about 10 barrels of oil, Piehler said. Another two-barrel spill was reported in Bayou Postilion, also in the basin. Most of the dozen reports of pollution in the basin during the high water event were small sheens, he said. The spill that Savoy spotted in Crocodile Bayou was originally reported as the collapse of a tank due to the high water, Piehler said. Savoy said it looked to him like oil was coming from a flow pipe, not the tank itself. "It was a black, gooey stuff coming out," he said. "The next morning they were out there with a lot of equipment. They were wiping every little stick." Investigators with the U.S. [Coast Guard](#) responded, but "the company that was in the area had already laid out boom for the high water," Petty Officer Casey Ranel said. Ranel and Piehler identified the company as W.L. Estis. The company hired AMPOL to clean up the oil, Piehler said. "They took on responsibility for cleaning it up without knowing if it was theirs. It was just in the area of their company," Ranel said. A manager at Estis Well Service who refused to provide his name said the

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oil did not come from the company's production facility, nor did the company accept responsibility for the spill. "We were under orders from the Coast Guard to clean it up but it wasn't ours," he said. "We did it under protest." Piehler said AMPOL cleaned up the oil that workers could reach. But thick vegetation in the wooded swampy area limited access. Oil did get into that area so it's being monitored, he said. "The Coast Guard is content with what has happened" and marked the incident as closed, Piehler said.

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20110611/NEWS01/106110302>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JUNE 11 2011. PIPELINE WORK SEEN AS A 'BAND-AID'

Marianna papadakis



Repairs: Caltex plans to upgrade a pipeline at kurnell wharf to increase its fuel supply to sydney airport.

Botany Bay Planning and Protection Council has criticised Caltex's proposal to upgrade infrastructure and a pipeline to supply more jet fuel to Sydney Airport, saying it is another "Band-Aid" on an ageing refinery. Caltex's \$24 million application to the state government will see about 1.5 kilometres of the existing pipeline between the refinery boundary and Caltex's wharf at Kurnell replaced, installation of new pumps at the refinery, and new booster pumps, pipeline modifications and an electrical switch room at Caltex's Banksmeadow terminal. Caltex said the project would reduce the risk of contamination and pollution in the future as a result of ageing infrastructure. Botany Bay Planning and Protection Council president Bernie Clarke said it was one among many problems at the refinery to be "Band-aided" in recent years. He said there were significant risks

arising from the expectation that contaminated soil and groundwater would be encountered, and acid sulphate soils would be disturbed. He said the excavations would be near sensitive wetlands — the same area damaged by an oil leak for which Caltex was fined \$45,000 in the NSW Land and Environment Court in 2004. It cost \$3.2 million to clean up the area after the spill and the corporation promised \$13 million would be spent on reducing environmental risk in "coming years". "Acid sulphate soil has the same acidity level as acid in a car battery," Mr Clarke said. "This is what will be disturbed. They will have to be very very careful not to discharge that into wetlands and Botany Bay." A Caltex spokesman said if any soil was contaminated, it would be disposed of in accordance with the waste management plan. Public submissions closed on Friday but residents have contacted the Leader furious they were not informed about the plan. Kurnell resident Rosemary D'Arrietta, who has been an immediate neighbour of Caltex for the past 20 years, said she was concerned about risk and disaster management measures for the project. "Yes there is a disaster plan for the refinery, but not for the community. If there is no one knows about it." The Caltex spokesman said the corporation's investigation into the oil sheen on Botany Bay on March 20 resulted in improved stormwater management actions. The corporation still faces possible legal action by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage which is still investigating the incident that occurred because the refinery's stormwater management system was overwhelmed by heavy rain.

<http://www.theleader.com.au/news/local/news/general/pipeline-work-seen-as-a-bandaaid/2190685.aspx>

USA, MD, HYATTSVILLE, JUNE 11 2011. HYATTSVILLE WORKERS DISCOVER BURIED OIL TANK >> PARK CONTAMINATION TRACED TO UNDERGROUND TANK

daniel leaderman,

The mysterious culprit behind two incidents of oil contamination near the water fountain in Hyattsville's Robert J. King Memorial Park was finally identified, prompting an increasingly complex excavation of part of the park Thursday. But rather than the act of vandalism officials suspected after the first incident in March, the source of the oil turned out to be an underground tank from a school built on the property more than a century ago. An environmental cleanup crew worked for several hours in Thursday morning's punishing heat to empty the tank and excavate it from the half-acre park on Gallatin Street. With temperatures nearing 100 degrees, the crew tried to lift the empty tank from the ground using an industrial excavator. But it would not budge. The tank, it was soon determined, was bolted to a concrete slab and could not be removed as planned. "What it would take to actually unearth the tank could disturb the [nearby] housing and do more damage than actual good," said Steve Yeskulsy, director of recreation and the arts. So the city has turned to Plan B: Leave it in its current location. On the recommendation of the Maryland Department of the Environment, the tank will be cleaned thoroughly, filled with a concrete slurry and left in the ground, Yeskulsy said. That work is expected to be completed by Wednesday, and the

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overall cleanup cost has been estimated at about \$25,000, Yeskulsy said. The park was formerly the site of a two-story, eight-room public school that opened in 1905. The school building was razed in 1977, according to the Hyattsville Preservation Association. City officials didn't know what to make of the oil's first appearance back in March. About 20 gallons of oil were discovered near the water fountain, and officials initially thought someone had dumped the oil into the drain. But after more oil was discovered seeping from the base of the fountain May 26, the source of the contamination became clear. The fountain drains into the ground, and the accumulating underground water eventually pushed the oil to the surface, Yeskulsy said. The tank had a capacity of about 5,000 gallons and appeared to be full of heating oil, said Tim Gardener, a tank-removal specialist who was on hand to consult with the cleanup.

<http://www.fairfaxtimes.com/article/20110610/NEWS/706109557/-1/hyattsville-workers-discover-buried-oil-tank&template=fairfaxTimes>

USA, N.M, SANTA FE, JUNE 11 2011. OIL COMPANY PAYS BIG \$350,000 FINE

milan simonich

Western Refining has agreed to pay a \$350,000 civil penalty to the New Mexico Environment Department because of violations at its plant near Gallup. Department executives announced the fine Thursday afternoon. They said the oil refining company's compressor engines violated emission standards for nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide. Jim Winchester, a spokesman for the environment department, said the violations were discovered during routine quarterly testing. They occurred between March and September of last year, he said. Even so, department regulators said they found that these engine violations did not cause state or federal air quality standards to be broken. In a statement, Western Refining said it was pleased to have settled the case. It emphasized that even the state environment department alleged no air quality violations because of the engines. "Since acquiring the Gallup refinery in 2007, Western Refining has made and continues to make significant investments" at the plant, the company said in its statement. "Western Refining is dedicated to being a good steward of the environment, and is committed to the people and resources of New Mexico." Western Refining, based in El Paso, has revised its permissible emission limits and retested the engines to meet New Mexico requirements, the environment department said. Western Refining bought the Gallup plant from Giant Industries of Arizona. Before the sale, the state and Giant Industries reached accord on an order for environmental improvements at its Gallup and Bloomfield refineries. The state imposed a civil penalty of \$850,000 in that case. Then in 2009, with Western Refining as the owner, it agreed to pay another \$2.25 million to the state. The environment department said these penalties were stipulated to by the companies.

http://www.alamogordonevents.com/ci_18243406

USA, WYO, RAWLINS, JUNE 11 2011. BLM SAYS 2ND OIL SPILL INVOLVING SAME COMPANY FOUND IN SOUTHERN WYOMING

Federal officials say a second spill has been discovered in an oil field in southern Wyoming. The Bureau of Land Management said Friday that oil was found leaking from a pumping unit on public land south of Rawlins. Officials say the equipment belongs to Tulsa, Okla.-based Nadel & Gussman, the company whose equipment at a well in the same area has leaked thousands of gallons of oil into a creek. The earlier leak was found May 22, but the BLM believes it occurred earlier. The BLM said it has issued a notice of violation to Nadel & Gussman for failing to report the latest spill, which isn't threatening any water. The company didn't return a message after business hours Friday. The Environmental Protection Agency is overseeing cleanup of the spill in Emigrant Creek.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/867d1b70aa834630aec51af355c554cc/WY--Oil-Spill/>

USA, IA, DICKINSON CO, MILFORD, JUNE 11 2011. PETROLEUM LEAK IN DICKINSON COUNTY LINKED TO FARM TILING

The DNR and NuStar Energy L.P. have located the source of a petroleum leak from NuStar's buried pipeline running into a stream south of Milford in Dickinson County. The leak was reported after a farmer who was watering trees Thursday afternoon discovered a sheen and a strong petroleum odor on an unnamed tributary of the Little Sioux River. The DNR and NuStar traced the diesel fuel leak to a damaged spot in NuStar's buried petroleum pipeline. The pipeline runs underneath a tile line draining a crop field belonging to Todd Gonnerman. Friday afternoon, the team found more damage to the pipeline at a second tile line location in the field. They are continuing to check places in the field where pipeline and tile lines intersect to see if more of the pipeline is damaged. NuStar officials and the DNR determined the damage occurred last fall while the field was being tilled. "This is a good example of why it's so important to call Iowa One Call before any digging," said Jennifer Christian, a DNR environmental specialist at the scene. Christian says clean up of the site will take a while and possibly

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involve excavating contaminated soil, flushing the tile line, and cleaning up two miles of stream and a farm pond. A team from NuStar continues working to contain and recover diesel from the creek and pond. The DNR will continue to monitor the spill and its clean up, and will consider appropriate enforcement action. Iowa One Call is a free service required for all excavations. Call [800-292-8989](tel:800-292-8989) or 811 at least 48 hours prior to excavating. Christian said because they found only a few dead fish at the farm pond, the fuel leak is probably not the cause of death. Recent high temperatures or possibly a drop in oxygen levels are more likely causes.

<http://www.kcautv.com/story/14885622/petroleum-leak-in-dickinson-county-linked-to-farm-tiling>

USA, MN, HAVERHILL TWP, JUNE 11 2011. TEEN CRITICALLY BURNED IN GRAIN DUST EXPLOSION

ellery mccardle

 **Watch the** Video <http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S2151594.shtml?cat=10226>

A 17-year-old boy remained in critical condition Friday night after being burned in a grain dust explosion. It happened Thursday at a farm in Haverhill Township just northeast of Rochester. Authorities say Mitchell Kroening suffered burns to his hands face and back. "Changing its form into flour that causes a lot of dust, it can buildup in the building and that dust is flammable," said Captain Chuck Solseth of the Rochester Fire Department. That can cause a grain dust explosion, exactly what happened at that farm. "The dust will settle up on any rafter, any kind of horizontal surface...over time it builds up I've seen it inches thick...a small explosion shakes the building and shakes all that dust loose and they have the classic second explosion which is devastating," said Solseth. The dust can be ignited by something like a lighter or unexpectedly by static electricity. A common way to prevent that dangerous buildup is by using blowers where air blows in the bin and the dust is released through the top. Its exactly what Wesley Dubbels used during his farming days. "Its always blowing cold air out so it'll blow that chaf out," said Dubbels. He said the danger of a bin exploding or catching on fire was always on the back of his mind, so he did what is recommended, he regularly cleaned it out. "We went from blowing grain in a blower to an elevator and that helped some then we went to an auger and that helped more," said Dubbels. While grain dust explosions aren't something we commonly hear about its not far off on the minds of people like Wesley Dubbels. "As long as you set your combine good and its clean grain you don't have any problems," said Dubbels. Captain Solseth also said some of these explosions are so powerful they've been known to take out a whole wall and even level buildings.

<http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S2151594.shtml?cat=10226>

CANADA, ONT, OXFORD, JUNE 12 2011. ETHANOL TANKER CRASH SHUTS DOWN 401

miranda chant

A crash between two transports brought the eastbound lanes of the 401 near Woodstock to a haul. A transport and a tanker truck carrying ethanol collided around 2 o'clock Friday afternoon, sending debris all over the lanes of Canada's busiest highway. Fortunately no one was hurt and no ethanol leaked out. The eastbound lanes between County Road 6 and Sweaburg Road were expected to be completely closed until 7pm to allow for the removal of the tanker truck. Police continue to investigate the cause of the crash. Anyone who may have witnessed the collision is asked to call police at 1-888-310-1122 or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

<http://www.cjbk.com/LocalNews/Story.aspx?ID=1439415>

USA, N.Y, RIVERHEAD, JUNE 12 2011. A SUMMER FIREPOT, A 'SAFE' LABEL, AND TWO LIFE-ALTERING EXPLOSIONS

david m. halbfinger



Jonathan Mitzman was badly burned on his arms on June 3 after he tried to pour FireGel, which is labeled as the "the Safe Pourable Gel," They said it was like napalm: it exploded in a flash, stuck to skin and clothing, and refused to stop burning.

A 14-year-old Long Island boy is fighting for his life after he was slathered with blazing, jellylike citronella fuel on May 28, when his cousin tried to light a ceramic firepot to prepare for a backyard wedding reception, but the quart bottle of fuel he was pouring instead burst into flames. In Manhattan, a 24-year-old man has been on and off a ventilator after an almost identical blaze nearly killed him and badly wounded his best friend on June 3 as they were relaxing on the friend's terrace. The two accidents, less than a week apart,

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involved the same product: a gel fuel for ceramic firepots, scented with citronella to ward off insects on hot summer nights, and purchased from Bed Bath & Beyond. The fuel is marketed by the retailer as FireGel, "the Safe Pourable Gel." But survivors and witnesses to the two blazes likened it to a Molotov cocktail without so much as a wick. "It's just like gasoline in a bottle," said Nancy Reyer, a single mother whose only child, Michael Hubbard, has been clinging to life in a hospital in Stony Brook on Long Island for nearly two weeks. "Watching my son just go up in flames like a tree — it just devastates me. I can't get that image out of my mind." Relatives of the victims, and one survivor of the two local blazes, said the products came with understated warnings that gave no sense of how dangerous they could be to operate safely, and called for a recall or a ban. "It should say 'lethal weapon,'" said Robert Mitzman, whose 24-year-old son, Jonathan, sustained serious burns on his arms in the Manhattan fire when he struggled to extinguish the flames that were raging on the face, arms and torso of his friend, Nick Stone.



FireGel is labeled as the "the Safe Pourable Gel."

Told by The New York Times about the two explosions in New York, [Napa Home & Garden Inc.](#), which manufactures the firepots and packages the fuel, asked Bed Bath & Beyond on Friday to pull both products from store shelves until it could add much more visually arresting new warning labels to both. A spokeswoman for Bed Bath & Beyond confirmed that stores nationwide were told to stop selling the products Friday afternoon. And a spokesman for the [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) said it was opening an investigation into what is a relatively new type of product on the marketplace. The commission said it had received eight reports of explosions or burns involving firepots or fuel gel, several of them serious, since April 2010, not counting the New York cases. It is unclear what companies produced the products involved in those cases. Similar products, made by companies including Napa Home & Garden and [BirdBrain Inc.](#), began showing up at small retailers

around 2008 and in major chains like Home Depot and Sam's Club in 2009. Napa Home & Garden's president, Jerry Cunningham, also said he would remove from the fuel gel's label any language calling it "safe," which he said was meant only to convey that the fuel, a form of ethanol produced by [Fuel Barons Inc.](#) from recycled postconsumer waste, does not emit toxins when it burns. Mr. Cunningham stressed that the fuel gel and firepots carried warnings not to refill the pots if they were still lighted or even hot. But he acknowledged that the warning label on the firepot was a small sticker on part of the pot's packaging, meant to be thrown away. "You'd have an issue if somebody came along later and didn't know what they're doing," he said in an interview. Gene Hammond, a vice president of Fuel Barons, said he was aware of only one claim for damages filed against the company out of hundreds of thousands of bottles sold. "This sounds like the worst thing I've ever heard of," he said of the New York episodes. But he added that consumers' unfamiliarity with the fuel gel could pose an added risk. "There more than likely is a learning curve for the marketplace that needs to take place," he said. The two cases in the New York area were eerily similar. On May 28, in Riverhead, N.Y., Michael Hubbard, 14, was helping his mother and other relatives set up for a big family party the next day to celebrate his aunt's wedding. His mother, Ms. Reyer, saw a firepot and, thinking it was much like a citronella candle, suggested that her 15-year-old nephew, the bride's son, light it up. When the gel did not seem to catch on fire, the boy added more fuel — and it "exploded into a fireball," according to Fran Reyer-Johnson, the bride. "There's no wick," she said. "That's the problem. You don't see that it's lit." She said her new husband had bought the products and had carefully read the instructions, even trying out the firepots once to see how they worked. But he was not at home that night. Ms. Reyer-Johnson said her son, her sister and Michael had no idea what they were dealing with. "They thought they were lighting a candle," she said. Ms. Reyer-Johnson said on Friday that Michael's condition was grave: his heart stopped overnight and he was revived, but his organs have been failing. In Manhattan on June 3, Jon Mitzman, a sales executive, lighted two firepots on his Third Avenue terrace at about 10 p.m., preparing for a night of beer pong, hot dogs and relaxation with a group of friends on the eve of his 24th birthday. Half an hour later, before most of the guests had arrived, one of the pots burned out, he said in an interview from his hospital bed. "It looked out, so I went to pour some more fuel in," he said. "All I heard was a bang." The explosion did not hurt him, Mr. Mitzman said. But it covered Mr. Stone, 24, in the flaming jelly. Mr. Stone, who until recently had been working as a hotel doorman and an intern at The New York Post, dropped and rolled, but that only set the terrace floor on fire, Mr. Mitzman said. Another friend ran out with a blanket to smother the flames, but the blanket caught on fire. The two friends finally extinguished the flames on Mr. Stone's face with a sweatshirt, and led him into a shower to douse the rest. Fire marshals who investigated noted the instructions on the product's label but drew no conclusions about whether it had been used incorrectly by Mr. Mitzman, according to a Fire Department official. Mr. Mitzman said he had hoped to get out of the hospital in a week. Mr. Stone faces months of surgery and rehabilitation, his relatives said.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/11/nyregion/a-firepot-a-safe-label-and-2-horrible-explosions.html?_r=1

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UK, LONDON, JUNE 12 2011. OIL GIANTS IN MASS UK REFINERY SALE

tracey boles



Milford Haven, Lindsey and Humber refineries are all on the market.

Six of the UK's eight oil refineries are being sold or are up for sale as the oil majors exit the sector. The multi-billion pound upheaval will make way for independent companies prepared to invest in upgrading the UK's fuel production facilities. Milford Haven, Lindsey and Humber refineries are all on the market. London-listed energy company Essar, part of an Indian conglomerate, is [buying](#) the Stanlow refinery in Cheshire from Royal Dutch Shell for \$350 million (£216 million). Chevron is selling its Welsh oil refinery in Pembroke to Valero, a US refining giant, for \$730 million (£449 million). A 50 per cent stake in Grangemouth in Scotland was sold to Petrochina in January. The unprecedented sell-off comes as the industry faces changing patterns of demand and tough environmental standards. UK refineries largely produce petrol but not enough high grade, clean diesel — demand for which is rising

rapidly as drivers switch to diesel cars. Upgrading the refineries to produce more clean diesel and to comply with new environmental standards would cost up to £700 million per installation.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/252271/Oil-giants-in-mass-UK-refinery-sale>

CHINA, BEIJING, JUNE 12 2011. PETROCHINA'S POLLUTION CLEAN-UP PUSHED ONTO TAXPAYERS

jin jing



The Songhua River is seen on January 19, 2007 in Jilin City of Jilin Province, China. The River was polluted after an explosion at a chemical plant November 13, 2005.

After an enormous benzene spill five years ago in the Songhua river, the cleanup cost of \$1.2 billion has been passed on to the taxpayer. The company that spilled the benzene is a subsidiary of the state-owned China National Petroleum Corporation (PetroChina). Critics are saying PetroChina should be paying for the cost of the cleanup, not the public, and that the case again illustrates collusion between the Chinese regime and large state-owned enterprises, which is always to the detriment of the commonweal. After the explosion at Jilin Petrochemical Company, a subsidiary of PetroChina, regions surrounding the Songhua River began taking action. Heilongjiang Province set aside a special emergency fund of ten million yuan, and the city of Harbin, capital of Heilongjiang Province, shut off the city's water for many days, as did the city of Shongyuan in Jilin Province, a Securities Daily report on June 7 said. To this day, the spill continues to affect

water quality. According to the Securities Daily report, PetroChina donated a mere five million yuan (US\$772,140) to the Jilin provincial government to help with pollution control. It also paid a one million yuan (US\$154,428) fine to the Ministry of Environmental Protection. However, in 2006, the central government approved and implemented the Songhua River Basin Water Pollution Control and Prevention Program, encompassing 222 pollution control projects. The total price tag was to be around 13.4 billion yuan (US\$2.1 billion) in taxpayers' money. The affair came to the public's attention again recently after China's Ministry of Environmental Protection posted a statement on its website on June 1 saying since the major Songhua River pollution incident in 2005, the government has already spent a total of 7.84 billion yuan (US\$1.2 billion) in public funds on cleanup. An additional statement by Zhou Shengxian, the Minister of Environmental Protection, and reported by Caijing magazine on June 2, indicates that a lot more money may be needed. Zhou said the measures haven't done much to help. Claims of such huge public spending caught the media's and general public's attention. Mr. Xu, the chief editor of PubCHN.com, a website that covers environmental topics and which was later apparently taken offline, told The Epoch Times: "Those who pollute should be responsible for the cleanup, which is the common international practice. PetroChina's outsider attitude is not acceptable. State enterprises with such huge capacities should be more socially responsible." One environmental activist from Beijing, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retaliation, told The Epoch Times: "PetroChina and China's state government belong to the same interest group; they're in the same family. From the point of interrelationship, PetroChina is the inner circle member, and local governments are the weakling members. When core

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interests are at stake, local entities will often become the scapegoats." Professor Zhou Ke, a specialist in environment law from People's University of China, told Securities Daily on June 3: "In the U.S. or Mexico, if a listed company has caused such a major environmental disaster, its compensation payments would be astronomical. The company should bear the majority portion of compensation, and tax payers should not pick up the bill." Per its 2010 annual report, PetroChina's net profits were approximately 140 billion yuan (US\$21.6 billion), or an average daily net profit of 301 million yuan (US\$60 million).

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/china/petrochinas-pollution-clean-up-pushed-onto-taxpayers-57551.html>

USA, IN, MOUNT VERNON, JUNE 12 2011. FORCING THE ISSUE >> POSEY COUNTY RESIDENT FIGHTS OIL COMPANY FOR HIS PROPERTY RIGHTS

thomas b. langhorne



Gary Williams sprays his oldest son Jake, 6, with the garden hose outside the family home off Middle Mount Vernon Road in Posey County on Tuesday evening. Williams is in a legal fight with Evansville-based CountryMark Energy Resources LLC from a 80-acre project that would drill under his land and home for oil. Williams said his largest concern is the potential contamination of the well his family relies on for water. He said the compensation CountryMark offers if something goes wrong is insufficient.

A legal but controversial tool of oil and gas drillers across the nation is getting as severe a test as Gary Williams can give it. Williams has single-handedly stalled a proposed 80-acre crude oil drilling project by one of the state's largest operators. Williams refuses to sign papers to allow drilling underneath or near his potentially oil-rich property. Evansville-based CountryMark Energy Resources LLC, which

proposes to sell the oil to the company's refinery in Mount Vernon, Ind. has responded by invoking a 64-year-old statute embodying what critics call eminent domain for drillers. The technique, called "forced pooling," would allow CountryMark to send a remote access horizontal drill underneath or close to Williams' 0.83-acre property. Thirty of his neighbors, in a 32-parcel drilling area, have already leased their acreage to the company. The other holdout did not sign a lease but is not resisting forced pooling. Mostly, Williams makes a property rights case. "It's our land, whether they're on top of it or below it," he said inside the Cape Cod house he shares with his wife, Elizabeth, and their four children in a rural enclave just off Middle Mount Vernon Road. "I couldn't just come up around your property and start — let's say I wanted to dig a cave to the other neighbors, I wanted a cool tunnel. I like tunnels. "What would you say if I just started digging a tunnel underneath your property?" he asked. Williams is appealing an Oct. 28 order from Indiana's Department of Natural Resources that "force pools" his property into the group of property owners who have signed off on the drilling. A hearing was held Friday before an administrative law judge in Jasonville, Ind. The judge hasn't made a ruling. Williams, a 36-year-old chemist for a paint company, hopes a successful appeal establishes useful case law for other property owners inclined to fight oil exploration and production companies over their land. "I'm thinking of all the other people this could happen to," he said. Advocates say forced pooling — some form of which is legal in most states — allows companies to harvest valuable resources when a majority of property owners have agreed to participate. Herschel McDivitt, director of Indiana's state Department of Natural Resources' Division of Oil and Gas, said forced pooling serves the greater good by preventing one property owner from blocking the efficient harvesting of oil and gas on contiguous leased parcels. "There's oil and gas conservation waste if you're drilling too many vertical wells when one horizontal well alone would be sufficient to drain the productive section of a (rock) formation," said McDivitt, who issued the order allowing forced pooling of Williams' property. Indiana's forced pooling statute, adopted in 1947, states unwilling property owners "shall" be integrated into a drilling unit — provided there is equitable financial compensation — "for the prevention of waste or to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells." McDivitt said without forced pooling there would be "five times the surface disturbance," since the operation would require multiple horizontal wells. But Williams has several other objections, including what he calls CountryMark's inadequate offer of royalties and signing bonus. He says CountryMark's guarantee falls short of protecting his well water from contamination. He also doubts the company's assertion that it would not use a controversial drilling technique in the cypress sandstone rock formation under his property.

Compensation Size

Oil exploration and production has been big business in Southwestern Indiana for decades, with millions spent every year. CountryMark estimates the Midway Acres subdivision project will cost the company \$750,000. "The majority of oil production is in the southwestern part of the state. That's just the way God made things," McDivitt said with a chuckle. CountryMark President Charlie Smith has called the Illinois Basin, a 53,000-square-mile depression underneath Southwestern Indiana,

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Southern Illinois and Western Kentucky, one of the best sources of domestic crude oil in the Midwest. "Approximately 40,000 barrels of crude oil are produced daily from this region," Smith said in statement issued in 2008. "This is an extremely dependable, secure supply of energy for Indiana and surrounding states." Indiana crude oil production has hovered at just under or over 2 million barrels annually since 2000. In 2010, the average price of oil per barrel was \$73.46, higher than in all other years in the decade save 2008. A Midway Acres resident who agrees to let CountryMark drill underneath his property can make some of the money for himself — a few thousand dollars — without bearing any of the financial risk. Core Minerals Operating Co., the project operator before it sold part of its assets to CountryMark, told property owners in the subdivision that a well averaging 80 barrels of oil per day with oil priced at \$65 per barrel could pay \$5,931 in one year. CountryMark has offered Williams the same \$100 lease signing bonus that his neighbors got, plus the standard one-eighth of the total value of oil produced. That amount is proportionately divided among parcel owners according to the percentage of a drilling unit occupied by their properties. The other seven-eighths goes to the operator, who in most cases assumes all of the costs and risks of the drilling. An unwilling property owner receives the same bonus plus royalties as his neighbors. The state's forced pooling statute does not define the required "reasonable terms that give the owner of each tract an equitable share of oil and natural gas in the unit or pool." The statute's seemingly definitive language appears to leave an unwilling property owner little room to negotiate in return for his cooperation. "If the owners of separate tracts of land do not agree to integrate their interests, the commission shall, for the prevention of waste or to avoid the drilling of unnecessary wells, require the owners to integrate their interests and to develop the land as a drilling unit," it states. Leslie Avakian, a leading activist against pending legislation to allow forced pooling in Pennsylvania's gas-rich Marcellus Shale, says that robs property owners of their negotiating power. "If they're saying, 'Look, we're going to take your asset in court,' where's your negotiating power?" said Avakian, founder of WWW.ProtectMyRightsPA.org. McDivitt says the statutory requirement to compensate an unwilling landowner after a forced pooling makes the procedure fair, given that oil would still be drained from underneath his property if the well path only traversed close to it. "One of the fundamental principles in fairness with forced pooling is to make sure that somebody doesn't drill a well and unduly drain oil from somebody else's property and they don't get to share in it," he said. But McDivitt acknowledged that the unwilling landowner's oil would not be flowing into a well in the first place unless someone were taking it. "It's kind of like pulling the plug in the bathtub. Until you pull that plug and create that, we'll call a pressure sink, the water stays in your tub," he said. "But once you pull it, every drop of water that's in that tub, if the drain is constructed properly, is going to eventually drain."

'Quasi-DNR employee'

Indiana property owners who wish to contest being force pooled are subject to a procedure before McDivitt's division. The Division of Oil and Gas's informal hearing schedule shows 15 forced pooling cases since August 2008, with Williams' case being the only one unresolved. None of the other 14 cases were successful in preventing a forced pooling. McDivitt acknowledged that while his agency regulates the drilling, operation and abandonment of oil and gas production wells in Indiana, it is also an advocate for development. "We're not just strictly a regulatory, permitting, environmental protection agency," he said. "We still look at that resource." In fact, our mission statement is to encourage responsible development of oil and gas, but in a manner that's protective of landowners' rights, human health and safety, doesn't waste the resource and certainly does not adversely affect the environment." Operators pay a 1 percent severance tax on the value of all oil and gas that is produced. The money — more than \$1.3 million in 2010 — is used to support operating expenses of the Division of Oil and Gas. "We have no financial benefit or incentive, or I don't see how you can make that connection," McDivitt said. "We're just doing our job." Hearing officer Sandra Jensen, who heard Williams' appeal of McDivitt's Oct. 28 order, is "a quasi-DNR employee," McDivitt said. "Well, officially she is a representative of the Natural Resources Commission." McDivitt acknowledged that Williams or CountryMark can litigate Jensen's ruling in state court.

The sweet Spot

CountryMark has believed for years that the area near the proposed Midway Acres drilling unit contains substantial amounts of crude oil. The company proposes to drill to a depth of 2,300 feet into the cypress sandstone rock formation. McDivitt's order of integration says Core Minerals "successfully drilled three horizontal wells just west of the proposed unit (which are now operated by CountryMark) and CountryMark believes this project will have similar results." In an April 24, 2008, letter to the other dissenting property owner, who is adjacent to Williams, Core Minerals acknowledged it said in August 2007 that "the producing (rock) formation we are targeting has produced thousands of barrels of oil from your neighborhood in the past." "Because of the particular geology involved with this formation and past production we have determined that only a small percentage of the recoverable oil was extracted." The problem for CountryMark is that Williams' property, which he and his wife bought in 2006, lies over or near what the company believes is the largest oil supply in the 80-acre drilling unit. "This isn't a situation where you could go anywhere in that neighborhood, anywhere in that township, and drill a well down to this depth

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and you're going to hit oil in the cypress," McDivitt said. "That's not the way the oil exists. It's very much confined to discrete areas, and (CountryMark has) mapped it and identified his property as pretty close to or right over the sweet spot." Frank Lindsey, manager of regulatory compliance/land for CountryMark, confirmed McDivitt's assessment. "We would not be willing to spend the money to drill oil there if that were not true," Lindsey said. That's not all CountryMark is willing to do. In a move McDivitt said is news to him, Lindsey says the company decided late last year it was willing to alter the path of its horizontal well bit to go around, not under, Williams' property. But not so far around that it cannot drain enough oil into the well to justify the potential \$750,000 expense. "We'd go very close to it. If we stay close to his property, we can recover close to the same amount of oil," Lindsey said. "We agreed to do that to try to accommodate Mr. Williams as best we could." But if CountryMark thought Williams would regard the shift as an important concession to him, the company was wrong. Williams said CountryMark representatives floated the idea a few months ago, but did not pursue it actively. "If this was truly a concession, they have had plenty of time in order to state that they were going to go with this route," Williams said. "I think they're telling you about it to not look so bad in the eyes of the press."

Possible Compromise

McDivitt said CountryMark's willingness to go closely around, but not underneath, Williams' property may be an effort "to avoid the liability." Lindsey insisted it was a desire to satisfy Williams so the work could begin, and not a fear of litigation, that motivated CountryMark. "We've done a number of things to be less intrusive on the people who live (at Midway Acres)," he said. "The other people that would love for us to drill this well so they could share in the revenue will not have that opportunity if we can't get an order of integration here." The plan to go around Williams' property still requires a signed lease or written waiver from him. But a favorable ruling in the forced pooling case, which would not have to begin all over again, would trump Williams' refusal to give permission. Williams says he likely won't give that permission because going closely around his property doesn't alleviate his concerns about his well water or the potential damage from hydraulic fracturing, a controversial drilling technique. Admitting he lacks the knowledge of a geologist, Williams insists CountryMark officials casually mentioned the possibility of hydraulic fracturing before reversing themselves. Lindsey says the idea has never been considered. The drilling technique, commonly referred to as "fracking," involves high-pressure pumping of water and chemical additives into rock formations, followed by propping agents to prevent the resulting fractures from closing. The practice has spawned complaints of contaminated air and well water in Pennsylvania and other states. However, many state regulatory agencies believe hydraulic fracturing does not contaminate ground water with chemicals. McDivitt says his department has no documented instance of hydraulic fracturing causing contamination of groundwater in Indiana. CountryMark does not take hydraulic fracturing lightly, Lindsey said. Pointing to the relatively porous cypress sandstone rock formation under Williams' property, he said fracking is simply not necessary there. "We wouldn't do that unless we thought we just had to," he said.

Question of Trust

Williams also wants to know what would stop CountryMark from drilling underneath his property even if it tells regulators and a judge that it won't. Regulators don't have to take the word of an oil company. Inspectors can track a well bit's movements on-site using real-time information transmitted by sensors on drill pipes underground. Horizontal drilling contractors and on-site engineers can control the well bit if it veers off its plotted trajectory. But McDivitt said the Division of Oil and Gas typically doesn't monitor those transmissions, preferring instead to rely on "completion reports" turned in by oil exploration and production companies 60 to 90 days after wells are completed. "They have to give us what's known as a directional survey, and it's that survey that really establishes or documents exactly where the bit went, where the well bore was located," he said. What stops a company from turning in a false completion report? "What's to stop you from turning in false income tax forms?" he said. "It's something you probably don't want to do, because if it's later discovered that that information was incorrect, there can be consequences. "Is there a way for us to independently verify that that information is correct? Probably not. It's not our well bore. We don't have the ability to go in, nor the resources, and I know of no other state or entity that would independently verify the exact location of a horizontal well."

The Endgame

The Division of Oil and Gas will not issue a permit to CountryMark for the Midway Acres subdivision drilling unit until the dispute with Williams is resolved. So important is obtaining Williams' approval, or a favorable court ruling against him, that Lindsey said the project isn't worth doing otherwise. "Then we would have to stay 330 feet off of his property all the way around, and we couldn't get our well in there to where the oil is located," he said. The law doesn't appear to leave CountryMark many options. McDivitt said a series of vertical wells is not feasible because state law prohibits locating oil and gas wells nearer than 200 feet from most structures without the owners' permission. "If you're having to drill vertical wells to drain it, the only way to do it is drill it right in somebody's backyard there, because it's a subdivision," he said. In contrast to the surface disturbance that comes with vertical wells, McDivitt said, horizontal well drilling equipment would be located outside the

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subdivision and out of sight. Horizontal wells are more efficient at any rate, he said, because they can make contact with all areas of an oil-bearing zone when it would take several vertical wells to do the same thing. "Horizontal wells reduce the footprint of the operation," he said. But the opposition to forced pooling isn't rooted in practical concerns about drilling methods or statutory requirements. For Williams and other opponents, the issue goes to the heart of an American citizen's rights. "They should not have the right to take his assets without his consent," said Avakian, a veteran of Pennsylvania's yearlong battle over Marcellus forced pooling. "That's what this is: This is taking of people's assets." Avakian said Williams' dogged insistence on his property rights is likely very frustrating to CountryMark, but it should be honored. "It's inconvenient that he does not want to offer it, but it's his," she said. McDivitt said he did consider Williams' property rights before granting CountryMark's petition for an order of integration. But assuming CountryMark gets the green light to proceed, he said, the company will own the rights to Williams' oil. "They would be the owners, and they're no longer, in my view — and this is an arguable point — but in my view, they're no longer subject to trespass because you can't trespass on your own property." Williams said trespassing is exactly what a CountryMark victory means, especially if the administrative law judge allows the company to drill directly underneath his property. He cites Indiana's trespassing statute, which forbids someone to "knowingly or intentionally enter the real property of another person after having been denied entry." "We've denied entry," he said, sitting in his kitchen and slowly shaking his head. "And yet they are intending to come upon our property."

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/jun/11/forcing-the-issue/>

ZIMBABWE, HARARE, SUNNINGDALE, JUNE 13 2011. THREE KILLED IN FUEL TANK EXPLOSION



Inferno ... The tanker on fire

At least three people were killed after a fuel truck overturned and burst into flames in Harare's Sunningdale area on Saturday night. Witnesses however, said the truck was involved in an accident with another vehicle. Harare fire department chief Savius Mugava told state radio on Sunday that the incident left corpses burned beyond recognition. He said nine people were hospitalized and that more victims' remains may still be found in the wreckage. State radio says a crowd that gathered at the scene rushed to siphon the spilling fuel into containers ignoring pleas by the truck driver to stay clear. The tanker then burst into flames resulting in a number of people being burnt, witnesses said.

Related Links

- [Petrol haulage truck overturns, 3 perish](#)
- [At least 3 die in gas truck fire, others injured trying to take leaking gas](#)
- [Fuel tanker explodes in Harare, 'a number of people feared dead'](#)
- [Three die as fuel tanker explodes](#)
- [The Sunningdale horror that should not have been](#)

<http://www.newzimbabwe.com/NEWS-5326-Three+killed+in+fuel+tank+explosion/NEWS.aspx>

CANADA, NL, MAIN BROOK, JUNE 13 2011. OVERTURNED TANKER LEAKED FOR 8 HOURS

 **Photo's** <http://www.thetelegram.com/News/Local/2011-06-12/article-2578512/UPDATE%3A-Fuel-truck-leak-plugged-/1>



A large tanker truck that overturned next to a highway in western Newfoundland late Saturday spilled about 8,000 litres of gasoline over an eight-hour span before a spill response team reached the remote area and plugged the hole, police say. There are no homes, businesses, lakes or streams near the accident scene, and the town of Main Brook is about six kilometres to the north, RCMP Cpl. Robert Holland said in an interview Sunday. "This couldn't be out in the middle of nowhere any more than it is, and local fire departments are not equipped for this type of spill," he said as he surveyed the scene from his cruiser. The city of Corner Brook — the largest community in western Newfoundland — is a six-hour drive from Main Brook, which is near the northern tip of the province's Northern Peninsula. "Given the road conditions and the moose hazards up here, that was the quickest anybody could get on scene," Holland said. "There is no danger to the public ... The fire commission explained

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to us that stuff will all dissipate through time. Gasoline isn't really an environmental issue as much as diesel fuel." The Seaboard Transport truck was carrying about 24,000 litres of gasoline and diesel to St. Anthony when it veered off Highway 432 around 11:30 p.m. Saturday. The highway was slick with rain at the time. Holland said the truck driver told him one of the tanker's 12,000-litre compartments had ruptured when the truck flipped and slid into a muddy ditch, spilling about 8,000 litres. "This is a very preliminary guess," said Holland. "It's really difficult to determine how much is gone." The 48-year-old truck driver was later taken to hospital in nearby Roddickton, where he was expected to recover from his injuries. Photos from the scene show the upside down tanker at the side of a intersection, all 22 wheels pointed skyward. The cab of the truck is badly damaged, but the tank trailer appears largely intact. In the background of the photo, there appears to be nothing but stunted spruce and fir trees. A private spill response team, known as Eastern Canada Response Corp., plugged the leak around 9 a.m. Sunday. The transport company was ready with another tanker standing by to retrieve the remaining fuel from the damaged vehicle. Officials from Environment Canada, Transport Canada and the provincial Government Services Department were also involved in the cleanup, police say. The section of highway between Roddickton and Main Brook was temporarily closed to traffic.

<http://www.metronews.ca/london/canada/article/886984--overturned-tanker-leaked-for-eight-hours>

USA, FLA, PALM HARBOR, JUNE 12 2011. FLAMING DESSERT INJURES FOUR AT FLORIDA RESTAURANT; WAITER POURED TOO MUCH BOOZE ON BANANAS FOSTER

nina mandell



A bananas foster turned dangerous at one Florida restaurant

What began as a tasty after-dinner treat turned into a ball of flames for diners on Saturday at the [Ozonoa Blue Grilling Co.](#) in Palm Harbor, Fla, [WFTS-TV reported](#). Four people were injured when a server preparing a Bananas Foster poured on too much alcohol, causing the fiery explosion. The dessert is made by combining bananas, butter, cinnamon and sugar in a pan or skillet and then adding in alcohol – oftentimes tableside for a dramatic effect. A 25-year-old woman received first- and second-degree burns when her dress caught on fire and her body was covered in flames after the waiter botched the dessert service, [the St. Petersburg Times reported](#). "It's going to be a long time for her to heal," Paul Harbor Fire

Rescue spokeswoman Liz Monforti told the newspaper. Thanks to quick thinking from members of the restaurant staff, the damage from the potential damaging explosion was relatively minimal. "Employees grabbed fire extinguishers and extinguished the fire, another employee helped one of the women whose shirt caught fire," Monforti told Dunedin, FL. Patch.com. An off-duty firefighter who was in the restaurant at the time also jumped in and provided first aid before paramedics arrived. Two people had to be flown to [Tampa General Hospital](#) with burns from the disaster and two others were slightly burned but refused treatment. There was no damage to the restaurant because the fire was extinguished quickly.

[http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/06/12/2011-06-](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/06/12/2011-06-12-flaming-dessert-injures-four-at-florida-restaurant-waiter-poured-too-much-booze.html)

[12-flaming-dessert-injures-four-at-florida-restaurant-waiter-poured-too-much-booze .html](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2011/06/12/2011-06-12-flaming-dessert-injures-four-at-florida-restaurant-waiter-poured-too-much-booze.html)

SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, JUNE 12 2011. PETROL STATIONS NEED TO CHECK MORE THAN JUST OIL AND WATER

pinky khoabane



When I wrote about the exploitation of employees at a BP petrol station last week, I hoped to get the attention of BP South Africa and have it investigate the matter and enforce the law throughout its franchises. “I discovered that this is an industry rife with runaway exploitation and non-compliance with the law”

What I hadn't bargained for, however, was an ignorant remark from its marketing and sales head, Sipho Mbelle, which sparked the ire of other BP franchises - and labour unions Cosatu and the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa. The motor industry falls under Numsa. Mbelle, in his response, had overlooked the simple rules that guide the issuing of uniforms for petrol attendants (if he was ever aware of them before the article in question) and had suggested that BP franchises were allowed to use their discretion in issuing uniforms to their employees. Mbelle and I were invited on to a radio station to discuss the matter. He has apologised for his remarks and has stated clearly that all filling stations were supposed to adhere to

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the Basic Conditions of Employment Act and all employees were to be issued with uniforms at no cost. He has undertaken to conduct an investigation into the specific filling station to which I referred in my column, and to also do a wider investigation and enforce all statutory laws. Well, we wait and see. As they say, talk is cheap. In my investigations at other petrol stations, I discovered that this is an industry rife with runaway exploitation and non-compliance with the law. I visited 10 petrol stations in the past week. There were no standard guidelines by which the petrol stations operated. There were variations even within the same oil company, which suggests Mbelle may have been correct in saying each petrol station did as it saw fit. One Shell outlet offered the uniforms free and had employment contracts for their staff, while another, just minutes away, offered free uniforms and didn't have contracts. I visited three Caltex garages and all of them adhered to the free uniforms policy. A Total garage gave free uniforms but had no contracts even though the staff said they had salary slips and that their employer was paying UIF deductions to the Department of Labour. Despite giving the station a week in which to show me salary slips, it was unable to produce them by the time of going to press. At another BP, about five minutes from the one I wrote about last week, the staff said they used to have employment contracts directly with BP but the filling station had had new owners since March. Since taking over, the owners had slashed their salaries and the supervisors had been moved to petrol attendants' positions without consultation or prior notice. In one Engen garage, the employees don't have contracts. They are often sent on unpaid leave without prior notice and recalled as the owner sees fit. My findings seemed to match the common issues encountered by employees in this industry. According to Numsa, many filling stations do not comply with the law; the contraventions include: sale of uniforms, which should be issued for free; unfair labour practices (no contracts, unfair dismissals, no proper job titles and descriptions); abusive and vulgar language; sale of businesses without proper notice, consultation or payment; exposure to fumes and lead without regular health checks, non-registration with the Motor Industry Bargaining Council; and many more. While mine was not scientific research, and indeed I concede that there may well be good operators out there, questions must be asked of the Department of Labour, the bargaining council and petroleum companies. Who monitors this industry? What mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance? The bargaining council has to enforce agreements among the parties. So what is it doing? What of the Department of Energy? What of the South African Petroleum Industry Association? What is its role? While there can never be any excuse for breaking the law, one has to ask if filling stations make the necessary profits to meet the stringent conditions contained in the franchise contract. You need not look further than your street to see the number of filling stations crowded in one area. The competition is not only from other petroleum companies, but also from within the same brand. It's not uncommon to find six petrol stations from the same oil company within a very small radius, which simply begs the question: where does the interest of the big oil companies lie? Is theirs only to collect the massive percentage in royalties, suggested by some as 12% of the franchisees' turnover? Methinks the answers lie in the growing concentration of power in the oil companies.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/opinion/columnists/article1113018.ece/Petrol-stations-need-to-check-more-than-just-oil-and-water>

RUSSIA, DZERZHINSK, JUNE 13 2011. MEDVEDEV ALARMED OVER TONNES OF 'DANGEROUS' WASTE IN RUSSIA

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President Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday Russia had accumulated more than 30 billion tonnes of hazardous waste, calling on businesses to contribute to the country's environmental clean-up. Speaking in Dzerzhinsk, site of Cold War-era factories producing chemical weapons ranked as one of the world's most polluted cities, the Kremlin chief said many of Russia's ecological problems dated back to the Soviet era. "More than 30 billion tonnes of dangerous waste have been accumulated across the country by now," Medvedev said after a helicopter flyover of the city named after Felix Dzerzhinsky, the founder of the feared Bolshevik secret police. "There are plenty of environmental problems, both new as well as those inherited from the past. To be honest, we've inherited more from the past," he said, adding "the scale of the environmental disaster" in the city was impressive. The governor of Russia's oil-rich northern region of Yamalo-Nenets said that pollution is getting worse over the entire country. "In 40 Russian regions, over half of the population lives highly polluted

atmosphere," governor Dmitry Kobylnik said. Since Soviet industrial polluters have long since ceased to exist, it's not easy to clean up after them, he said. "One can say that we lived borrowing from the future generations all this time. It's time to pay back the debt," he said. Dzerzhinsk is one of the cities now battling such heritage: the city of 300,000 was a secret defence manufacturing center in Soviet times and landed on the list of top 10 most polluted places in the world compiled by the Blacksmith Institute in 2007. Medvedev said Russia should take its cue from its neighbours when it comes to environmental

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protection, adding Russian businesses should help the state clean up the country. Speaking to a meeting attended by top officials as well as businesspeople like billionaire Oleg Deripaska, Medvedev said business should understand that such projects "would not be too burdensome and can bring advantages in some cases." The day earlier Medvedev gathered environmental activists for a meeting at a Kremlin garden, praising them for their "very tough and demanding position." Ecologists are routinely harassed in Russia where authorities often turn a blind eye to violations. The first post-Soviet years left little room for environmental concerns which were also pushed to the back burner by the subsequent oil and gas boom. From Dzerzhinsk, Medvedev plans to travel to the nearby Volga city of Nizhny Novgorod for two days of talks with EU leaders.

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Medvedev_alarmed_over_tonnes_of_dangerous_waste_in_Russia_999.html

USA, N.C, GREENSBORO, JUNE 13 2011. TANK FARM FIRE IGNITED BY LIGHTNING, ONE OF GREENSBORO'S BIGGEST IN 2010

devetta blount

 **Slideshow [34]** http://www.digtriad.com/slideshows/gallery.aspx?slideshowname=tank_farm_fire

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/article/179104/57/Lightning-Strike-Ignites-One-Of-Greensboros-Biggest-Fires-In-2010>



The night of June 13th, 2010 was hot, humid and stormy with a lot of lightning. For those who witnessed the lightning's sky show, the sharpness and intensity of it was a sure recipe for disaster. And, it happened. It was the lightning strike heard and seen around the Triad. What happened after, turned into one the biggest, most intense fires in 2010. Lightning had struck a gas tank at, of all places, the Greensboro Tank Farm. Mother Nature delivered a bolt so powerful, the lightning protectors couldn't deflect the strike. And, so the fire calls began. Crews from Greensboro, High Point, and Guilford County were the first responders who made sure the tank farm fire stayed contained to one tank. A tank holding about 20,000 gallons of pure gasoline was burning. Fire crews and foam trucks were called in from as far away as [Charlotte](#) and Spartanburg, SC. Flames could be seen for miles. Onlookers stopped off of I-40 to watch and take pictures. For years, residents in the Triad wondered what would happen if one of the gas tanks caught on fire. The question has been answered. The firefighters in Greensboro, Guilford County and the surrounding areas are ready. They proved that, on June 13, 2010. The firefighters had trained for the event and for them it was just another day at the office. Two days after the fire WFMY News 2 spent time with some of the men who were on the frontline that night. We talked to some of the men, who spent more than hours getting the blaze under control. "When we showed up it was our worst nightmare realized. We never thought we'd see anything like that. A lot of times when lightening strikes a tank farm it bounces around between the tanks and makes a light show and impresses a lot of people but there's nothing to it. And I was kinda hoping it was that. But as we were going to the call and more traffic came over the air about multiple calls, I started changing my mind thinking there was something to this. There's a lot of flames it's almost overwhelming. I knew it was going to be a long night. I have

been to some pretty decent fires but nothing that impressive. It's a big operation. You can't even get started on this stuff until you have everything in place. We've talked this through. We've run this call on the table top countless times. I think this incident is gonna show the citizens of Greensboro and the powers that be that the Greensboro [Fire Department](#) is a professional organization and has been training in the right direction." The tank farm is owned, operated by Colonial Pipeline and is one of their largest on the east coast. A year later, some things have changed for the fire department. They bought a large flat bed truck that stores extra foam. Firefighters said the extra foam could cut hours off a fire in the future. They also said it's rare for a city to have so much extra foam, but extremely helpful. They've also trained all of their firefighters to operate the foam trucks. They went from 50 people to 550 people that can help handle the foam. If you ask them about the future, Greensboro firefighters will say they hope they never see anything like the tank farm fire ever again.

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/local/article/179104/57/Lightning-Strike-Ignites-One-Of-Greensboros-Biggest-Fires-In-2010>

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