



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 723 Newsy Stuff

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

June 23 30 2011



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LEBANON, BEIRUT, JUNE 13 2011. CREWS TRY TO PUT OUT FIRE NEAR LEBANON OIL REFINERY



Massive fire erupts near the Baddawi oil refinery in the northern coastal city of Tripoli Sunday, June 12, 2011.

Response teams are trying to put out a massive fire that erupted on the premises the Beddawi oil refinery in north Lebanon Sunday which led to the injury of one individual. The fire, which erupted on the premises of the oil refinery near the port city of Tripoli, quickly spread to dry lands and agricultural fields. Both the Lebanese Army and Civil Defense are working on putting out the fire, according to the National News Agency. An employee at the refinery received burn injuries while trying to put out the fire at its outset, it added. Fire crews are focusing on isolating the area surrounding the oil reservoirs at the complex, fearing the depots might catch fire, particularly given the strong easterly winds that are fueling the fires, their flames but 50 meters from the storage facilities.

[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Jun-12/Crews-try-to-put-out-](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Jun-12/Crews-try-to-put-out-fire-near-Lebanon-oil-refinery.ashx#axzz1P9mmJhul)

[fire-near-Lebanon-oil-refinery.ashx#axzz1P9mmJhul](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2011/Jun-12/Crews-try-to-put-out-fire-near-Lebanon-oil-refinery.ashx#axzz1P9mmJhul)

NIGERIA, EDO STATE, BENIN, JUNE 13 2011. KEROSENE EXPLOSION KILLS FATHER, DAUGHTER

gabriel enoghlose

Another kerosene explosion claimed the lives of two people in Benin weekend. The victims were identified as Saturday Igbani and his daughter, Joy Igbani who are said to be hailed from Akwa-Ibom state. Another child of the victim with over 65 percent burns degrees is now battling for his life at the Accident and Emergency Ward of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) where they rushed by the wife of the victim when the incident occurred. His wife and their last baby were said to have rushed out for safety when the incident occurred. The incident was said to have occurred at about 3 00 am Friday night when the late Saturday Agbani wanted to pour kerosene into an already lighted kerosene lantern in their residence situated along Stella Avenue, off Benin- Agbor Road, Benin. It would be recalled that a serving policeman in Warri, Delta state recently lost his wife and six children to serial kerosene explosion which occurred at their Oghara home, also in Delta state. Commenting on the serial kerosene explosion in some parts of the country, National Coordinator of the Save Accident Victims of Nigeria (SAVAN), Dr. Eddy Ehikhamenor, blamed the incidence of kerosene explosions in the country on the management of the NNPC. He said that until the NNPC takes the issue of delivery and supply of kerosene very seriously and no longer takes Nigerians for granted, more Nigerians will from kerosene explosions.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/06/kerosene-explosion-kills-father-daughter/>

LEBANON, BEIRUT, JUNE 14 2011. EXPLOSION AT GAS STATION A QUESTION OF CARELESSNESS

A thoughtless gesture is enough, sometimes, to plunge everything in horror. So it was at the Wardieh service station located on the Corniche du Fleuve, near the Fiat overflyer, where an explosion occurred killing six and injuring 14. Among those killed was Joseph Abou Nasr, owner of the station, while five others were employees Lebanese, Syrians, Egyptians. The occupants of two cars being refuelled and other employees who work there, were slightly injured. The driver of a public transport minibus who was also filling up escaped by a miracle from the explosion, whose force propelled him a hundred meters from the station. In the twinkling of an eye, he found himself in the middle of the highway. The incident occurred on Monday evening, shortly after 8 p.m.. The conclusions of an official inquiry are awaited. The tentative conclusion is that it was due to carelessness by one of the employees during excavation work by the employees of the station to extract a large tank of diesel fuel in order to replace it. The employees were using a blowtorch during the work.. It is worth mentioning at this stage that during the funeral of the owner, Joseph Abou Nasr, held at the Sacred Heart church in Badaro, the brother of the owner affirmed to the OTV channel that on his instructions, the work intended to stop leaks of fuel had been suspended and that the ground was permeated with fumes. At one point, one of the employees must have press an interrupter to turn a light on, and this ignited the explosion. According to another version, the explosion was set off by an electrical short circuit. 1,100 service stations have no licences A few minutes after the explosion, police were deployed around the service-station and encircled the premises. The examining magistrate of the Military Tribunal, Sakr Sakr, went to the scene of the explosion, where he supervised the investigation. Senior Army officers were also on the scene and inspected the damage. Meanwhile Red Cross ambulances were evacuating the victims to hospitals, notably the Htel Dieu, Rizk and Saint-Georges hospitals. MP Nadim Gemayel also went to the scene of the explosion, before going to the bedside of the wounded persons. It is to be noted that the news of the explosion aroused great concern among those who feared that the incident marked a renewal of the violent incidents of 2005

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to 2007. The incident threw light once again not only on the way safety precautions are often ignored by many, but also on the fact that only about 45 percent of service stations are operating legally. According to Energy Minister Gibran Bassil at a press conference held shortly after the explosion. According to the minister, Lebanon has 3,250 gas stations, of which only 1,450 have licences to operate, while 1,100 have no licences. At the same time, the licences of 700 others have expired.

<http://www.morning.com/ArticleC.asp?Article=9277&CategoryID=2>

CANADA, CALGARY, JUNE 14 2011. BOWNESS GAS STATION APPEALS CLEAN-UP ORDER

brooks decillia



A number of families on Bow Crescent have been forced from their homes after a gas leak at a Gas Plus station in 2010 raised air quality concerns.

The owner of a Bowness gas station that leaked thousands of litres of fuel last year has appealed a demand requiring it clean up the site, claiming the order is biased and based on faulty science. CBC News obtained hundreds of pages of documents submitted to the Alberta Environmental Appeals Board, detailing a debate between Gas Plus Inc. and the Alberta Environment about the best way to clean up the [contaminated site](#). Gas Plus' owner, Sal Handel, and his lawyer, Richard John, declined a request from CBC News for an interview. But in a May 20 submission to the appeals board, John contends an environmental

protection order requiring Gas Plus dig up the site and remove soil contaminated with hydrocarbons is an overreaction. "The metaphor of using a hammer to squash a fly is applicable here," writes John. The submission goes on to stress that digging up and removing the contaminated soil is "unheard of" and that excavating the whole site is "without precedent" and "difficult to justify on the basis of public interest."

Gaps in the Data

Gas Plus' submission to the the board also claims there are gaps in the data that Alberta Environment relied on to conclude the contaminated soil needs to be dug up and removed. John argues the order was issued "on a speculative basis rather than on a reasoned and scientific basis." Alberta Environment concedes there are gaps in the data concerning the fuel leak, but district compliance manager Darren Bourget says Gas Plus only has itself to blame. "It's up to [Gas Plus] to provide us with that information," Bourget said. "In the absence of those pieces of data we have to make decisions, and decisions that we think alleviate the risk." Bourget also rejects claims the order is an overreaction, stressing thousands of litres of fuel leaked into the ground from Gas Plus last year. "Removing source material from contaminated sites where there's been a large leak like this is not unusual," he says. "It's actually industry norm."

Gas Station Claims Official is Biased

Gas Plus disagrees, though, claiming Alberta Environment had already made up its mind before it even issued its order. Gas Plus' submission of April 28 to the Alberta Environmental Appeals Board claims Bourget formed a bias before ordering a clean-up because of media attention and pressure from nearby residents. Gas Plus's submission stresses Bourget promised a group of owners at a public meeting that the ministry would – "without limitation" – do everything required to force Gas Plus to remediate the site. Bourget concedes he has a bias for protecting the environment, but he stresses his original order was last December before even meeting any of the residents living close to the contaminated gas station site. "I don't think there's been any bias or pressure on the department or myself," says Bourget. Dr. Monica Skrukwa and her family lives close to the Bowness gas station. She's hopeful the clean-up will start next week. Skrukwa rejects Gas Plus' claims of bias and bad science, putting her "faith" she says in the technical teams of Alberta Environment, the city and an independent engineering firm hired to consult on the contamination. "All of them agree that excavation would be the most appropriate form of remediation," she said. Despite the appeal, Alberta Environment remains confident the clean-up will start June 21 and finish by the end of July.

Related Links

- [Gas Plus told to clean Bowness site before July](#)
- [Bowness residents leave homes due to air quality](#)
- [Gas Plus claims bias and bad science](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/story/2011/06/13/calgary-gas-plus-bowness.html>

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USA, ID, COEUR D'ALENE, JUNE 16 2011. IDAHO MINING COMPANY PAYS \$263 MILLION TO SETTLE 20-YEAR-OLD CONTAMINATION LAWSUIT

noel brinkerhoff & david wallechinsky



[Hecla Mining Company](#) has agreed to pay one of the largest settlements ever involving toxic clean-up under the [Superfund](#) program. The good news is that the money will be used to help fund the clean-up. The bad news is that the amount won't come close to covering all the costs of repairing the damage that has been done. More than \$260 million (plus interest) will be paid to the federal government, the [Coeur d'Alene Tribe](#) and the state of Idaho to resolve claims over environmental damages caused by mining waste in North Idaho. The [settlement](#) comes after the company battled government and Indian representatives in court for 20 years over harm done to clean water, fish and birds as a result of millions of tons of mine-related waste that was released into the South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and its tributaries. In 1983, the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) placed the site, known as the Bunker Hill Mining and Metallurgical

Complex, on the Superfund priority list. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe originally filed its lawsuit in 1991, and the federal government joined in in 1996. Dan Opalski, Superfund director for the EPA, said the Hecla agreement was among the 10 largest cash settlements achieved under the federal government's toxic cleanup program. Unfortunately, Superfund officials estimate that it will take about \$2 billion to complete the job.

Related Links

- [Hecla to Pay \\$263.4M in Cleanup Costs](#) (by Alecia Warren, Coeur d' Alene Press)
- [Huge Settlement Gets \\$263M for Mining Waste](#) (by Nick McCann, Courthouse News Service)
- [United States v. Hecla Ltd.](#) (U.S. District Court, Idaho) (pdf)

http://www.allgov.com/Controversies/ViewNews/Idaho Mining Company Pays 263 Million Dollars to Settle 20 Year Old Contamination Lawsuit_110615

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, GASPARILLO, JUNE 16 2011. TRAFFIC HORRORS AS GAS TANKER FLIPS

kevon felmine



The Ramdial Transport Service gas tanker lies in the median of the Solomon Hochoy Highway after turning over from the northbound lane yesterday. Fire officers and volunteers battled to halt the flow of gasoline from the tanker. The accident brought traffic on the highway to a standstill for hours.

An accident involving a gas tanker caused a traffic pile-up, stretching from the Churchill-Roosevelt and the Solomon Hochoy Highways junction to the Oropouche Junction, as the north and south-bound lanes of the Solomon Hochoy Highway were shutdown. The accident, which occurred shortly after noon near Gasparillo on the Solomon Hochoy Highway, left hundreds of motorists and commuters stranded in traffic that stretched for several miles and lasted for several hours. The situation got the attention of Works and Transport Minister, Jack Warner, who assessed the scene from a helicopter. Warner later ordered an additional 6.30 pm sailing by the water taxi to ease the situation. Tickets for the 4.30 pm sailing of the taxi from Port-of-Spain to San Fernando were sold yesterday evening and only a few were left for the 5.45 pm sailing. The additional sailing at 6.30 pm was an effort to alleviate the traffic congestion on the highway. Warner urged motorists to use access roads at Carlsen Field, Couva and Freeport to get away from the congestion. Police said the tanker, owned by Ramdial Transport Services and contracted by National Petroleum (NP), was driven by Glenn Ramkhelawan, of Santa Cruz. The tanker, loaded with 36,000 litres of super unleaded gas, was on its way to make deliveries to several stations in San Fernando and Princes Town when it capsized on the south-bound lane of the highway. According to reports, a vehicle which also was proceeding south suddenly drove in front of the tanker. In an effort to avoid a collision, Ramkhelawan pulled to the right and lost control of the tanker which skidded off the wet road and onto the median. The tanker turned on its side with gas leaking out. Another tanker from Ramdial Transport responded and attempted to transfer the fuel out of the leaking truck but with no success. Shortly after, a vacuum tanker arrived on the scene and began to transfer the fuel. Personnel at the scene said all health, safety and environment procedures were followed and the spill was eventually contained. Emergency personnel from the Fire and Police Services, as well NP health and safety officers, were on hand to deal with fuel containment issues. There were no

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reported injuries or loss of life. Fire officers from Divisional Headquarters in Mon Repos, as well as Savonetta and Chaguanas, responded with a Hazmat appliance and sprayed foam onto the road and median to stop gas fumes from spreading. In addition, a backhoe from the Ministry of Works and Transport was brought in and a trench was dug to stem the flow of fuel. A contractor from Petrotrin siphoned approximately 40 barrels of gas out of the trench. Acting District Fire Officer Tajudeen told the T&T Guardian it was necessary to close the highway as the gas spillage posed a high risk to motorists. He added: "What we did was to blanket the entire area with a foam cover to ensure the mopping up operations were done safely. "The capacity of the tanker is 8,000 gallons and there are two vacuum trucks. "There is an attachment area where there is a residue of gas running out and also there were some contents in the tank. Bearing the circumstances there was no alternative," he said. Although the incident occurred on the highway, there was also a traffic pile-up on the Southern Main Road, stretching from San Fernando to Chaguanas. To add to the chaos, there were several minor accidents, including a five-vehicle smash-up on the highway near Couva. St Margaret's Police confirmed there were only minor injuries. By 3.30 pm police had re-opened the shoulder of the south-bound lane of the highway but motorists on the north-bound lane remained in traffic gridlock for another hour.

<http://guardian.co.tt/news/2011/06/15/traffic-horrors-gas-tanker-flips>

USA, CA, SAN MATEO, JUNE 16 2011. LANE REMAINS CLOSED ON SAN MATEO BRIDGE AFTER TANKER FIRE

One eastbound lane of the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge remained closed this afternoon following a crash in which a truck carrying an oxygen tank caught fire. A tow truck has been called to the scene, and crews are working to change a tire and remove the 26-foot flatbed truck, CHP Officer Art Montiel said. Additionally, about 100 gallons of diesel fuel had to be siphoned from the truck before it can be moved, Montiel said. The truck veered off the roadway for an unknown reason and struck the right wall of the bridge around 10:15 a.m. just east of the decline. An empty oxygen tank it had picked up from a construction site exploded in the crash, starting a fire in the truck, Montiel said. San Mateo County firefighters responded to the blaze. The fire was put out by 10:39 a.m., but the cabin of the truck was destroyed. No other vehicles were involved, and the truck driver escaped injury.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/baycitynews/archive/2011/06/15/smbridge215.DTL&tsp=1>

CANADA, EDMONTON, JUNE 16 2011. BLAZE OVERNIGHT AT RIMBEY PROPANE FACILITY >> EVACUATED RESIDENTS BACK HOME AS POTENTIALLY CATASTROPHIC FIRE UNDER CONTROL

brent wittmeier

An overnight fire at a propane facility in Rimbey could have been catastrophic, police say. Emergency workers were called shortly after 2 a.m. Wednesday to a large fire at Rapid Gas, a propane tank exchange business on the southern edge of the town. Firefighters found the business engulfed in flames. Nearby residents were evacuated to the Rimbey community centre due to the possibility of explosions while firefighters battled the blaze. Residents were allowed back to their homes within a few hours, after firefighters had the blaze under control. The Rimbey fire department is expected to be on scene all Wednesday to extinguish hot spots. Police say there were no injuries and the fire is still under investigation. The damage is estimated at over a million dollars. Rimbey is about 145 kilometres southwest of Edmonton.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Blaze+overnight+Rimbey+propane+facility/4951057/story.html>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, JUNE 16 2011. NZ TANK FARM OPERATOR BOUGHT BY NORWEGIANS

Auckland-based trans-Tasman bulk liquid storage company Marstel Holdings is being bought by a Norwegian company Stolt-Nielsen, listed on the Oslo stock exchange. Marstel Terminals' New Zealand founders Graham and Anne Catley will retain a 30 percent stake ownership and continue as executive managers. Australian mid-market private equity firm Propel Investments has agreed to sell its 45 percent stake in the company to the Norwegian company, which is listed on the Oslo stock exchange and is a global provider of integrated transportation and storage solutions for chemicals and other bulk liquids. The acquisition is subject to government approvals. "We are pleased to be adding these terminals to the company's global storage and distribution network, complementing our regional tanker operations in Asia Pacific," said the norwegian company's chief executive, Niels G Stolt-Nielsen. Mr Catley said in a statement that he was he is looking forward to working with people who understood the bulk liquid storage business. The shareholders intend to grow the business by making the most of opportunities at existing terminals and by developing new sites on both sides of the Tasman. The Catley's began Marstel Terminals in New Zealand and made it a leading operator in the bulk liquids market, importing caustic soda, phenol to make glues and resins, sulphuric and nitric acids, vegetable oils, petrol, diesel, bio-diesel and other renewable fuels, and exporting tallow. Its services include the storage of bulk and packaged hazardous and non-hazardous products, drum filling and contract

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blending. Marstel Terminals operates at nine sites: Coode Island and Altona (Melbourne), Port Alma (Queensland), Bell Bay (Tasmania), and at Wynyard Wharf, Freeman's Bay and Gabador Place (Auckland), Mount Maunganui and Bluff. It used to operate out of Auckland's Viaduct Harbour tank farm, but in 2006 announced a move to Mount Maunganui wharves. Stolthaven Terminals operates a global network of eight bulk liquid storage terminals in key markets worldwide, with a combined total storage capacity of 2.9 million cbm. A ninth terminal is currently under construction in Singapore. Three of Stolt-Nielsen's business divisions – Stolt Tankers, Stolthaven Terminals and Stolt Tank Containers – provide integrated transportation and storage solutions for bulk liquid chemicals, edible oils, acids and other specialty liquids. It has tankers and tank farms in Australia. It also runs marine farms producing turbot, sole, sturgeon, and caviar, a transport company for liquefied petroleum gas with a fleet of "very large gas carriers" (VLGCs).

<http://www.nbr.co.nz/article/nz-tank-farm-operator-bought-norwegians-ck-95382>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, JUNE 16 2011. WORKER INJURED AT EXXON BAYTOWN REFINERY

erwin seba

A technician was injured Tuesday afternoon while working on a coking unit at Exxon Mobil Corp's 560,640 barrel per day Baytown, Texas, refinery, a union official said on Wednesday. The technician, whose name was not released, was operating a steam vent valve on the refinery's flexicoker, when he was burned on the neck, shoulder and back, said Ricky Brooks, president of United Steelworkers union local 13-2001. The worker was flown by helicopter to a Houston hospital, according to the Baytown police. He is expected to recover. The flexicoker continued operating, Brooks said. An Exxon spokeswoman said the company was investigating the incident. "We regret that an Exxon Mobil employee working in the Baytown Complex was injured Tuesday afternoon," said Kristen Hellmer. We are committed to conducting an immediate investigation to better understand what happened." Brooks said the union welcomed the probe. "It's a very sad day for myself and our membership," he said. "We're going to be actively involved in the investigation." Exxon's Baytown refinery is the nation's largest.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1530112920110616>

USA, LA, NEW IBERIA, JUNE 16 2011. FIREBALL >> FACILITY ROCKED BY BLAST

justin hall

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.wafb.com/story/14912417/evacuation-remains-in-place-near-plant>

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/06/14/national/main20071171.shtml>

• **Photo's** http://www.oleantimesherald.com/news/national/article_4e58c880-9769-11e0-8901-001cc4c002e0.html



An aerial view of the fire raging at Multi-Chem Corp. near Acadiana Regional Airport in New Iberia, La on Tuesday June 14, 2011. An explosion of unknown origin rocked the facility and forced the evacuation of residents for several miles. Katie Dupuis, a spokeswoman for Multi-Chem, said the fire started where the company stores chemicals in outdoor tanks. Multi-Chem blends a variety of chemicals used in the oilfield industry.

Agencies from across the state continue to battle the remnants of massive chemical explosion and fire Tuesday afternoon that consumed the Multi-Chem facility on West Admiral Doyle in New Iberia. Residents were evacuated from a one-mile radius from the building located at 3401 W. Admiral Doyle after explosions rocked the facility, which started at approximately 3:40 p.m., Multi-Chem spokeswoman Katie Dupuis said. "We are very grateful that there were no serious injuries in this situation, but we do regret that the incident caused an

evacuation among the immediate area and concern among the local community," Dupuis said in a statement. "To ensure safety of local and facility personnel, local authorities ordered an evacuation of the nearby area (one-mile radius) and a request to some residents to remain indoors." *"We are very grateful that there were no serious injuries in this situation, but we do regret that the incident caused an evacuation among the immediate area and concern among the local community."* Approximately 20 people were working in and around the facility at the time of the explosion but all were accounted for after the accident. No injuries were reported, officials said. Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman, Capt. Ryan Turner, said the cause of the explosion is still under investigation and the evacuation zone was in place as of 8 a.m. today with residents and business prohibited from entering the one-mile zone around the smoldering building. An American Red Cross shelter was being set up at the Cyr-Gates Recreation Center at New Iberia City Park to assist any residents who had to leave

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their homes. Tony Miguez, New Iberia Parks and Recreation department superintendent, said the shelter opened around 7:30 p.m. and had 31 residents take advantage of the services. The shelter closed around 11 p.m. Two residents were housed later at the Holiday Inn Express while all others made arrangements to stay with family members, Miguez said. Immediately following the initial explosion, hundreds of emergency personnel began flooding Louisiana 182 and West Admiral Doyle Drive to begin containment of the disaster. Blockades were set up across Louisiana 182 at Landry Drive and vehicles were turned around just after Hopkins Street on West Admiral Doyle Drive, forcing people to go back toward the city. A command center for all emergency response agencies was set up in the parking lot of Lowe's at U.S. 90 and Louisiana 14 (Center Street) to coordinate response efforts. Dupuis said that as of this morning, air monitoring is continuing through the state Department of Environmental Quality to make sure that all emission remain at safe levels. This monitoring is being conducted at five different locations around the area, Dupuis said. Acadiana Regional Airport Authority director Jason Devilier said the airport's control tower was closed as of 5:30 p.m. Tuesday and the Federal Aviation Administration has issued a three-mile temporary flight restriction that prohibits any flights except for emergency personnel. Iberia Parish Superintendent of Schools Dale Henderson said he has been in frequent contact with Prescott Marshall, director of the Iberia Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director since Tuesday afternoon. "They are actually more concerned with those areas within a mile radius of the fire," Henderson said. School board buildings off of Ember Drive, including the food service warehouse, general warehouse, maintenance facility and Special Education building, are all closed today, he said. The only school closed today is Coteau Elementary, which is holding its summer program, he said. A decision on whether to keep those facilities closed Thursday will come later today when he receives an update from Marshall, Henderson said.

http://www.iberianet.com/news/fireball/article_7f4d077a-976a-11e0-8cf6-001cc4c03286.html

UK, LONDON, JUNE 16 2011. TORCH SPARKS HOUSE FIRE >> NO INJURIES: OWNER OF THE 146-YEAR-OLD HOME PLANS TO RESTORE IT TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE: USING BENZENE TORCH AND AN ELECTRIC HEAT GUN

adela talbot

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2011/06/15/18287231.html>



It's a cautionary tale for homeowners and contractors -- know what you're working on, and your tools, before you start. It took London firefighters more than an hour to put out a fire Wednesday at a heritage house they said was inadvertently started by a worker removing paint from a side wall. "He was using a benzene torch and an electric heat gun and ignited the materials between the two walls," said platoon chief Mike Black. The damage estimate is at least \$50,000, Black added. No one was inside the home when the fire started and there were no injuries. Firefighters raced to the call at 544 William St. shortly after 12 p.m., after an alert neighbour reported seeing smoke and flames on the upper level of the house. But neighbour Margot Stohers said she can't take all the credit. "I was leaving (my) house and a couple of teenagers said (they thought) the house (next door) was on fire. I didn't believe them at first, (but) there was a

lot smoke from the attic and I could see the flames on the kitchen side of the wall, so I called 911," she said. "If the boys hadn't said anything, I don't think I would have noticed." Neighbours watched firefighters battle the blaze as smoke quickly filled one block of William St. between Princess Ave. and Central Ave. Black said construction of the older home made it easy for the flames to spread. Had the call from Stohers come a few minutes later, the roof would likely have collapsed, he added. Homeowner John Scott-Pearse said he knew construction played a role in the blaze. "The house was built in 1865. It's actually the original house for the area," he said. "If you take off the inner walls, there's newspapers used as fire stop." Scott-Pearse, owner of Robinson Hall on Talbot St., said he plans to restore the house to its original state, to "fix it up and move on."

<http://www.lfpress.com/news/london/2011/06/15/18287231.html>

USA, FLA, MIAMI, JUNE 16 2011. WORKER RESCUED FROM TOP OF TANK AT MIA

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21004587424774/>

Miami-Dade Fire rescuers have brought a worker to the ground who had found himself stuck at the top of a fuel tank at Miami International Airport. The worker was not injured when his mechanized scaffold became stuck, sometime after 5 p.m. Wednesday at the top of the giant fuel tank, about 30 to 35 feet above ground. Rescuers soon responded to the tank farm at MIA, just west of LeJeune Road to get him off the device. As rescuers made their way to the top of the structure, *the worker*

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could be seen using his cellular phone as he waited in his perch for rescue crews to reach him. Once at the top of the tank, rescuers put the worker in a harness. Meanwhile, other rescuers in a ladder truck met him at the top of the tank. Once they brought him into the end of the ladder, they lowered him down to safety.

<http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21004587424774/>

USA, KY, NEWPORT, JUNE 17 2011. NEWPORT, KENTUCKY FAMILY SUES TEXACO, ALLEGING GASOLINE CONTAMINATION OF THEIR HOME.



The Harris home in Newport, Kentucky. "This is Texaco's mess. We are hopeful that they will step up and do the right thing." Mahanarre Harris and her family, represented by Dickman Law Office, PSC named Texaco in a lawsuit [Campbell County, Kentucky Circuit Court, Case No.09-CR-1175] on June 12, 2011, seeking damages for contaminating the soil and groundwater beneath their Newport, Kentucky home.

Mahanarre Harris, her husband and their five children thought they had achieved the American dream- owning their own home. But that dream soon turned into a nightmare. According to Court documents in Campbell County, Kentucky Circuit Court, Case No.09-CR-1175, they soon noticed strange odors throughout the home. Over the next four years they suffered a variety of maladies, including shortness of breath, headaches, dizziness, nausea, and asthma-like symptoms. In 2008 a worker knocked on her door and told her that they were cleaning up underground gasoline contamination from an old service station next door, and they needed to access her property. He told her it had migrated across the property line. Harris walked over to the area where the crew was excavating and noticed a familiar odor. According to Paul Dickman, her attorney, who is also a geologist and a former environmental consultant, "Gasoline, after migrating through soil and groundwater for many years, has a very peculiar smell. It doesn't really smell like gasoline, but it has a very distinct odor." Harris claims that she immediately contacted the Commonwealth of Kentucky Division of Waste Management. They allegedly conducted air tests in the Harris home, and confirmed the presence of gasoline components, including benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene. Harris claims that a second round of sampling confirmed the presence of these organic solvents. "Chronic exposure to these chemicals has been documented to cause serious harms to humans, and it our position that it has injured the Harris family. Benzene in particular is a nasty chemical," added Dickman. Benzene is a "known human carcinogen" according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency. "Long term chronic exposure to all of these chemicals is very dangerous according to all of the literature". The contamination is alleged to have originated from underground storage tanks on the former Texaco Station next to the Harris property. "These types of environmental problems are common at old gas stations. Unless these underground tanks are equipped with containment systems, corrosion protection, and overflow prevention, gasoline is released into the soil and groundwater almost on a daily basis," added Dickman. Dickman and his law partner Nicholas Summe filed suit against the current owners of the property in 2009. Following the completion of follow up investigations it was learned that Texaco had operated a station on the property from as early as 1930 and into the 1970's. This prompted the addition of the oil company to the lawsuit. "It is our position that Texaco was aware of the dangers posed by these tanks. and that they didn't use any of these types of preventative measures." said Dickman. As a result, the soil and groundwater at the station, and at the Harris home, became saturated with gasoline, according to Court documents. In 2008 over 800 tons of gasoline contaminated soil, and unknown quantities of contaminated groundwater were allegedly removed from the properties. Harris claims that it was this removal operation that caught her attention. Court documents allege that soil and groundwater beneath the Harris home remains contaminated. To make matter worse, a sewer line from the Harris home dissected the contaminated area. According to sworn testimony in the case by representatives of the Commonwealth of Kentucky this sewer line provided a preferential pathway for gasoline vapors, including benzene, to enter the Harris home. "It is our claim that this sewer line acted as a conduit for the migration of these organic chemicals into the Harris home. These vapors entered their home daily through this sewer line, as well as from surrounding soils. The deposition testimony to date confirms this" claimed Dickman. The home, for which Harris paid \$103,000.00 in 2004, is alleged to have been appraised at \$0.00 by a local real estate appraiser. "The whole property is contaminated with gasoline. The bank doesn't even want it at this point." Dickman further claimed. "This is a tragedy for the Harris family. Not only is their home now worthless, their entire family has been exposed to these carcinogens,

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and they have suffered ongoing injuries as a result. This is Texaco's mess. We are hopeful that they will step up and do the right thing."

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/6/prweb8568520.htm>

USA, KS, DODGE CITY, JUNE 17 2011. MAN DIES IN ANHYDROUS AMMONIA FARM ACCIDENT NEAR LAKIN

A man died Thursday in a lethal vapor leak around 2:30 p.m. in a field six and a half miles north and two mile west of Deerfield. Kearny County Sheriff James F. Jarboc Jr. said in a news release that Duwayne Rich, 74, died at the scene. Authorities determined that Rich filled an anhydrous ammonia nurse tank and was pulling it with a truck when he succumbed to the vapor. Preliminary investigation determined that the tank may have had a valve that malfunctioned, causing the tank to release large amounts of anhydrous, the news release said.

<http://www.dodgeglobe.com/newsnow/x536831053/Man-dies-in-farm-accident-near-Lakin>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 17 2011. GROUNDED TANKER IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER FREED

cain burdeau



"Captain Ted". The stock photo provided by Rep. Cedric Richmond shows the tanker that became stuck in sediment along the floor of the Mississippi River.

An Indian-flagged oil tanker grounded on the Mississippi River was freed Wednesday from the mud where it got stranded about 5 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The 800-foot tanker Ratna Puja was southbound carrying a load of carbon black oil when it got stuck Monday night. Ships were able to get around the stranded vessel, but the incident highlighted the dangers of the swollen Mississippi. This high river season the Mississippi is carrying much more mud and sediment than it usually does and the [Army Corps of Engineers](#), cash-strapped like other federal agencies, has not been able to keep up with the silting in the river. A.J. Gibbs, the head of the Crescent River Port Pilots' Association, warned that more groundings could happen unless more dredges are put to work. The ship, operated by [Cajmbal Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd.](#), ran aground

just above a place known as Head of Passes, where the Mississippi breaks off into several fingers that lead into the Gulf. Ships use one of the passes, Southwest Pass, to get into and out of the river that leads to New Orleans. At the moment, the area close to the Gulf is stacking up with sediment. As a consequence, the river channel is narrower and shallower than normal. Gibbs said the pilot at the helm of the Ratna Puja believed the route he took was safe because he had passed by the same location shortly before without a problem. But apparently the channel's conditions shifted and when he returned that way the river was clogged with mud. "What you have is an irregular channel right now," Gibbs said. "You can't maneuver these ships like a bicycle or an automobile." New Orleans port officials said the grounding did not affect business on the river. About 5,000 ships transit the Mississippi every year. A number of factors — the national budget crisis, chronic underfunding for the Army Corps' dredging operations and the record-breaking flood on the Mississippi — have combined to make the river particularly treacherous this year. The Mississippi is a major thoroughfare for goods, including two-thirds of the grain from the Midwest. The grounding was a scare for the river industry, which has been warning that the Army Corps has not been able to keep up with the amount of sediment clogging the channel where it empties into the Gulf of Mexico. The corps has five dredges working the Head of Passes, but pilots say they should have at least two more operating. Gibbs said the Ratna Puja was the first serious grounding, but that other ships have had close calls. He said five tugs were able to free the tanker and get it on its way down Southwest Pass. The ship was expected to undergo a hull examination before being allowed to resume its journey. The silting of the river has become a hot button issue, with shippers and trade organizations throughout the Mississippi valley pressing Congress and the White House to do more to make the channel easier and cheaper to navigate. A push is afoot in Congress to give the Army Corps more money to dredge the river. "They will have to figure out what happened to this vessel (that grounded), but it highlights that at this time of the year things change very quickly," said [Chris Bonura](#), a Port of New Orleans spokesman. Due to the high river, pilots who guide ships along the river have imposed draft restrictions, forcing ships to carry less cargo. U.S. Rep. [Cedric Richmond](#), D-New Orleans, said Wednesday that groundings and other problems cost shippers precious time and money. He estimated the hourly cost of the grounding of the Ratna Puja between \$30,000 and \$50,000 an hour. "We're lucky that it is not currently blocking traffic or leaking oil, but this incident highlights the danger of failing to dredge," Richmond said. He said draft restrictions on the river were like "reducing an interstate to a single lane and imposing size restrictions on vehicles because the roads were not maintained." Gibbs said pilots planned to work with

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the [Coast Guard](#) on new safety measures, such as keeping more distance between ships and possibly making ships move in one direction at a time. Conditions are not likely to get any better soon. As water levels in the Mississippi drop, that will make the channel even shallower, Gibbs said. He expected poor navigation for more than a month.

<http://www.westport-news.com/news/article/Grounded-tanker-in-Mississippi-River-freed-1425781.php>

CANADA, TORONTO, ORO-MEDONTE TWP, JUNE 17 2011. MAN SUFFERS SERIOUS BURNS FOLLOWING EXPLOSION >> 35-YEAR-OLD AIRLIFTED TO SUNNYBROOK BURN UNIT

miranda minassian

A 35-year-old man has been airlifted to a Toronto hospital following an industrial accident in the Forest Home Industrial Park Thursday morning. Paul Shearer suffered severe burns to his upper body while working on a diesel fuel tank at Thomson Metals by Design on Jamieson Drive, police said. "It wasn't a huge explosion. It was more of a combustion," said Barrie OPP Const. Larry Faulkner. "It is really unknown at this time (what happened). He was disassembling something." "The Ministry of Labour has to investigate whenever there is any work-related injuries," said Skye Lorimer, a fire investigator with the Office of the Fire Marshal. The scene didn't show much sign of an explosion, noted Lorimer. Shearer was taken to Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital before being airlifted to Sunnybrook hospital's burn unit in Toronto. Calling the incident unfortunate, owner Barry Thomson didn't wish to comment further on an ongoing investigation. Located off of Highway 11, north of Line 15, Thomson Metals by Design specializes in fabricating custom pieces.

<http://www.thebarrieexaminer.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3173894>

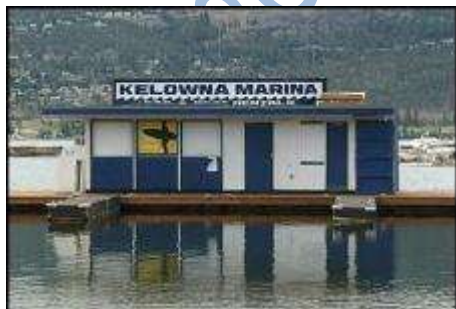
INDIA, CHENNAI, JUNE 18 2011. LOW DIESEL FLASHPOINT TIED TO FUEL TANK BURSTS?

The flashpoint of diesel in India needs to be increased to meet international standards and to prevent vehicles from catching fire during explosion of fuel tanks, according to CONCERT (Centre for consumer education, research, teaching, training and testing), a constituent of the BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) committee. The observation comes after the recent private bus accident at Kaveripakkam in which 21 lives were snuffed out when the vehicle overturned and exploded. Addressing a press conference, R Desikan, trustee, CONCERT, said that fire accidents involving fuel tank explosions in India may be attributed to low flashpoint of diesel fuel. The flashpoint is the minimum temperature at which the vapour above the sample fuel would ignite when it comes into contact with an ignition source. A low flashpoint diesel results in formation of inflammable fuel - air mixture in the diesel tank which can increase the risk of fuel tank explosion, he said. Stating that the required specification for flashpoint of automobile diesel is at present 35 degree celsius, as per the BIS, IS 1460-2005, he said that maintaining a low flashpoint in a tropical country like India where the ambient temperature is 45-50 degree celsius is a great risk when "cold countries" in Europe, America and Russia specify a higher flashpoint of 55-65 degree celsius. Majority of countries in Asia: Pakistan (66 degree celsius), Philippines (52 degree celsius), Hong Kong (66 degree celsius) and Malaysia (60 degree celsius) have a higher flashpoint than India, he pointed out. Citing the results of a 2003 study conducted by the Automobile Research Association of India, Pune, Desikan said increasing the flashpoint of diesel to 65 degree celsius will have a host of benefits. The flashpoint can be increased to meet international standards if the contents of Naphtha and Kerosene in the diesel blend are reduced. But, since the quantity of diesel production will be reduced by almost 10 percent, oil PSUs are reluctant to alter the flashpoint, he added.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/low-diesel-flashpoint-tied-to-fuel-tank-bursts/160069-60-120.html>

CANADA, TORONTO, JUNE 18 2011. FUEL LEAK WORSE THAN INITIALLY REPORTED

doris janssen



The city says the repairs to Kerry Park will be recovered from the Kelowna Marina's insurance coverage, since it owned the fuel tank and lines.

The environmental damage from a fuel leak on Kelowna's downtown waterfront was much larger than the city first reported last year. While only about 1 litre of gasoline made its way into Okanagan Lake, a staggering 10,000 litre of fuel has saturated the soil in Kerry Park. Initial testing of the soil around a fuel storage tank by the beach showed no contamination last year, following testing by the city. But further research by environmental consultants found that a decommissioned gas line near the fuel tank at Kerry Park had leaked thousands of litres of fuel deep into the soil. The City of Kelowna is waiting to remove the contaminated dirt because the smell is so strong when the land is excavated; the

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project was initially planned for last fall. "Right now we anticipate shutting Kerry Park down in September, probably for about a month," said Ron Forbes, property manager for the City of Kelowna. "We'll re-establish the walkway on the promenade as quickly as we can. But the remainder of the landscaped area will probably remain closed for a couple of months, until the grass can take hold again." The property from the edge of Queensway to the parking lot in Kerry Park will be excavated. The city did not renew the lease for the business, known as the Kelowna Marina, because soil removal is planned for late this summer. The gas bar and boat rental will not be open this year. The city says the repairs to Kerry Park will be recovered from the Kelowna Marina's insurance coverage, since it owned the fuel tank and lines. The Kelowna Marina was owned by 381713 BC, a numbered company co-owned by Stewart Smith, who developed Barona Beach in West Kelowna and currently owns Scandia Golf and Games on Highway 97. He did not return CHBC News calls for an interview. The city wants to improve the amenities along the downtown waterfront for 2012 and is seeking proposals for a new business that will operate at the location and provide boat fuel sales, boat rentals, public moorage.

<http://www.globaltoronto.com/Fuel+leak+worse+than+initially+reported/4957871/story.html>

USA, OK, CALUMET, JUNE 18 2011. DRIVER DIES AFTER TANKER OVERTURNS, CATCHES FIRE

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.koco.com/news/28268309/detail.html>

A tanker truck overturned near Calumet on Friday morning and caught fire, the Canadian County Sheriff's Office said. The driver was killed in the accident, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said. The truck overturned on Highway 270 and brush pumper trucks were called to the scene to extinguish the fires. The OHP said the driver veered onto the shoulder, overcorrected, spun around and overturned. The tanker was carrying diesel and when the cab of the truck caught fire, OHP said, and the diesel tank began to burn. Grass near the wreckage began to burn and spread to nearby railroad tracks. The driver's name wasn't released.

<http://www.koco.com/news/28268309/detail.html>

USA, CT, HARTFORD, JUNE 18 2011. STATE INVESTIGATING REPORTS OF BAD GASOLINE

kent pierce

 **Watch the Video**

<http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/south/12004600774717/warning-of-harmful-gasoline-at-some-ct-stations/>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/consumer/state-tracking-source-bad-gasoline>



A number of people along the shoreline are complaining that bad gas ruined their cars, and now a state agency may have found from where it came. The Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection has taken samples from several gas stations. According to [The Day of New London](#), the DCP has traced the bad gas to one particular storage tank at a depot in East Haven that may have been contaminated by sea water. Gas from there went out to stations. The hope is to stop any more damage to cars, and to get consumers compensated for the problems caused by the bad gas. News 8 found one woman earlier this week who needed about \$2,000 worth of repairs because of the damage the gas had done to her engine. The gas stations under investigation are mostly along the I-95 corridor between Guilford and Fairfield, with one more up in Montville. If you think you ended up with some of the tainted gas, you should report it to the state. Below is part of a news release from the DCP explaining what consumers should do to report the problem. Persons who suspect that bad gasoline was involved in problems with their vehicle should obtain and keep all service

receipts for diagnostics or repair, as well as receipts for the gasoline they have recently purchased. Consumers should also notify the Department of Consumer Protection fuel standards unit by calling 860-713-8160 or 1-800-842-2649, or by emailing food_standards@ct.gov. A form for filing a written complaint is available at www.ct.gov/dcp at "Forms." Consumers should also register a complaint, in writing, with the retailer from whom they purchased gasoline.

Stations Affected By Bad Gas

Source: Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

- Montville 7-Eleven
- Guilford Mobil

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- Milford Stop & Shop
- Fairfield Mobil
- Milford Mobil
- Long Wharf Mobil
- Branford Mobil Rest Area

<http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/consumer/state-tracking-source-bad-gasoline>

USA, ORE, BEAVERTON, JUNE 18 2011. TWO BOYS INJURED THURSDAY NIGHT WHILE PLAYING WITH FIRE FROM GASOLINE VAPORS

Watch the Video <http://www.kgw.com/news/local/Beaverton-boy-rushed-to-hospital-with--124050079.html>



Melted toy soldiers were burned in a fire that injured a 12-year-old Aloha boy Thursday. The boy is being treated at Legacy Emanuel Medical Center for serious burns after gasoline vapors ignited while he was trying to light the toys on fire.

A 12-year-old Aloha boy is being treated for serious burns at the Legacy Oregon Burn Center after gasoline vapors ignited while he was trying to light some toys on fire Thursday night. A 15-year-old Bethany boy was also burned in a kitchen fire in a second incident that took place within an hour. "These two incidents are a wake up call for parents everywhere," said Brian Barker, a Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue spokesman. "Playing with fire and chemicals is not for kids." At 7:56 p.m., Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue firefighters were called to the 4800 block of Southwest 160th Avenue after a Washington County sheriff's deputy saw a child on fire in a home's driveway. The deputy called for firefighters to respond as

bystanders extinguished the fire. Firefighters arrived to find the 12-year-old boy suffering from serious burns over a significant portion of his body. A Metro West ambulance rushed the boy to the Legacy Oregon Burn Center. A TVF&R investigator determined that the boy was trying to light plastic army figures on fire using paper and gasoline. "Gasoline and gasoline vapors ignited and caught the boy's clothes on

http://www.beavertonvalleytimes.com/news/story.php?story_id=130832802353855600

UK, FALMOUTH DOCKS, JUNE 18 2011. FALMOUTH DOCKS HIT BY GAS CYLINDER FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS

Watch the Video <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-13817776>



More than 50 firefighters have been tackling a fire involving gas cylinders at a Cornwall dockyard.

The blaze at Falmouth Docks started at about 0810 BST among acetylene cylinders outside a warehouse. Witnesses reported hearing explosions. The fire service said there were 240 cylinders, but many were empty. Police set up an exclusion zone and about 150 people - including 60 students in an accommodation block - were moved out. The Ships & Castles Leisure Centre was closed.

'Massive Explosions'

There were no reports of injuries. It was originally described by the fire service as a "major incident". But Kevin Thomas of Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service said later: "It's moved from an aggressive state of incident and has reached a more stable state. "But that's not to say things won't get worse again." Emergency crews are to remain at the docks for 24 hours. Mr Thomas said crews would be cooling the cylinders and regularly checking their temperature. Jamie Clark, who was staying about 60m (200ft) from the scene of the fire, said he was woken up by explosions. "The building's fire alarm went off and they started evacuating people." Then there was some massive, massive explosions and we saw a big raging fire on top of these canisters." Student Adam Rivers also said he heard loud noises after the fire started. He said: "It was very, very distant, but there were some thuds." Devon and Cornwall Police set up a command centre to deal with the incident.

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Rest Centres

Residents living near the docks were advised to keep doors and windows closed. The Falmouth Hotel is a temporary rest centre, housing evacuees. Cornwall Council also set up a respite centre at the town's Emmanuel Baptist Church. The docks, which can handle ships with displacements of up to 100,000 tonnes, have repair facilities for vessels. The site also provides mooring for cruise liners visiting the town. About 40,000 cruise passengers visit the town each year. Organisers of the seventh annual Sea Shanty Festival in the town said the weekend-long event was going ahead, despite the cordon around the docks.

Related Links

- [Concerns for cylinders in Falmouth Docks fire](#)
- [Major fire breaks out at Falmouth Docks: Latest updates](#)
- [Quarter mile exclusion zone around Falmouth Docks during 'critical' incident](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-13805526>

AUSTRALIA, N.T, GOVE, JUNE 18 2011. RIO TINTO FACES CHARGES OVER GOVE FUEL SPILL

phoebe stewart

[MAP: Nhulunbuy 0880](#)



About 70,000 litres of unleaded petrol leaked from an old tank at the Alcan plant. Mining giant Rio Tinto is expected to face court in the Northern Territory over a petrol spill at its alumina refinery on the Gove Peninsula, about 1,000 kilometres east of Darwin. In June last year, Rio Tinto revealed that about 70,000 litres of unleaded petrol had leaked from an old tank at its Alcan plant and into the soil below. The Territory Department of Resources this week decided to prosecute the mining giant over the environmental spill, lodging papers with Darwin's Magistrates Court. It would not reveal what charge the company is facing, but the ABC understands the matter could be in court as early as next month. A spokesman for Rio Tinto says the company is committed to protecting the environment, and has worked with the Resources Department and environmental

advisers to develop and implement an action plan to contain the material and remediate the affected area. When the incident was first reported by Rio Tinto, Territory Resources Minister Kon Vatskalis said an overhaul of mine regulation was needed. The Northern Territory Minerals Council argues against changing the industry's self-regulation regime. Council executive director Peter Stewart told the ABC earlier this year that the Territory Government should not overreact. "Regulation has a role but how much regulation do we need to be subject to?" he asked. "I think there needs to be some careful consideration given to this before we just overreact and move into a highly regulated or more regulated regime."

Related Stories

- [Rio Tinto Alcan could face charges over fuel leak](#)
- [Poor inspection regime puts environment at risk](#)
- [Rio Tinto Alcan probed over industrial spill](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/06/17/3246732.htm?section=business>

ZIMBABWE, HARARE, JUNE 18 2011. KASUKUWERE'S FUEL DEPOT ORDERED TO SHUT DOWN

levi mukarati

A fuel depot owned by Saviour Kasukuwere, the Minister of Youth Development, Indigenis-ation and Empowerment, has been ordered to shut down by the Harare City Council after failing to meet the required safety standards. The condemned COMOIL-operated fuel depot in Sunning-dale, which is less than 100 metres from where a fuel tanker burst into flames last week, killing at least four people and leaving scores injured, was ordered to close two weeks ago. But sources within council said they were shocked to see the depot operating this week despite a directive from Harare Fire Brigade to cease operations due to dangers posed by poor safety conditions. The depot, located off Boshoff Drive in the Graniteside industrial area adjacent to the residential suburb, was condemned about three years ago for being too close to a residential area, among other safety concerns. Sources at the depot said a four-member team of fire officers was dispatched from the Harare Central Fire Station on Tuesday to check on progress in shutting down the depot. "This depot was condemned years back because, firstly, it is near a residential area. It must be at least one and a half kilometres away from residential dwellings," said the source who preferred anonymity for fear of reprisals. "COMOIL did not submit an application to the Fire Brigade for inspection and

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approval; the tanks are not bolted to the ground and do not have band-walls, which must contain about 110 percent of the total tank capacity so that in the event of a leak, the flammable liquid is captured and prevented from flowing," said a source. The source added that there were no other fire prevention measures like sprinkler systems or adequate fire extinguishers to help put out a fire in its early stages. Lovemore Mazero, the COMOIL depot's managing director, confirmed in a brief interview that they had been ordered to shut down the storage facility by the Harare City Council. "What we know is that, like most premises, the local authority had some issues with the depot. "They want necessary precautionary measures (to be taken) and we are doing that. So it is work in progress," said Mazero. "In recognition of the concerns from the local authority, we have stopped carrying out any operations and we now want to bury the tanks underground," he said. Efforts to get a comment from Harare Fire Brigade assistant chief fire officer, Enoch Muvhunzi, were fruitless as he was said to be in marathon meetings. City authorities have, since last year, been closing in on illegal business operations in Harare, penalising some operators for failing to meet the required standards while in some cases ordering the closure and destruction of illegal properties. The exercise is meant to ensure businesses conform to city by-laws and that council generates revenue from legal entities.

<http://www.financialgazette.co.zw/top-stories/8707-kasukuweres-fuel-depot-ordered-to-shut-down.html>

INDIA, CHENNAI, JUNE 18 2011. POLICE NAB FURNACE OIL PILFERING GANG

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The [Kancheepuram police](#) on Friday busted a furnace oil pilfering racket near [Sriperumpudur](#) and arrested three persons. The gang has been involved in the illegal business for more than two years and the police suspect them to be part of a network of 35 gangs across the state. They would pilfer oil from tankers going from Manali to [Bangalore](#) and [Hyderabad](#) at night with the consent of the driver and replace it with cheap adulterants, the police said. On a tip-off, a team of police officials went to an interior place called Sundramedu near Sriperumpudur in the wee hours of Friday. They found a five-member gang transferring furnace oil from a tanker which was on its way from a refinery at Manali to Bangalore. Four of them fled when the police reached the spot. The team caught one man, M Kumaresan (45), who was later identified as a driver from Chennai. The police quoted Kumaresan as saying that he worked on behalf of a bigger gang which has political backing in Tirunelveli. The police team found a submerged oil tank of 35,000-litre capacity. "They have been selling the furnace oil to local factories after adding Kerosene," Sriperumpudur DSP MP Balasubramaniam told TOI. The police seized about 30,000 litres of adulterated fuel, 40 barrels and two tanker lorries from the spot on Friday. The police said the gang here was operating in the name of an oil agency in Katarambakkam panchayat. They would flag down the driver, who would have been already informed about the pilferage, and take the tanker off the highway into an interior spot. They would then transfer a few hundreds of litres of the oil from the tanker which has a capacity of 25,000 litres, and replace it with adulterants, the police said. "At least 50 tankers are diverted in a similar way and furnace oil pilfered. They are experts in breaking the seal on the oil pipes and resealing them," a senior police officer said. "We are hunting for the kingpin who hails from Tirunelveli. We are also on the lookout for the owners of the trucks," Sriperumbudur inspector M Surendran said. Two special teams have been formed to nab the accused. The police team also arrested two others for running an illegal chemical godown, 200 metres from spot. "They were selling petroleum products without a licence," a police officer said. Police identified the accused as V Seenu (46) and D Sekar (28) of Poonamallee.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Police-nab-furnace-oil-pilfering-gang/articleshow/8894185.cms>

MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, JUNE 18 2011. MEXICO'S PEMEX LOSES \$250 MILLION FROM FUEL THEFT



The theft of fuel from state-owned Petroleos Mexicanos' pipelines resulted in 3 billion pesos (\$250 million) in losses in the first four months of 2011, more than the total for all of 2010, Pemex CEO Juan Jose Suarez Coppel said. In terms of volume, the amount of fuel stolen during that period totaled "20,000 barrels per day, which is significantly higher than last year's average," he said in a joint press conference with Energy Secretary Jose Antonio Meade. Suarez Coppel said 556 illegal fuel taps have been detected this year, compared with 710 for all of 2010. Both men urged lawmakers to speed up debate on a bill that would amend the criminal code to stiffen penalties for fuel theft, which represents a major drain on government coffers. They said fuel theft poses a risk to industrial safety, endangers people's lives and is one of Pemex's thorniest challenges. Meade said criminal organizations have become more sophisticated and better organized and are

making use of cutting-edge technology in their fuel-theft activities. The Pemex chief, for his part, noted that a ruling by a U.S.

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court on a lawsuit filed against 14 U.S. companies that purchased stolen Mexican fuel is currently pending. He said criminal groups steal oil derivatives, natural gas condensates and natural gasoline produced in the Burgos Basin of northeastern Mexico, where the country's biggest natural gas fields are located. Theft of fuel from Pemex pipelines, known in Mexico as "milking," is common, with both individuals and organized crime groups involved in the illegal activity.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=399600&CategoryId=14091>

USA, N.H., NEWINGTON, JUNE 18 2011. SHELLFISH HARVESTING STOPPED IN GREAT BAY AFTER OIL SPILL >> OIL LEAKED FROM SPRAGUE ENERGY

 Watch the Video <http://www.wmur.com/newsarchive/28268086/detail.html>



All shellfish harvesting in New Hampshire's Great Bay was shut down as a precaution on Friday after an oil spill.

Crews continued to try to clean an oil spill on the Piscataqua River in Newington on Friday after a fisherman spotted oil in the river late Thursday night. Fire Chief Dale Silvia said the oil leaked overnight from a pipe coming from Sprague Energy and was spotted at about 11:30 p.m. Sprague Energy said a 1/8 inch hole was discovered in the pipeline and the leak had been contained by 12:30 a.m. Authorities estimated 500 to 1,000 gallons was leaked. About 3,500 feet of boom was placed near the dock area to contain the spill. Dominic Gagliano lives right at the mouth of the bay, where he enjoys fishing and watching bald eagles. "I was a little worried when I heard about the oil spill, you know, I love fishing off the back deck and the boat ramp," he said. State environmental officials said some oil has been found as far into Great Bay as the Adam's Point area, but so

far there's no sign of any major environmental impact.

<http://www.wmur.com/newsarchive/28268086/detail.html>

USA, ARK, SEARCY, JUNE 18 2011. GAS COMPANY AGREES TO FINE FOR LEAK OF HYDROCHLORIC A GAS SERVICES

The company has agreed to pay a fine of more than \$9,700 for a hydrochloric acid leak in Searcy. Superior Well Services has signed a consent order with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to pay \$9,781 for violating environmental regulations by mixing the hydrochloric acid with methanol in the plastic container that leaked when a valve broke. The order also said Superior violated regulations by using an unpermitted transporter to haul hazardous waste and by offering hazardous waste for transportation without having received an Environmental Protection Agency identification number. The leak on Nov. 11 created a 4-foot high cloud of gas that forced the evacuation of about two dozen homes in a Searcy residential area before the cloud was dissipated by winds. No injuries were reported and the leak was plugged by members of the Searcy Fire Department's hazardous materials response team. "We got very fortunate on that," Searcy Fire Chief Bill Baldrige told The Daily Citizen in reference to the plug installation, which stopped what he called "a steady stream" of hydrochloric acid coming from the 360-gallon container that was believed to be full when the leak began. "Valves like that are hard to stop. It was what we would classify a large leak." The public has until July 10 to comment on the final decree, and Superior has until 30 days after the public comment deadline to pay the penalty, according to ADEQ spokeswoman Cecillea Pond-Mayo. An official at Superior Well Services didn't immediately return a call seeking comment on Friday.

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/473a6204ed8d4715b1b3486c42faed05/AR--Hydrochloric-Acid-Leak/>

USA, ILL, ROXANA, JUNE 18 201. BENZENE LEUKEMIA PERSONAL INJURY CASE FILED AGAINST SHELL OIL COMPANY AND BP PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA OVER BENZENE POLLUTION ROXANA, IL

On June 16, 2011, Scott Monroe, a 20 year old resident of Roxana, Illinois filed a leukemia personal injury lawsuit in the Circuit Court, Third Judicial Circuit, Madison County, Illinois, Scott Monore v. Shell Oil Company et al., Case No. 11-L- 577, against Shell Oil Company, and BP Products North America, Inc, alleging he developed acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) as a result of benzene released into the groundwater, ground, and air in and around his home and the high school, middle school and grade school that he attended in Roxana. According to the Dysart Law Firm, the benzene leukemia personal injury Complaint filed in the Madison County Circuit Court (Case No. 11-L- 577) alleges Mr. Monroe was first diagnosed with AML in April 2010 when he was just 19 years old. The Complaint alleges that as a result of developing AML, Mr. Monroe lost a

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\$180,000 Navy scholarship to the University of Michigan to pursue a degree in nuclear engineering and that his career prospects have otherwise been severely and permanently damaged. The Complaint also alleges that he has a shortened life expectancy, that he has suffered mental anguish, that he has incurred medical bills and will incur medical bills in the future and that he will have to undergo lifelong medical treatment. The Complaint seeks monetary damages against Shell and BP in a reasonable amount in excess of \$50,000. The Complaint alleges Shell and BP released toxic chemicals into the ground and groundwater of Roxana, Illinois and did nothing to clean up, or otherwise address, the toxic chemicals, including Benzene, for over 20 years. The Complaint alleges that among the toxic chemicals released, the Illinois EPA documented the release of 8,400 gallons of pure benzene in 1986 from an underground pipeline that extended from the Wood River Refinery in Roxana, Illinois to a barge loading facility on the Mississippi River. Another Illinois EPA documented release of pure benzene occurred in February 1986. The original benzene releases occurred near the intersection of Rand Avenue and Central Street in Roxana. The Complaint alleges that between 1986 and the present, the Wood River Refinery continued its groundwater pumping activities pulling the benzene from the 1986 leak under the homes and businesses of the residents of Roxana. The benzene in the ground water exposes the Roxana residents to benzene vapor intrusion into their homes. The Complaint alleges that in addition to the documented benzene releases, the Illinois EPA has also discovered hydrocarbon contamination that has been leaking from the refinery grounds into the subsurface soils along the western fence line of the refinery property. According to a letter sent to the residents of Roxana, Shell, "has recently found high concentrations of certain hydrocarbons, including benzene, as vapors in subsurface soils near the refinery boundary and under the Roxana Public Works buildings south of Eighth Street." According to the Illinois EPA the "potentially affected area of Roxana is bounded to the north by First St., to the south by Rand Ave., to the west by Central St., and to the east by Chaffer St. The Complaint alleges that the toxic chemicals include Benzene, Hexane, Toulene and Xylene. The Complaint alleges that Shell has known about the dangers of benzene for decades. Scientists began raising concerns about the toxic effects of benzene exposure in the early 1900s. In 1948, the American Petroleum Institute published a toxicological review for its members on benzene stating it is generally considered that the only absolutely safe concentration for benzene is zero. The Complaint alleges that despite Shell's knowledge of the dangers posed by benzene exposure, it publicly minimized and hid the dangers. The Complaint alleges that most recently, in May 2010, the Illinois Department of Health ("IEPA") sent a letter to the Illinois EPA which states that a report dated February 2010, prepared for Shell by its contractor URS and posted on the Roxana Investigation Website for the citizens of Roxana to read, set forth misleading conclusions and recommendations regarding the dangers posed by Benzene and other toxic chemicals in the ground water under Roxana. Specifically, the IEPA "strongly disagreed" with the Shell URS posting on the Website, which stated the soil vapors do not pose a risk to the residents of Roxana. Instead, the IEPA stated "[i]n the shallow vapor samples (5 to 10 feet deep) the elevated benzene and hexane concentrations at this site are of great concern when considering potential residential exposure at this site." The letter goes on to state "[t]here is good reason to expect benzene and hexane vapors may be entering homes in Roxana based on the levels detected in the shallow soil gas (5 to 10 feet deep), the vapor monitoring points being located in a residential area, and the shallow depth of the more permeable sand unit." The Complaint alleges Shell has known about dangers posed by benzene vapors entering homes and other property since it performed studies concerning vapor intrusion in the 1980s. The Complaint alleges that despite Shell's knowledge of the cancer causing nature of benzene, and despite its knowledge that vapor intrusion poses a significant danger of exposing the residents of Roxana to benzene vapors, Shell did nothing to clean up, or otherwise address, the Roxana Benzene Plume for over 20 years. During this time period, the Wood River Refinery continued its groundwater pumping activities causing the benzene from the 1986 leak to move under the homes and businesses of the residents of Roxana causing prolonged exposure to benzene vapors. Specifically, in a May 2, 2008 letter to Shell the Illinois EPA stated that the movement of the Benzene Plume is being influenced by the Northfield well pumping and is moving to the Northeast. This movement has caused increased risk to the down gradient receptors, homes and businesses located between the release site and the pumping wells. The letter goes on to state that this creates the potential for residents to be at risk for vapor intrusion and that the concentration of contaminants present on the surface of the water table and the unconfirmed sand aquifer present suitable conditions for vapor migration. The Complaint alleges the Illinois EPA and the U.S. EPA have cited Shell for numerous environmental violations for its operations at the Wood River Refinery in Roxana, Illinois. Most recently, in May 2008, Shell is known to have violated the Illinois Environmental Protection Act 41 times by exceeding the standards for the release of benzene, ethylbenzene, toulene and xylene into the groundwater of Roxana, Illinois. The Complaint alleges that about 1,500 people live in Roxana, Illinois, a small town located in Madison County, Illinois not far from the Mississippi river and St. Louis, Missouri.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2011/6/prweb8582138.htm>

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