



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 697 Newsy Stuff

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

March 26 2011



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CANADA, ALBA, MORINVILLE, MARCH 24 2011. TANKER CARRYING LIQUID NITROGEN ROLLS OFF ROAD >> NO LEAKAGE, BUT ACCIDENT CLOSES HIGHWAY 37 FOR SEVERAL HOURS

ryan tumilty



Firefighters inspect the back of a semi-truck carrying liquid nitrogen lying on its side in the ditch along Highway 37 just east of Highway 2. Part of Highway 37 was shut down until the area could be cleared. The truck spilled some diesel but no other fluids leaked out.

Morinville RCMP had to close Highway 37 for more than eight hours Monday afternoon after a tanker truck carrying liquid nitrogen rolled off the road. In addition to closing the highway until almost midnight, officers shut down the on-ramps from Highway 2 after the large tanker truck left the road and rolled into the ditch. The driver was not injured in the accident and no other vehicles were involved. Morinville RCMP Cpl. Kelly Nikota said the truck was leaking diesel fuel after the accident. Police were also concerned about the liquid nitrogen in its main tank, which did not leak. Nikota said the RCMP closed the road as a precaution and also

to move the truck. Another tanker arrived on scene to offload the liquid nitrogen. Police remained in the area for several hours while the site was cleaned up. The truck was headed westbound on Highway 37 from Fort Saskatchewan when it slid into the ditch just one kilometre from Highway 2. Nikota said the RCMP still has to interview witnesses and does not yet know what caused the truck to leave the road. The investigation is ongoing.

<http://www.stalbertgazette.com/article/20110323/SAG0801/303239979/tanker-carrying-liquid-nitrogen-rolls-off-road>

USA, TN, MEMPHIS, MARCH 24 2011. TANKER TRUCK CRASH, FIRE TIE UP I-55 IN SOUTH MEMPHIS

kevin mckenzie

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wreg.com/news/wreg-tanker-ax.0.7211997.story>



A crash involving three trucks including a gasoline tanker on Interstate 55 north of McLemore in South Memphis shut down both lanes of the interstate.

Evening rush-hour traffic on Interstate 55 in Memphis was stymied for hours on Wednesday after three trucks, including a tanker carrying 8,600 gallons of gasoline, were involved in a fiery crash, Memphis fire and police officials said. About 4:45 p.m., a Flash Oil Co. fuel tanker truck and two tractor-trailer trucks crashed in the northbound lanes of I-55 north of McLemore, said Lt. Wayne Cooke, a spokesman for the Fire Department. A fire with billowing smoke broke out, but the tanker truck did not explode, Cooke said. About 50 to 75 gallons of fuel leaked from the tanker. Ambulances transported two of the drivers to the Regional Medical Center at Memphis and one to Methodist University Hospital, all in noncritical condition,

officials said. Firefighters ran fire hoses across the southbound lanes of the interstate to control the fire by about 5:20 p.m., Cooke said, but clearing the crash scene was expected to keep I-55 closed in both directions for hours.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2011/mar/23/gasoline-tanker-truck-explodes-i-55-memphis/>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, MARCH 24 2011. U.S. EPA BEGINS PERCHLORATE CONTAMINATION SAMPLING AT RESIDENCE ASSOCIATED WITH FORMER MOJAVE PYROTECHNICS, INC., SITE IN BARSTOW

This week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began collecting surface and subsurface soil samples to test for perchlorate contamination at the Poplar Street home of the former owner/operator of Mojave Pyrotechnics, Inc., a defunct fireworks manufacturing company that operated on North Yucca Street in the 1980s, in Barstow, California. "EPA will work with the City of Barstow and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board to determine how much perchlorate is at this location," said Jane Diamond, Director of the Superfund Division in EPA's Pacific Southwest regional office. "Cleanup of contamination at the Poplar Street Site will be based on the outcomes of the March sampling. We expect to have more information by the end of May." After receiving information indicating perchlorate had been buried on the property, EPA discovered a white, solid substance in a layer just below the ground surface in a garden area adjacent to the residence. A sample collected from the layer contained perchlorate. The residence is near a private drinking water well that was recently discovered to be contaminated with perchlorate. One of EPA's goals in this investigation will be to determine whether the site

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might be a source for perchlorate contamination in the groundwater. Perchlorate is both a naturally-occurring and man-made chemical used in the manufacture of rocket fuel, fireworks, flares and explosives, and may be present in bleach and in some fertilizers. Perchlorate may disrupt the thyroid's ability to produce hormones that are critical to developing fetuses and infants. EPA's action follows the discovery of elevated levels of perchlorate in Barstow's drinking water supply by the water purveyor Golden State Water Company (GSWC). The GSWC issued an advisory in November 2010 to not drink water that was in effect for three days. The advisory was lifted after the water purveyor shut down the drinking water well that was contaminating the city's water supply.

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultEachPressRelease.aspx?cid=7698&codi=230258>

CANADA, MAN, GILLAM, MARCH 24 2011. THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF FUEL SPILL IN NORTHERN MANITOBA FROM TANKER-TRUCK

Police say thousands of litres of fuel spilled from a tanker-truck when it hit the ditch in northern Manitoba. RCMP officers, fire crews and emergency responders were called to the site about 50 kilometres west of Gillam on Tuesday night. Mounties say the tanker-truck's driver was trying to avoid an oncoming vehicle when the truck caught the edge of the road and flipped onto its side in the ditch. The truck driver, a 46-year-old man from Grand Rapids, managed to hitch a ride to Gillam where he alerted police and was treated for minor injuries. The driver of the other vehicle did not stop. The road between the Split Lake reserve and Gillam has been closed to allow cleanup of the 3,000 to 6,000 litres believed spilled.

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/greenpage/thousands-of-litres-of-fuel-spill-in-northern-manitoba-from-tanker-truck--118510449.html>

USA, TX, LUBBOCK, MARCH 24 2011. HOMES EVACUATED IN SLATON AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=14310180>



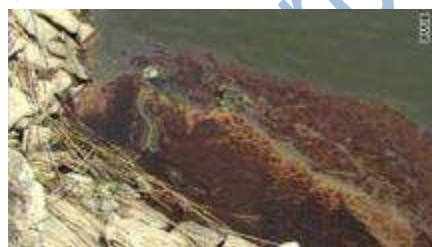
Several businesses and homes were temporarily evacuated in Slaton on Wednesday because of a chemical spill at the Slaton Rail Park. The regional hazmat crew was called out around 3:15 p.m. after a bystander saw a rail car leaking a fluid, which crews identified as sulfuric acid. Slaton Fire Department and Police also responded to the spill where rail road authorities estimate about 50 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked. The rail car is capable of carrying 90,000 pounds, but hazmat crews quickly contained the leak and residents were allowed back in their homes. Rail road hazmat crews from Amarillo also inspected the leak and are taking any necessary precautions to fix the rail car or tracks. Slaton Fire Chief Freddie Rainwater says the leak could have been caused by a pop-off valve getting too hot with pressure expanding the valve. This acid is found in car batteries as well

as oil refining and waste water processing, but can cause lung damage if inhaled and can burn the eyes and skin.

<http://www.kcbd.com/Global/story.asp?S=14310180>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 24 2011. U.S. COAST GUARD SAYS TESTS LINK SPILL TO ANGLO-SUISSE WELL

ryan dezember



The U.S. Coast Guard said samples of oil that washed up on Louisiana beaches last weekend match crude that Anglo-Suisse Offshore Partners LLC reported spilling from one of its Gulf of Mexico wells. But the closely held Houston oil producer said that it still disagrees with the Coast Guard's findings. Anglo-Suisse maintains that although a few gallons of oil spilled from a shallow-water well it was working to permanently seal over the weekend, the crude that has fouled stretches of Louisiana's shoreline is not its responsibility. Anglo-Suisse "continues to question these findings, given that the well in question is non-producing and has been monitored closely for the last six months," the company said in a statement

Thursday. Although Anglo-Suisse has agreed to join the cleanup and will take the lead in those efforts beginning Friday, it said it has hired an independent laboratory to help prove that the crude that made landfall did not come from its operations. The Coast Guard said that tests performed by its own scientists and by Louisiana State University have concluded that oil collected from beaches at Grand Isle and Elmer's Island, a state wildlife sanctuary, are chemical matches to samples from an Anglo-

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Suisse well located about 30 miles offshore. As such, it has named the company as the party responsible for paying all costs associated with cleaning up the crude. The service did not provide an estimate of what those costs might be, but said that in addition to cleanup crews removing oil by hand and installing boom to keep crude from washing into inland waters and marshes, a half-dozen skimmers and five barges have been deployed. The Coast Guard has put forth no estimates on how much oil washed ashore between Saturday and Monday, but officers have said that it is certainly more than the five gallons reported by Anglo-Suisse. Oil washed ashore in isolated locations spread over 30 miles of shoreline. In all about a half-mile of beaches were touched by viscous crude and a patches of a thin film associated with the oil was at one time documented over an area of about 150 square miles, according to the service.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704604704576221214051522074.html>

USA, CO, BOULDER CREEK, MARCH 24 2011. CU SUES CONTRACTORS OVER 2008 PETROLEUM LEAK IN BOULDER CREEK >> CLEANUP COST THE UNIVERSITY MORE THAN \$58,000

brittany anas

The University of Colorado filed a lawsuit against a subcontractor school officials blame for a 2008 petroleum leak in Boulder Creek that cost the school \$58,350 to clean up. In 2008, the university hired Englewood-based Encore Electric as a general contractor to replace a loading dock lift at the University Memorial Center's bookstore. Summit Equipment, a Commerce City company, worked as a subcontractor. CU alleges the workers severed underground piping that contained a petroleum substance when they were cutting out portions of the cement ramp. The fluid traveled through a drain in the ramp and was dumped into Boulder Creek. The Board of Regents -- on behalf of CU's Boulder campus -- filed the lawsuit this week in Boulder County District Court. Officials at Encore Electric could not be reached for comment Wednesday, and those at Summit Equipment declined comment because they had not yet seen the lawsuit. CU claims in the lawsuit that the contracted workers did not follow cleanup protocols, and the leak was reported to the Boulder Fire Department by a passerby who noticed the petroleum flowing into the creek near the Millennium Hotel. The cleanup cost CU \$58,354.15, according to the university.

http://www.dailycamera.com/cu-news/ci_17682280

USA, PA, HAZLETON, MARCH 24 2011. RESIDENT: GAS-SPILL SETTLEMENT UNFAIR

kent jackson

A machine still filters groundwater where gasoline seeped into a Hazleton neighborhood nearly two decades ago, triggering a \$25 million cleanup and lawsuits that ended this week. By Wednesday, most of the 258 families hadn't heard the terms of the settlements reached two days before in their suits against ExxonMobil. One who had, Matilda Degilio, said she expected to receive \$1,500, of which \$500 would go to the Locks Law Firm that represented the families. "It's a big company, that Exxon. We're only going to get \$1,000, and that's not fair," said Degilio, who spoke with one of her attorneys on Tuesday. Locks Law Firm said it would release a statement about the case Wednesday, but had not done so as of Wednesday afternoon. Exxon said in a statement that a mutually agreeable settlement was reached with the families, but specific details will remain confidential. The case, which began in 2001 after an estimated 50,000 gallons of gasoline leaked into the neighborhood, outlasted some of the residents. One widow whose husband was a plaintiff said on Wednesday that she didn't know about the lawsuit. Others like Richard Angelo and Pat Capece said they were satisfied that the case ended and think the neighborhood is back to normal. Because gasoline fumes entered homes from sewer lines, government contractors built the filtering plant, installed vents at homes and replaced sewers in Laurel Gardens, a neighborhood east of Church Street and north of Route 940 in Hazleton and Hazle Township. "I don't think it's doing any good. All that stuff was going into the ground. It will take years after we're all gone for that to get any better," Robert Sabo said. Joanne Bard, however, said the remedies made her feel better. "We know we have sewer lines that aren't coming into the house until they are emptied out. I feel we are more safe than people who don't know what is underground," Bard said. To determine what was under the ground in Laurel Gardens, federal and state researchers dug monitoring wells and tested a coal mine beneath a ballfield in the neighborhood. They sampled air in homes, too. The tests persist. Next week, state contractors are scheduled to sample well water, soil and air in homes for gas fumes, as they do twice a year. They are looking for gasoline and its components - toluene, xylene, ethyl benzene and benzene, a potential cause of leukemia that University of Pittsburgh researchers found in higher-than-expected instances in the Hazle Township portion of the neighborhood. Stephen Jarvela, an on-site coordinator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said tests occur in homes closest to the remaining contamination. "We have not seen any measurable gasoline in any of the wells since early 2003," Jarvela said. Each week, a technician also inspects a system that vacuums gas vapors from groundwater and filters the vapors with charcoal. The machine also extracted and treated vapors from soil until 1½ years ago. "The levels in the soil gas have been very low so we feel we don't need to do that," Jarvela said.

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Filtering and monitoring will continue until technicians see levels low enough that they can declare victory. "We're getting to a level where the geologists and chemists say natural attenuation will take care of the rest of the contaminants," Jarvela said when asked when the cleanup, which has cost \$25,844,000 so far, will end. The question of when the gas spill began delayed the filing of the lawsuits. Bard said she smelled fumes in the basement of her home in the 1960s and 1970s, but thought it was sewer gas. The spill probably started by 1993, according to evidence presented during a trial in September 2010 related to a case filed by two families. Three gasoline stations and a fuel oil business were named potentially responsible. Federal reports name the site after one of the retailers, Tranguch Tire Service, which closed and declared bankruptcy in 1995. "When we saw the tanks taken out of Tranguch, it was scary. There were big holes in the tanks," Bard said. While Tranguch operated as an independent station, residents also sued ExxonMobil for supplying Tranguch with gasoline. A jury in last September's case ruled that ExxonMobil had a master-servant relationship with Tranguch. However, the two families received no money from ExxonMobil because they filed their lawsuits after the two-year statute of limitations expired. The statute of limitations would have been an issue if any of the 258 other cases had gone to trial. One family whose case settled on Monday when its trial was scheduled to start addressed the statute of limitations when filing the lawsuit in 2001. In their complaint, they said confusing statements by state and federal authorities prevented them from knowing that their property was affected by the spill until within two years of when they sued. While ExxonMobil was the last defendant to settle, many of the families reached settlements in 2007 with up to 14 other defendants in the cases. In May 2010, meanwhile, 16 families that filed complaints for deaths or illnesses reached settlements. The 258 cases that ended this week dealt with inconvenience caused by the construction and costs of monitoring for medical conditions that may arise from exposure to gasoline fumes. Eleanor Middleton recalls emptying her garage of the lawnmower, snowblower and anything else that might emit vapors before placing a canister inside to sample air overnight. "We never had any odors. We were fortunate," she said. "I know a woman who went down to the basement and had to put on a mask."

<http://standardspeaker.com/news/resident-gas-spill-settlement-unfair-1.1122905>

USA, WA, LONGVIEW, MARCH 24 2011. POLICE CATCH SUSPECTS IN LONGVIEW GAS THEFT >> POLICE SAY MEN STOLE MORE THAN 600 GALLONS DURING 3 VISITS TO STATION

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fId=118520844&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10202>



Surveillance cameras catch two Vancouver men stealing hundreds of gallons of gas in the end of March, 2011.

Longview police say that two men suspected of stealing thousands of dollars worth of gas were caught on surveillance video. Officers say Roger Wilson and Paul Ortegon pumped 612 gallons of gas into a tank in the bed of their pickup truck over the course of three visits last week. Police believe the suspects may have intended to resell the gas because the tank in the back of their truck could measure out gas by the gallon. A police report says that a station employee called authorities Friday to tell them he watched live security camera footage of two men stealing gas from a station owned by Wilcox and Flegel Oil Company. An officer went to the station and caught Wilson and Ortegon while they were still there. When police reviewed the security camera footage, they say they saw Wilson opening a secured door on a pump and then hooking up two gas pump hoses to the tank in the truck bed. "They had really good knowledge of these dispensers and were able to

trick them into not showing the sale," says Chad Weller, who does maintenance for the station. "We think they were technicians before or were taught by one." An employee told police that the same truck was caught on camera Thursday and an invoice showed that 148 gallons of gas were taken at that time. Other invoices showed that 364 gallons were taken at 1:40 a.m Friday and another 100 gallons were pumped later in the day. An employee said that almost all the gas they stole was supreme, which set the station back almost \$3,000. The suspects were booked into the Cowlitz County Jail on Friday. Both men posted bail.

<http://www.kptv.com/news/27302908/detail.html>

CANADA, EDMONTON, MARCH 24 2011. OIL SPILL THREATENS ENDANGERED PENGUINS

A major spill of heavy crude oil from a wrecked freighter has coated an estimated 20,000 highly endangered penguins on a remote South Atlantic island chain, the local authorities and environmental groups said Tuesday. More than 800 tons of fuel oil has leaked from the Maltese-registered ship, which ran aground on Nightingale Island, part of the Tristan da Cunha

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archipelago, a British territory, early in the morning of March 16, local officials said. All 22 crew members of the MS Oliva were rescued.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/technology/spill+threatens+endangered+penguins/4494633/story.html>

USA, CT, SOUTH WINDSOR, MARCH 24 2011. RENTAL TRUCK HITS PUMP AT SOUTH WINDSOR GAS STATION >> 35 TO 100 GALLONS OF GASOLINE SPILLS

hillary federico

35 to 100 gallons of gasoline spilled Tuesday night after a Ryder truck ran into a gas pump at Tony's Mobil on Route 5, police said. No one was injured in the accident, but Route 5 was closed for until 1 a.m. and a nearby restaurant and bar were closed because of gasoline fumes, [South Windsor](#) police Sgt. Scott Custer said. Police and firefighters were called to the gas station at 84 [John Fitch](#) Blvd. at 8:07 p.m. Firefighters sprayed foam on the spilled gasoline to try to contain the fumes. The state Department of Environmental Protection and cleanup contractor Environmental Services Inc. of South Windsor were also called in.

<http://www.courant.com/community/south-windsor/hc-south-windsor-hazmat-0323-2-20110322.0.2431435.story>

USA, ILL, CANTON, MARCH 25 2011. ETHANOL PLANT OWNER WILL PAY FINE >> AVENTINE RENEWABLE ENERGY REQUIRED TO RESTORE NEARBY LAKES TO HEALTH

michael smothers

The current owner of a struggling ethanol plant near Canton will pay a \$15,000 state penalty for the toxic wastewater pollution of two nearby lakes by its previous owner. Aventine Renewable Energy Inc. also will reimburse the state \$3,000 for the deaths of wildlife, including dozens of turtles, that inspectors discovered last March along the lakes near the Riverland Biofuels plant. A court order filed in Fulton County Circuit Court last week additionally requires Aventine to restore the lakes to health and properly dispose of wastewater currently contained in tanks on the plant site. The Illinois Attorney General's Office continues its civil case against The Andersons Inc., a grain handling and storage facility adjacent to Riverland, which also allegedly allowed runoff from corn milling products to enter the lakes, office spokesman Scott Mulford said Thursday. Mulford said Aventine legally assumed responsibility for the pollution violations and restoration of the lakes when it purchased the plant last August. Meanwhile, the future of the plant about one mile southeast of Canton remains uncertain 10 years after area farmers provided start-up capital to build the facility they planned would convert their corn to ethanol and other bio-products, only to lose their entire investments. "We have no idea when it will be operational" again, said Canton City Attorney Jim Snider. The city is providing no utility services for Aventine's operation of the plant. An official of the Dallas-based company was unavailable for comment Thursday. The plant's pollution woes began last March after its owner at the time, Riverland Biofuels, closed it following 15 months of intermittent production. Riverland bought and finished building the plant after its first owner, the farmers' co-op Central Illinois Energy, declared bankruptcy in 2007. Pursuing an anonymous tip, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency determined that a plant employee had removed a beaver dam separating a small lake contaminated with toxic runoff from a 37-acre lake. Polluted water entered the larger lake, producing a fish kill and the deaths of at least 50 turtles. The IEPA referred the case to the attorney general's office, which quickly filed its civil complaint against Riverland and The Andersons. Riverland in August sold the plant to Aventine, which operates a large ethanol production plant in Pekin and another in Nebraska, for \$16.5 million. Aventine, which had just emerged from its own Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization, said then it looked forward to returning the plant to production.

<http://www.pjstar.com/business/x1664571634/Ethanol-plant-owner-will-pay-fine>

PHILIPPINES, MAKATI CITY, MARCH 25 2011. OIL PIPELINE HAS 2 OTHER LEAKS, SAY CONDO RESIDENTS

nikko dizon

The president of the West Tower Condominium Homeowners Association said Thursday that there were two more leaks in the decades-old pipeline of the Lopez-owned First Philippine Industrial Corp. (FPIC), prompting the Supreme Court to order an immediate check of the structure. "We are a little bit alarmed to know of two other leaks fronting West Tower and we want to know the situation on the ground," said Senior Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco, who presided over the preliminary conference on the residents' petition for a writ of kalikasan. The other magistrates in the panel were Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Eduardo Nachura. Velasco said the Supreme Court, in an en banc session on Tuesday next week, would issue a resolution to formally order the inspection of the pipeline and verify the alleged leaks. At the same time, he directed lawyers Mario Bautista and Lorna Kapunan, counsel for FPIC and the West Tower residents, respectively, to immediately arrange the conduct of the inspection. In his nearly 15-minute video presentation before the justices, Roberto

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Dimayuga, the homeowners' association president, said that two other leaks were discovered last October and these continued to release gasoline from the FPIC pipeline into the basement of the building in Barangay Bangkal, Makati City. Dimayuga, an architect, said that one leak was near Capinpin Street while the other was near the footbridge on Del Pilar Street. He stressed that these were aside from the five grain-sized holes earlier discovered by experts from the University of the Philippines (UP).

Not Aware

Bautista, meanwhile, told the justices that he was not aware of the other leaks as he pointed out that the pipeline had not been operational since October last year. Velasco said that Dimayuga's revelation would affect FPIC's motion for the high tribunal to lift the temporary environment protection order (Tepo) it issued last year so that the company could operate the pipeline as part of the structural integrity test demanded by the court. "We are inclined to grant your motion because the tests have to be conducted. We just want to be sure if there is truth to the allegations," Velasco told FPIC. In November, the high court issued the Tepo, the equivalent of a temporary restraining order in environmental cases, after West Tower residents filed a petition for a writ of kalikasan. The writ is a relief aimed at addressing threats to the environment or the violation of environmental laws. It is considered one of the "unprecedented rulings" under the rules of procedure for environmental cases that took effect in April last year.

Big Concern

Velasco expressed concern that people in Barangay Bangkal may be affected if there are indeed other leaks, aside from the five grain-sized holes already plugged by FPIC, once the Supreme Court allows the operation of the pipeline to test its structural soundness. "You already stopped the operation of the pipeline but the moment you resume and if there are still leaks, it may affect the people's safety," Velasco said. The lawyers agreed that experts from the UP Civil Engineering Department and the UP National Institute of Geological Sciences would conduct the inspection. The 117-km-long FPIC pipeline, a portion of which is located several meters away from West Tower, transports fuel from Batangas province to the Pandacan oil depots in Manila.

Closure Ordered

The Makati City government ordered its closure after it was found to be the source of the oil that had been leaking into the condominium basement since July. The condominium was also shut down by the city government to ensure the safety of its residents. Last week, they announced that they were turning the building over to FPIC for remediation. On Thursday, the residents filed a P2-billion damage suit against FPIC and other companies which they claimed were responsible for the oil leak. The damage suit was filed with the Makati Regional Trial Court. Apart from FPIC, also named as respondents were First Gen Corp., the firms' board of directors and officers as well as officials of Shell and Chevron.

<http://www.inquirer.net/propertyguide/aroundtown/view.php?db=1&article=20110324-327481>

UK, LONDON, MARCH 25 2011. SCANDAL OF THE £1BN FUEL SCAMS

adrian lee



Siphoning petrol from cars and commercial vehicles is in on the increase.

At first glance it was nothing more than a ramshackle barn, tucked away in the middle of nowhere. Inside, however, investigators stumbled across row upon row of storage tanks. From many, colourless liquid dripped from plastic pipes to the floor. Found a few days ago this is the biggest illicit fuel laundering plant ever uncovered in the UK. According to customs officials it was capable of processing 30 million litres of diesel a year for sale on the black market. As petrol and diesel prices hit record levels, despite the Chancellor's pledge in this week's Budget to stabilise prices, fuel crime has become big business. For the gangs involved there are millions of pounds to be made. Laundering involves red diesel, meant for use by agricultural and other off-road vehicles. To help farmers the tax on

this type of fuel is much lower than on regular diesel and it's dyed red and treated with chemicals so that it can be easily detected. The gangs buy red diesel in huge quantities and then use a variety of methods to launder, or "wash", the dye. When the colour is gone it looks identical to regular diesel and is sold to the unwitting – and the unscrupulous who are willing to turn a blind eye. Traditionally the heartland for this type of fuel crime has been Northern Ireland. During the Troubles the plants were run by paramilitary groups and became a major source of income for the terrorists. Now, as the price of regular diesel hits 140p a litre while red diesel can be bought for just 72p, crooks throughout the UK are getting in on the act. In the past year 20 plants have been uncovered in mainland Britain and officials are battling to intercept illegal shipments from both sides of the Irish border. In Britain illicit plants have been found as far afield as Lanarkshire, Blackburn and Canvey Island. "It's

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lucrative and well-organised crime," says Pat Curtis, a specialist fuel investigator for Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. "The market is any bulk diesel users, such as haulage companies, taxi and coach firms. "It costs less than £2,000 to set up an illicit plant. Old storage tanks can be bought for a few pounds on the internet and once the recipes are known, laundering fuel is a relatively straightforward process. We're striving to stay ahead but some of these gangs employ professional chemists." Officials estimate that four per cent of the diesel sold in Britain is illicit, costing the taxpayer £800million a year in lost duty. In Northern Ireland, where the huge plant was recently uncovered in Crossmaglen, County Armagh, it's claimed that more than a quarter of the diesel in vehicle tanks is laundered or smuggled from the Irish Republic where fuel is cheaper. The gangs use an array of methods to eradicate the red dye and other chemical markers, including filtering the coloured fuel through charcoal or more bizarrely cat litter. At the big plants illicit fuel has been found in the carcasses of old petrol tankers with their wheels removed. Another tactic used by the gangs is to add acid to strip away the colour. Not only can this damage vehicle engines over time but during one raid so much acid had been spilled that investigators found the soles of their shoes beginning to melt. The dumping of toxic waste from these illegal fuel factories is a major problem. It's not just this type of crime that's on the increase as motorists and businesses alike struggle to cope with fuel prices of more than £6 a gallon. Half of Britain's hauliers say they've been victims of fuel crime in the past year, ranging from a few dozen litres being siphoned from lorry tanks to entire diesel storage depots being systematically drained. Large trucks can carry up to 1,500 litres of fuel, making them easy targets. Most typically gangs roam the roads in vans which have been specially adapted with their seats removed and large jerry cans put in their place. Chrys Rampley, of the Road Haulage Association, says: "There is a ready market for cheap, stolen diesel. It has gone on for years but as more businesses are feeling the pinch and fuel prices keep rising it has increased. There's no doubt the high price of fuel is driving this crime. With the right equipment it takes only a matter of minutes to empty a lorry's fuel tanks. "Siphoning is common but in some cases criminals will just puncture the tank and drain the fuel. So then there's the cost of the fuel and the damage caused." The siphoning of a single fuel tank can wipe out the entire profit for a job and it's not covered by insurance. Barry Proctor, who runs a haulage company with a fleet of 20 lorries in Stoke-on-Trent, is among the victims. Earlier this month one of his drivers was asleep in his cab in a lay-by near Rugby, Warwickshire, when 250 litres of diesel were siphoned from the tank. "He knew nothing until next morning when the fuel gauge showed empty," says Mr Proctor, who has been in the business for 25 years but has never known fuel crime to be so rampant. "We fit anti-siphoning devices to vehicles but in this case it was broken off by the thieves. Some carry specialist pumps but others just put a pickaxe through the tank, which also means the lorry is off the road. A few months ago a gang carrying empty fuel drums targeted his yard but was caught after being captured on CCTV. "Stolen diesel can be sold easily," adds Mr Proctor. "It has become a huge issue for hauliers." It's claimed diesel theft is so common that most victims don't bother reporting it, while police are accused of not treating the crimes seriously. Dennis Davenport, UK manager of haulage firm HMT in Lancashire, adds: "These days with a vehicle with 1,000 litres of fuel you're talking about a pump value of £1,350. It's instantly usable and disposable. The fuel you carry can now be more valuable than the cargo." A judge in Cumbria, sitting in the recent trial of one gang of diesel thieves, remarked that the scale of the crime had reached "epidemic" proportions in his region. Brian Madderson, chairman of RMI Petrol which represents 6,000 UK filling stations, says tankers are being stolen to order to allow ever bigger raids. In one incident last year thieves took £45,000 of petrol and diesel when 38,000 litres of fuel was pumped from a supermarket filling station in Staffordshire. "This is all to do with fuel prices," he says. "You can see why people are tempted to buy stolen fuel, no questions asked, because the alternative is to go out of business." Diesel is more attractive to thieves because it's less volatile and there's a bigger market, usually among companies seeking to cut transport costs. However it's feared that as the gangs become more audacious and take bigger risks as the spoils become greater there could be a tragedy. There has also been a big jump in the number of motorists willing to take the risk of driving away from forecourts without paying. Most garages now have sophisticated camera systems which record registration numbers but they're useless if stolen plates are used during petrol thefts. One scam simply involves draping a travel rug from the boot over the rear licence plate. In 2010 there was a 52 per cent increase in this type of fuel crime, including 20,000 in the London area, costing filling stations up to £1million. Filling up a typical 50-litre petrol tank now costs £8.65 more than 12 months ago. The AA estimates that motorists are spending almost £10million more a day on petrol than this time last year. In Suffolk petrol-station owners have begun parking redundant police cars on the forecourts to deter petrol thieves. A trial using the decoy vehicles resulted in a cut in drive-off thefts. Homeowners are also suffering because of the soaring cost of oil for heating. Storage tanks, often in isolated rural areas, are vulnerable. One major insurer reports that claims for stolen oil rocketed by 264 per cent in January. In another scam there have been cases of foreign truckers selling off a few litres of their own diesel to boost their meagre wages and hoping that their bosses won't notice higher than average fuel costs. Queues of eager motorists carrying cans have been seen at Thurrock in Essex. The Chancellor finally gave motorists a break by cutting duty in the

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Budget on Wednesday but with the trend of prices at the pumps relentlessly moving upwards it will probably do nothing to stem the rising tide of fuel crime.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/236675/Scandal-of-the-1bn-fuel-scams>

USA, MI, MUSKEGON MARCH 25 2011. RUNNING DRY? ZEPHYR'S LEGACY OF OIL IN THE SOIL NEAR THE MUSKEGON RIVER

john s. hausman



Aerial view of the Zephyr Inc. site on M-120 in 1994, before oil-storage tanks were removed.

The Zephyr/Naph-Sol Refinery operated for decades on a bluff overlooking the Muskegon River, just west of Wood Road. The refinery made gasoline, light heating oils and industrial fuels until 1968. Until the early 1990s, the facility was used as an oil terminal and storage facility for bulk chemicals. Zephyr officials installed their own groundwater filtration system in the 1980s. But that system failed to protect the Muskegon River and Muskegon Lake and released reeking, toxic fumes into the air. In 1996, the state and federal government stepped in. With Zephyr unable to pay for further cleanup, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched a soil cleanup

at the state's request. Through 1998, contractors removed 15 huge chemical storage tanks, 80,000 gallons of hazardous and flammable liquids and 43,000 tons of contaminated soil. In 1999, the DEQ launched its own long-term groundwater treatment project, awarding a contract to Superior Environmental Corp. of Grand Rapids to build and operate the system. The cleanup began the following year. Designed and, until two months ago, managed by a contract engineer, the system uses a network of recovery wells to pump out contaminated water from the ground. The water is treated on site to remove hazardous chemicals including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylene. At high enough exposure, the gasoline compounds found in Zephyr's groundwater can cause cancer and other human health problems. State officials say that risk is now slight around the Zephyr site. The greater danger, they say, is environmental contamination of the Muskegon Lake watershed, which flows into Lake Michigan. After the water is pumped out of the ground and treated, it's reinjected back in. Reinjection speeds cleanup by "washing" the soil and flushing dirty groundwater and crude oil out of the ground faster. Over the years, more recovery wells were installed as tests found contaminants spreading farther than originally believed. To head off intrusion into Bear Creek, wells were added north of Holton Road, across from the 85-acre Zephyr site. The number of recovery wells grew to 65. In a Feb. 2 memo to the state, the contract engineer said the system has reduced the Zephyr site's overall contamination by at least 50 percent since 2005 while recovering some 11,000 gallons of crude oil. But by then, a review of the system's effectiveness, combined with worsening state finances, had already led to a decision to make big changes.

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2011/03/running_dry_zephyrs_legacy_of.html

USA, N.M, ALBUQUERQUE, MARCH 25 2011. KIRTLAND JET FUEL SPILL SEEPS INTO NEIGHBORHOOD >> DRINKING WATER NOT CONTAMINATED YET, EXPERTS SAY

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/environment/no-alarm-in-fuel-leak-danger-yet-dr>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2032424.shtml?cat=525>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.koat.com/news/27306599/detail.html>

The Bernalillo County Water Authority and some southeast Albuquerque residents were told Wednesday night that a decades-old jet fuel leak has spread into a nearby neighborhood. The leak started on Kirtland Air Force Base, which is well south of the neighborhood that one hydro-geologist said is contaminated. According to one hydrologist the water table below the neighborhood tested positive for dangerous chemicals. An underground well near Mary Elizabeth Ulibarri Pritchett's house tested positive for jet fuel chemicals. "It's extremely scary," Pritchett said. "If it's that far coming here, what does that mean for the ground soil?" Pritchett's house, located at the corner of Florida Street and Anderson Avenue, is well beyond the point where experts previously thought jet fuel contamination had spread. The massive jet fuel leak started more than a decade ago at Kirtland Air Force Base, and Kirtland leaders said there are probably one to two million gallons of jet fuel underground. "Well it's worrisome because the center well is meant to measure the furthest extent of the contamination. So now we really don't know how far it has gone," Bernalillo County Commission Chairwoman Maggie Hart Stebbins said. Stebbins said residents should not panic. "This shouldn't be alarming. It has not yet gotten into the water supply," Stebbins said. Hydro-geologist David Jordan agrees. "It's in terms of decades away from affecting any of the water authority working wells," Jordan said. But

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Pritchett said that news isn't stopping her from worrying about the effect this has on her home's value. "What does fuel do to concrete? To Foundations? To Pipelines? To Heaters? I think you have to think about everything," she said. The well that tested positive in the southeast Albuquerque neighborhood is a monitoring well, not water well. Experts said the closest water well is thousands of feet away and it would take years before any chemicals could get into the drinking supply. The water authority is in the process of installing 78 monitoring wells in the area while they continue to combat the fuel from spreading. The wells should be completed in May.

Related Links

- [Newest study finds fuel spill's perimeter expanding](#)
- [Officials say test well shows jet fuel contamination has traveled farther than once believed](#)
- [Study: Fuel spill's perimeter expands](#)

<http://www.koat.com/news/27306599/detail.html>

NIGERIA, PORT HARCOURT, MARCH 25 2011. AERIAL IMAGES SHOW ILLEGAL OIL REFINERIES IN NIGERIA'S DELTA REGION



A view of an illegal oil refinery is seen in Ogoniland outside Port Harcourt in Nigeria's Delta region March 24, 2011. Crude oil thieves -- known locally as "bunkerers" -- have been a fact of life for years in Africa's biggest oil and gas industry, puncturing pipelines and costing Nigeria and foreign oil firms millions of dollars in lost revenues each year.

[Here's an article that provides some context for the existence of "bush refineries."](#)

More Pictures at:

http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/03/24/6337446-aerial-images-show-illegal-oil-refineries-in-nigerias-delta-region

http://photoblog.msnbc.msn.com/_news/2011/03/24/6337446-aerial-images-show-illegal-oil-refineries-in-nigerias-delta-region

TRISTAN DA CUNHA ISLAND CHAIN, NIGHTINGALE ISLAND, MARCH 25 2011. OIL SPILL THREATENS ENDANGERED PENGUINS AND SEA LIFE IN REMOTE BRITISH, SOUTH ATLANTIC TERRITORY

Watch the Video:

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/03/24/a-race-against-time-to-save-oiled-penguins/?partner=rss&emc=rss>



Northern rockhopper penguins coated in oil. Conservation workers say they have discovered at least 250 penguins covered in oil.

Thousands of endangered penguins have been coated with oil after a cargo ship ran aground and broke up on a remote British South Atlantic territory, officials and conservationists said Tuesday. The shipwreck also threatens the lobster fishery that provides a livelihood to one of the world's most isolated communities. The Malta-registered MS Olivia was grounded on Nightingale Island in the Tristan da Cunha chain last week. The ship had been travelling from Brazil to Singapore and contained 1,500 metric tons (1,650 tons) of crude oil and a cargo of 60,000 metric tons (66,000 tons) of soya beans. The ship's 22 crew members were rescued before it broke in two. Tristan da Cunha's conservation officer, Trevor Glass, said oil was encircling Nightingale Island and called the situation "a disaster." The territory's British administrator, Sean Burns, said more than half of about 500 birds gathered by rescue workers had been coated in oil. An environmentalist at the scene estimated that 20,000 penguins might be affected. Tristan da Cunha is home to some 200,000 penguins, including almost half the world's total of northern

rockhopper penguins. The bird is classed as endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Located midway between Africa and South America — more than 2,800 kilometres (1,700 miles) from the nearest land — Tristan da Cunha is home to about 275 people who rely on rock lobster fishing for their livelihood. Burns said he had temporarily closed the area around Nightingale and nearby Inaccessible Island to fishing. "We are concerned about the

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potential impact (the spill) may have on the spawning grounds," Burns said. "The lobster fishery is what Tristan depends on. The revenue keeps this island afloat." Richard Cuthbert, a research biologist with Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said the wreck was "potentially disastrous for wildlife and the fishery-based economy of these remote islands." He said that alongside the threat to penguins and sea life, there was a risk rats from the ship could come ashore and eat the chicks and eggs of native seabirds. "Nightingale is one of two large islands in the Tristan da Cunha group that are rodent-free," Cuthbert said. "If rats gain a foothold, their impact would be devastating. The islands' remoteness was complicating clean-up efforts. Tristan da Cunha is usually accessible only by boats that sail nine times a year from Cape Town. Nightingale Island has no fresh water, so the penguins will have to be transported to the main island for cleaning. A salvage tug from South Africa carrying a seabird specialist arrived in Tristan da Cunha on Monday and was assessing the environmental damage. Officials said they hoped to bring another vessel carrying a penguin-cleaning team from Cape Town to the islands. The British government said it was very concerned about the situation, but said it was too early to know what the economic and environmental damage to the islands would be.

Related Stories

- [Photos: penguins devastated by oil spill](#)
- [Shipwreck threatens island penguins](#)
- [Sanccob awaits lift to island](#)
- [Race to save oil slicked penguins on remote British island](#)

Related Links

- [The Tristan da Cunha Website.](#)
- [Tristan da Cunha essential info](#)



In this image made available by Britain's Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on Tuesday March 22, 2011 shows the Malta-registered MS Olivia grounded on Nightingale Island in the Tristan da Cunha chain. Thousands of endangered penguins have been coated with oil after the cargo ship ran aground and broke up on a remote British South Atlantic territory, officials and conservationists said Tuesday. The shipwreck also threatens the lobster fishery that provides a livelihood to one of the world's most isolated communities. The Malta-registered MS Olivia was grounded on Nightingale Island in the Tristan da Cunha chain last week. The ship had been traveling from Brazil to Singapore and contained 1,500 tonnes (1,650 tons) of crude oil.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5ixmP6IsoasUCymn7zNPU9F0gpc7w?docId=6326883>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, MARCH 25 2011. FIRE NEAR CALTEX KURNELL REFINERY 'UNDER CONTROL' >> 1,000 LITRES OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE CAUGHT FIRE

 Watch the Video http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/chemical-fire-at-sydney-plant-contained-20110325-1c8xi.html?from=smh_sb



Plumes of smoke rise from a Kurnell water treatment plant.

A factory fire has set thousands of litres of hydrogen peroxide alight near a south Sydney oil refinery. The blaze on Cook St, Kurnell, prompted the evacuation of residents within 800 metres with fears the fire could spread. Firefighters had the blaze under control in about three hours. But 12 fire trucks remained on site and Elouera St was still closed. "It's under control at this time," a Fire and Rescue NSW spokesman said. He could not estimate how long it would take to extinguish the blaze. "Because of the quantity of the chemical and the nature of the chemical, it's all got to be handled very carefully," he said. Workers at the nearby Caltex Oil Refinery were aware they may need to evacuate but business was continuing as normal, a company spokesman said. Residents in nearby Torres Street were also

aware of the potential damage but at least one appeared unconcerned about the fire. "I can see a little bit of smoke. It might even be just a cloud," one woman living a few hundred metres from the fire said.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/fire-near-kurnell-refinery-under-control/story-e6frf7jx-1226027928069>

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SAUDI ARABIA, JEDDAH, MARCH 25 2011. MORE HELD IN FUEL SMUGGLING RACKET

ibrahim alawi & salman aal matar

Five more suspects were arrested in connection with smuggling gasoline out of Jeddah's seaport. Members of the gang were first arrested Tuesday in the city. So far 11 persons are suspected to be linked to the gang, said Misfer Al-Juaid, spokesman for the police. He said those arrested provided confessions during interrogations, and that the investigation will be expanded within the next few days. The suspects had told police earlier that they chose Al-Khumra District because it was a quiet area. The case is with the Annuzlatain Police Station where the suspects are being interrogated. The suspects arrested Tuesday were of Indian and Yemeni nationalities. The suspects said that a Yemeni man was the leader and the one who brought the fuel tanker and supervised the unloading. They said he paid them monthly salaries. Their roles were to guard the site, receive the tankers, unload the fuel, load the gasoline into plastic containers, and drive trucks carrying the containers to the seaport. The police had raided the large walled site south of the city Tuesday where the stolen fuel was found in a large container. The gang transported the fuel from Rabigh and unloaded their tankers at the site instead of gas stations. The 5,000 sq. meter site was under surveillance for several days. Inside the area the police found vehicles and tankers used to transport barrels of fuel to the seaport, meant for a neighboring Gulf country. Meanwhile, a source at Jeddah Islamic Port's Customs said the department received instructions to ban the export of petroleum in Flaxi tank containers. The instructions come after a number of shipping companies requested the authorities to approve that they export chemicals and petroleum in these containers. The source said the request was studied by the Customs specialists and was denied because the containers are easily used for smuggling. It is also hard to determine the quantity of substances inside the tanks and to draw samples. The tanks are also known to be unsafe because they are prone to leaks.

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentID=2011032596672>

LEBANON, BEIRUT, MARCH 25 2011. CLEANUP AT KEROSENE SPILL ONGOING



Click-2-Listen http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=126427#axzz1HaHcDyAg

A major cleanup effort from the Civil Defense Force Thursday recovered more than 20,000 liters of kerosene following warnings by environmental officials that a spill offshore from a major oil depot could become a major environmental disaster. The spill, which occurred Wednesday as a fuel tanker was sending kerosene along an underwater pipeline to oil depots in Dora, north of Beirut, sent several thousand liters of oil into the eastern Mediterranean. A source familiar with the cleanup told The Daily Star that major efforts continued Thursday to remove the fuel slick, which stretched along the coast as far as Kesrouan. "Day-long emergency operations by the units dispatched into the area by the Civil Defense helped remove the oil leak from the surface of the sea," the source said. The spill broke out when the ship, which was carrying 21,000 tons of kerosene, was unloading fuel down secondary pipelines distributing oil between companies. Caretaker Environment Minister Mohammad Rahhal downplayed Wednesday the consequences of the spill and reiterated the Lebanese Army's and Civil Defense's readiness to contain the environmental problem. But environmental expert Mazen Abboud lashed out at government officials and accused the state of being directly responsible for the oil spill. "Such a spill is likely to be repeated again in the absence of a centralized government," he said.

http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=126427#axzz1HaHcDyAg

USA, PA, WILKES-BARRE, MARCH 25 2011. HUNDREDS OF GASOLINE SPILL CASES SETTLED, LAWYERS SAY

sheena delazio

A Philadelphia law firm representing hundreds of plaintiffs in a 10-year-old gasoline spill lawsuit resolved all of their outstanding cases, according to the law firm's public relations firm. The Locks Law Firm represented more than 200 plaintiffs in the case in which Hazleton-area residents claimed they were sickened or that their properties were damaged by a spill that leaked hundreds of gallons of gasoline into the soil surrounding the Tranguch Tire and Service Center. "Our clients in the Laurel Gardens section of Hazleton and Hazle Township deserve praise," the law firm said in a press release issued Thursday. "Their lives were upended by gasoline contamination that affected their homes and their lives. Some died. All suffered nuisance and inconvenience to a significant degree." The firm did not disclose the terms of the resolutions, but said it was honored to represent "good people who did nothing wrong." "We stand ready to help them or others for all types of litigation," the firm said. There are a few plaintiffs still litigating their cases, who were not represented by the Locks Law Firm. On Monday, attorneys for defendant ExxonMobil and plaintiff Robert J. Stevens were in Luzerne County Court to begin jury selection in the case. After a day of discussions, Stevens' case was marked settled. The original suits date back to 2001, when the plaintiffs alleged that fuel leaks at the former Tranguch Tire and Service Station on Church Street entered the ground,

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causing residents to fall ill with diseases including cancer. The case, commonly called the Laurel Gardens gas spill, involves the Tranguch business, which closed in 1995 after filing for bankruptcy. The building that still remains on the site is in the process of being torn down. In September, a Luzerne County jury ruled that four plaintiffs in the case would not receive any money and that Exxon Mobil and Tranguch were partially responsible for the spill. Plaintiffs in that case were Carol and Dennis Dawley, now of North Carolina, and Clement and Bernadine Marusak, of Hazleton.

<http://www.timesleader.com/news/-Hundreds-of-gasoline-spill-cases-settled-lawyers-say.html>

USA, N.Y, ROCHESTER, MARCH 25 2011. WOMAN HOSPITALIZED AFTER GASOLINE TANKER CRASH IN BERGEN

nikki rudd

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S2032853.shtml?cat=565>



A miraculous rescue. A woman is pulled from her car crushed underneath a tanker truck carrying diesel fuel. That woman is still at Strong Hospital. Four vehicles were involved in a crash around 8 a.m. on Route 33 near West Bergen Road. One of those vehicles was a 2005 Subaru. That car was crushed under the tanker truck and Rosalie Pacino of Batavia was inside. Pacino's vehicle was trapped and pinned by the tractor trailer as it slid across the road. State Police say it started with blue Ford Focus driven by Robin Lewis of Bergen. Police say Lewis tried to turn left onto Route 33 from West Bergen Road and hit the tanker. That Ford Focus then spun out and hit a minivan. "We came out of this with the least amount of damage and injuries of anybody. So we're the lucky ones." Jeff Waterman rushed to the scene; his two teenage kids were in that minivan on their way to school. Luckily there

were not hurt at all. Assistant Bergen Fire Chief James Bridge was one of the first responders on scene and realized Pacino was pinned under the tanker but alive and conscious. "We just explained what's going on, try to keep them as calm as possible but explain the process and what to expect as we go through the extrication process." Waterman said, "It took them a very long time to get her out. They had to get the big wrecker and rock the trailer up off of her." Once she was out, EMTs put Pacino on a stretcher and into a Mercy Flight helicopter headed straight to Strong Hospital. For Jeff Waterman it all hit too close to home. "I'm thinking that my wife normally is right behind my kids and that could have been her because they usually follow each other up through 33 so that's a little scary." Some diesel fuel did spill on the side of the road and Genesee County Emergency Services have contained it. The Genesee County Sheriff's Office and State Police are investigating.

<http://www.whec.com/news/stories/S2032853.shtml?cat=565>

NORWAY, OSLO, MARCH 2 2011. PSA SEEKS EXPLANATION FROM STATOIL AFTER GULLFAKS B GAS LEAK

The investigation by the Petroleum Safety Authority Norway (PSA) into the gas leak on Norway's Gullfaks B platform on 4 December 2010 has identified serious deficiencies related to planning, approval and execution. Based on this event and earlier incidents on Statoil-operated installations, the PSA has asked Øystein Michelsen, the company's executive vice president for development and production Norway, to assess which measures he considers necessary in light of the identified deficiencies. The gas escape on Gullfaks B occurred in connection with leak testing after maintenance work on a production well. The gas derived from a volume trapped between the downhole safety valve and the Xmas tree. It proved impossible to operate the emergency shutdown valves on the well. The leak lasted about an hour, with an initial rate of 1.3 kilograms of gas per second. Some 800 kilograms of gas were released. No people were injured in the incident, but the leak created a serious position on the installation. Personnel present in the area could have been subject to serious or fatal injury if the gas had ignited. Under slightly different circumstances, a leak to the air could have occurred at a significantly higher rate. Generally speaking, both size and ignition potential of a gas cloud rise with an increasing leak rate. A significantly higher leak rate than the one which actually occurred could very probably have caused the build-up of a large explosive gas cloud in the area and thereby represented an explosion risk with a substantial potential for becoming a major accident.

Serious Deficiencies

The PSA's investigation team carried out investigations and conversations on Gullfaks B, followed by interviews with personnel in the land organisation and a review of documents. The investigation concludes that serious deficiencies have been revealed in Statoil's planning, approval and implementation of activities related to the maintenance of choke valves on Gullfaks B. That includes deficiencies in management work on supervising that this activity was pursued in an acceptable manner.

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Limited Effect

The PSA sees that a number of the deficiencies identified by its investigation have features in common with shortcomings found when following up earlier incidents, including:

- the gas leak on Snorre A in November 2004 ([link](#))
- the hydrocarbon escape in a Statfjord A shaft in May 2008 ([link](#))
- the loss of well control on Gullfaks C in May 2010 ([link](#))
- a number of incidents related to mechanical handling in the drilling area ([link](#)).

The PSA is concerned that improvement processes pursued after these and other incidents in Statoil appear to be failing to have an effect. It has accordingly asked Mr Michelsen to submit a written explanation by 29 April 2011 covering the following conditions, among others.

1. What view does the company take of the deficiencies identified by the PSA's investigation in the light of current and completed improvement activities in the company?
2. What adjustments to current improvement activities does the company consider necessary?
3. What view does the company take of today's planning and execution of safety-critical work operations on Gullfaks?
4. To what extent does the company consider that the underlying causes of the incident have been identified and assessed when implementing measures?
5. Which specific follow-up action might the company be planning to take in order to ensure that improvement measures are effective on the individual installations?

On the basis of the response it receives from Mr Michelsen, the PSA will decide what action might be needed.

http://www.oilvoice.com/n/PSA_Seeks_Explanation_From_Statoil_After_Gullfaks_B_Gas_Leak/dce055435.aspx

UK, LONDON, MARCH 25, 2011. JOHNSON CONTROLS GLOBAL WORKPLACE SOLUTIONS SECURES FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR 12,000 SHELL RETAIL PETROL STATIONS



Johnson Controls will manage Shell sites serving 2.8 million customers per day. Johnson Controls Global Work Place Solutions, a leading provider of commercial real estate and energy management for many of the world's largest companies, today announced that it has signed an agreement with Royal Dutch Shell plc to manage and maintain 12,000 Shell retail petrol stations in 27 countries. The Shell petrol stations are staffed by 150,000 people and serve approximately 2.8 million customers every day – more than one billion annually. The agreement builds on an

existing five-year relationship between the two companies and is one of the largest single deals in the fuel retail sector. Emma Fitzgerald, Vice President, Global Retail Network for Shell, said, "The second generation of this relationship represents an important step in ensuring a joint outcome-based approach targeting significant and sustained improvements in health and safety, security and environment (HSSE), operational excellence, and innovation to unlock future value for both businesses." The contract covers 27 countries in the Europe, Middle East & Africa region, the Asia-Pacific & the Americas. "The global portfolio approach to managing facilities and resources is a growing trend by companies as a strategy that delivers meaningful financial and operational benefits," said Guy Holden, Vice President and General Manager of Johnson Controls Global WorkPlace Solutions. "This agreement demonstrates the competitive advantage that we continue to deliver to Shell through our focus on continuous improvement. It also underscores the expertise and best practice that we have developed in the Oil and Gas market, particularly those in HSSE." Julie Kimble, Johnson Controls' Global Account Leader for the Shell retail business, said, "A strong partnership has been forged between Shell and Johnson Controls over the past five years. We are very much looking forward to working together to ensure the best possible facilities management solution is delivered throughout the Shell retail network."

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/johnson-controls-global-workplace-solutions-secures-facilities-management-agreement-for-12000-shell-retail-petrol-stations-118498599.html>

POLAND WARSAW, MARCH 25 2011. 2 POLISH SIBLINGS KILLED BY EXPLOSIVE DEVICE LIKELY DATING TO WORLD WAR II

Two Polish children have died after a bomb believed to from World War II exploded in a field where they were playing. Police said the 10-year-old boy died immediately after the explosion on Tuesday and his 9-year-old sister died of her injuries in the hospital on Thursday. The children were from the village of Konskowola in eastern Poland. Experts are trying to determine the age of the explosive device. Poland saw many battles between the Soviet and Nazi German armies during World War II.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5j4tg7w0eeld0FHCmfdSVskJrYwuQ?docId=6351790>

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USA, KY, LOUISVILLE, MARCH 25 2011. BLAST AT KY. CHEMICAL PLANT KILLS TWO >> TWO OTHER EMPLOYEES TREATED AND RELEASED; CAUSE UNDER INVESTIGATION

Watch the Video:

- <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20110324/NEWS01/303240044/-1/SPORTS0506/Plant-s-neighbors-vent-ire-over-lack-warning?odyssey=nav|head>
- <http://www.whas11.com/news/local/Three-emergencies-in-past-month-puts-scrutiny-on-MetroSafe-118608679.html>

 Watch the Video <http://www.whas11.com/news/local/Fire-now-officially-out-at-Carbide-Industries-118624884.html>

 Watch the Video <http://www.wlky.com/news/27311528/detail.html>

 Watch the Video <http://www.wave3.com/story/14313016/three-days-later-fire-still-burning-inside-carbide-industries>

 Photo's <http://www.wlky.com/slideshow/news/27268544/detail.html>

 Photo's <http://www.whas11.com/news/local/Fire-now-officially-out-at-Carbide-Industries-118624884.html?gallery=y&c=y>



A Louisville firefighter works to put out a fire after an explosion at the Carbide Industries plant in Louisville, Ky., on Monday.

Two explosions rocked a chemical plant and threw debris hundreds of yards from a burning building, killing two workers and injuring two others, officials said Tuesday. Firefighters planned to let the fire burn itself, and officials said the air quality was not a threat to nearby residents. The initial explosion occurred Monday night at the Carbide Industries plant and was followed by another blast a few hours later, though no one was injured in the later explosion, said Doug Hamilton, the city's emergency management director. Two other plant employees were treated and released from a hospital. The workers who died were long-time employees who worked in the furnace department where the explosion occurred, said plant general

manager John Gant. Jorge Medina, 56, of Louisville, died at University Hospital early Tuesday morning with third-degree burns over 90 percent of his body. An autopsy is planned for Steven Nicholas, 59, of Charlestown, Ind., who died Monday. About 130 plant employees are out of work now, and Gant said he does not know when they will return. Located along the Ohio River in West Louisville, the plant is part of a petrochemical complex dubbed Rubbertown. It makes calcium carbide products, which are used in metal fabrication and construction. The initial explosion occurred around 5:40 p.m. Monday and involved calcium-carbide — a flammable compound that combined with water produces unstable acetylene gas, Hamilton said. The second explosion happened when one of three transformers that contained mineral oil above the original blast caught fire, officials said. A nearby ambient air monitoring system detected "elevated particle levels" Monday night, which amounted to soot, but the levels returned to normal by Tuesday morning, said Matt Stull, spokesman for the Air Pollution Control District. "It's going to be a concern to anyone who has a breathing problem," Stull said. There was confusion between officials about who was responsible for notifying the public. Gant said Carbide Industries failed to notify authorities within 30 minutes of the explosion. Hamilton arrived at the scene and deemed the air quality was safe, but Louisville police asked the National Weather Service to send an alert advising residents to stay indoors for a few hours. Chief Robert White said the Louisville police department was trying to protect the public. "Let's not be too critical because people were overly cautious," White said. Hamilton said the city will take immediate charge of public notification.

Related Links

- [Fire now officially out at Carbide Industries](#)
- [MetroSafe report: Storm Timeline 2-28-11](#)
- [EMA METROSARE REVIEW OF FEBRUARY 28, 2011 SEVERE WEATHER INCIDENT](#)
- [Council meeting addresses tornado sirens failing to sound](#)
- [MetroSafe: System failed, no sirens despite Tornado Warning](#)
- [Raw Interview: Chemical engineering professor on calcium carbide](#)
- [What to do if you see a spill, smell a suspicious odor in Rubbertown area](#)
- [Reason still unknown for Carbide Industries plant explosion](#)
- [Rubbertown plant worker describes chaos, rescue after explosion](#)
- [Threat of second explosion at Rubbertown plant due to weather appears to be minimal](#)

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- [EPA, MetroSafe checking air after Rubbertown explosion](#)
- [A look at Rubbertown's smokey history](#)
- [Families, friends of Rubbertown explosion victims talk to WHAS11](#)
- [Mayor calls for investigation after miscommunication following Rubbertown explosion](#)
- [Second worker dies after Rubbertown plant explosion](#)
- [2 dead, 2 injured after Rubbertown explosion; cause](#)

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42211663/ns/us_news-life/

USA, OH, WARREN, MARCH 25 2011. MAN INJURED AFTER LIGHTING M-80 IN HIS KITCHEN

A 47-year-old Warren man was undergoing surgery Wednesday morning in St. Elizabeth Health Center for injuries to his hand from an explosion inside his home. Ron Black Jr. of Clermont Avenue Northeast was injured at 3:05 a.m. Wednesday when an M-80 exploded in his kitchen because the fuse "lit too quick," he told police. Authorities initially thought Black was going to lose most of one hand and that the explosive was home made, but authorities now believe he won't lose his hand and that the explosive was not home made, said Warren Fire Chief Ken Nussle. Because of the uncertainty of the situation, the Warren police and fire departments received assistance from the U.S. Department of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the State Fire Marshal's Office. Nussle said it's still not clear why Black was igniting the M-80 in his kitchen at 3:05 a.m. or why he had done it near a tub of water, a bag of sand-like material and a bottle of liquid drain de-clogger. The explosion injured Black's hand and caused a puncture wound to his abdomen. Black went to his bedroom after the explosion. He contacted his sister, who lives next door, at about 4:45 a.m., and she called 911. Police found Black in the bathroom with his injured hand in the bathtub. In the kitchen, police found blood, broken drinking glasses, cardboard flakes, water, a shattered kitchen window, and small holes in the kitchen wall and ceiling.

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2011/mar/23/man-injured-after-lighting-m-80-in-his-k/?nw>

CHINA, JILIN PROVINCE, BAISHAN CITY, MARCH 25 2011. AT LEAST 11 DEAD AFTER GAS EXPLOSION AT NE CHINA COAL MINE



A rescuer enters the Tonggou coal mine in Baishan City, northeast China's Jilin Province, March 24, 2011. An explosion occurred at the coal mine around 8:40 a.m. Thursday, causing 11 people dead, six injured and two missing. The investigation of the reason of the explosion is underway.

At least 11 miners were killed on early Thursday morning when a gas explosion ripped through a coal mine in northeast China, officials said on Friday. Two others remain missing. The country's State Administration of Work Safety said the explosion happened at around 8.40 a.m. local time on Thursday at the Tonggou coal mine in Baishan, a city in Jilin Province. "A gas explosion in the coal mine caused 11 fatalities and two are missing," the agency said in a statement. Few details about the incident were released, but the state-run Xinhua news agency said

the blast also injured six people. It said a total of 39 miners were underground when the accident happened and most of them managed to escape. A rescue operation to locate the two missing miners continued on Friday morning, although officials do not expect to find survivors. Safety conditions at mines in China have significantly improved in recent years, but they remain among the world's most dangerous with around 2,600 fatalities in 2009 alone. One of the worst mining accidents in China in recent years happened in November 2009 when 104 workers were killed after several explosions at a coal mine in Heilongjiang province.

<http://wireupdate.com/wires/16145/at-least-11-dead-after-gas-explosion-at-ne-china-coal-mine/>

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