



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 694 Newsy Stuff

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March 15 2011



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USA, WI, RIB MOUNTAIN, MARCH 11 2011. ROSHOLT WOMAN, 38, DRIVER IN HIGHWAY 51 TANKER CRASH KILLED



A Rosholt woman is dead after a car became lodged underneath a tanker truck this morning on Highway 51, according to the Marathon County Sheriff's Department. The crash occurred about 7:50 a.m. in the northbound lanes of Highway 51, just south of the Robin Lane overpass in the town of Rib Mountain. The 38-year-old woman driving a Chevy Malibu was in the center lane when she lost control of her car and the car spun underneath the rear axle of a tanker truck carrying liquid propane in the left lane, Sheriff's Lt. Randy Albert said. Two women were extricated from the vehicle by personnel from the Rib Mountain Fire Department and taken by ambulance to Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Albert said. One woman was pronounced dead and Albert said he did not know the second woman's condition. She is a 32-year-old Rosholt woman. The driver of the tanker truck was not injured and none of

the propane leaked from the tanker, Albert said. The names of the people involved in the crash won't likely be released for 24 hours until family members can be notified, Albert said. The wreckage from the crash has been removed from the scene and all lanes are open to traffic. The Sheriff's Department and the Wisconsin State Patrol investigated the crash. The Daily Herald will update this story as more information becomes available.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20110201/WDH0101/110201030/One-dead-Hwy-51-tanker-crash?odyssey=nav/head>

USA, CA, SAN FERNANDO, MARCH 12 2011. COMPANIES TO PAY \$4M FOR WATER CLEANUP >> SETTLEMENT: MONEY WILL BE USED TO HELP VALLEY SITES EXPAND ABILITY TO CLEAN UP CONTAMINANTS.

gregory j. wilcox

Six aerospace companies have agreed to pay nearly \$4 million to investigate chemical contamination and expand treatment capacity at two groundwater sites in the San Fernando Valley, federal regulators said Wednesday. The sites in North Hollywood and Glendale are part of an aquifer that supplies drinking water to more than 800,000 local residents. Concentrations of chemicals used as industrial solvents were found in the water supply in 1980, and the area was eventually declared a Superfund cleanup site. "These settlements highlight our priority at EPA to clean up vital drinking water sources," said a statement by Jane Diamond, director of the Superfund Division in EPA's Pacific Southwest regional office. "In addition to cleaning up groundwater for use as drinking water, we are making sure those responsible for the contamination pay their fair share of the cleanup costs, leveraging the taxpayers' dollars to conduct further cleanups." Honeywell International and Lockheed Martin agreed to pay a total of \$2.2 million to help expand the capacity of equipment that is removing trichloroethylene from water in the four-square-mile North Hollywood site, said EPA spokesman Rusty Harris-Bishop. The system will capture and treat the area's most highly contaminated water and prevent further contamination, the agency said. Wells in the area are operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. "The EPA's cleanup efforts are critical to contain any further spreading of the contaminants at the North Hollywood Superfund sites after decades of industrial pollution of this precious local water source," said Dr. Pankaj Parekh, assistant to the general manager of the DWP's water operation. "We are particularly pleased by the EPA's decision to require cleanup to drinking-level standards." Under the jurisdiction of federal and state regulators, Honeywell has been decontaminating the groundwater and soil at the site formerly operated by defense contractor Bendix Electrodynamics. "Honeywell is one of a number of responsible parties linked to a larger Superfund site. This agreement is the next step in a comprehensive effort to expand the existing groundwater treatment system," said a statement by Honeywell spokeswoman Victoria Streitfeld. The EPA also reached a \$1 million settlement with Goodrich Corp., ITT Corp., Lockheed Martin Corp. and PRC DeSoto that will fund an investigation of chromium contamination in groundwater in Glendale. The companies will pay the agency an additional \$750,000 for their share of EPA's past costs, the agency said

http://www.dailynews.com/ci_17576465?source=most_viewed

USA, TX, GALVESTON, MARCH 12 2011. REFINERY WORKERS SEEK \$500M FROM BP OVER 2009 TEXAS CITY BENZENE LEAK

john suayan

Galveston attorney Tony Buzbee has filed a \$500 million lawsuit against BP Products North America Inc. and Pasadena Tank Corp. on behalf of eight contractors who claim their health has been affected as a result of a benzene leak. According to the original petition filed March 4 in Galveston County District Court, the complainants "were injured and had his or her long-term health put in jeopardy after being exposed to extremely high levels of benzene" while working at BP's Texas City refinery

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on Aug. 19, 2009. Each of the contractors claim a vapor and a strong odor completely enveloped their work area and pinpointed the source to a broken pipe. "Upon seeing the source of the leak, the plaintiffs quickly evacuated the area," the suit says. Court papers show the workers experienced various symptoms and sought medical treatment. Physicians informed them that they were exposed to benzene. "Despite the fact plaintiffs reported the actual volume of benzene that was spilled, BP, as has been its custom, minimized the leak and release, and its effects in both its internal documentation, as well as the documentation with the authorities," the original petition says. BP is accused of failing to properly inspect, maintain and repair its piping and vessels and neglected to supervise those from Pasadena Tank, with whom it contracted to perform the work. A jury trial is requested. The case has been assigned to Galveston County 405th District Court Judge Wayne Mallia. Case No. 11-cv-0393

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/233913-refinery-workers-seek-500m-from-bp-over-2009-texas-city-benzene-leak>

SOUTH AFRICA, WEST CAPE, SOMERSET WEST, MARCH 12 2011. CHEMICAL DISASTER VICTIMS AWAIT COMPENSATION

fadela slamdien

Two weeks ago 52-year-old Magdalene Hess was rushed to the Hottentots Holland government hospital in Somerset West after suffering from a severe asthma attack. "I couldn't breathe. I have regular attacks, but this was the worst. I could feel death coming for me," she said as she lay recovering in the crowded ward. Hess's family members said that the attack was so severe that she turned blue and passed out. She spent three days in the Intensive Care Unit. But Hess never suffered from asthma until over 16 000 tons of sulphur stockpiled at the AECL chemical and explosives factory in Somerset West ignited on December 16, 1995. It was estimated to have emitted 14 500 tons of sulphur dioxide over a period of 21 hours. Thousands of Macassar residents were evacuated and news reports indicated that two men, both asthma sufferers, died as a result of the fumes. Over 15 years later, Hess remains one of thousands of residents living in the poor working class suburb of Macassar and adjacent Firgrove, whose health has significantly deteriorated since the fire ignited three kilometers away, spewing toxic fumes into the air. Anecdotal evidence points to an unusually high incidence of respiratory illnesses and skin and eye allergies plaguing residents ever since. Exposure to high levels of sulphur dioxide is known to be fatal and the sulphur dioxide levels in Macassar reached levels which were at times measured as over the IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health) level of 100 parts per million. And yet the affected Macassar residents are still struggling to gain compensation from AECL, although the company is alleged to have paid out millions to affected farmers in the area. It would appear AECL moved to minimize compensation claims in the days after the disaster. Chairman of the now defunct Macassar Disaster Action Committee, George Liddle, said in the days after the fire, AECL offered compensation to residents who came to their Somerset West premises. He said payouts ranged from R50 to R1000 and recipients were required to sign a waiver that relinquished their rights to submit any future claims. Most residents were unaware they were signing away their rights, he said. "People just accepted cash with no legal advice. Some of these people were illiterate and also had no legal counsel. One father accepted a few hundred rands his entire household." In 1997, the Desai National Commission of Enquiry, which was carried out at the behest of community leaders, found that AECL was "casually negligent" as it had not taken any steps to assess the fire risk and establish precautionary measures in preventing a fire of the stockpile. The Department of Trade and Industry which owned the stockpile was also found to be negligent. A media statement released by the Ministry for Environmental Affairs and Tourism in 1997, notes the commission recommended that the provision be made to pay affected Macassar and surrounding communities affected by the fire with legal assistance to recover compensation with respect to their claims for damages. Liddle said during the commission of enquiry an agreement was reached that AECL would pay out a fixed fee of R3 000 to residents for inconvenience. However, many are still waiting to receive even this amount. In July last year, frustrated over the long wait, the Macassar Community Forum approached attorney Rob Green, Founder and Chairman of Family Law Clinics of South Africa. Green has yet to establish why the claims have not been finalized and has not received any definitive answers from the claimants' lawyers. "We don't know why they haven't finalized the claims. I have yet to get answers. We do want to settle this amicably without it having to go to court," he said. Green said part of the problem may have been that the Macassar Disaster Action Committee had previously approached seven law firms, and some residents got their own lawyers, which may have caused overlaps and confusion. But the lawyers he was approaching for clarity "were not being very co-operative". Residents say that farmers in the surrounding area received immediate payouts amounting to at least R20 million. "The farmers easily got R20 million for loss of crops and animals but Walkers (AECL's lawyers) struggle to give us R3000 for the inconvenience. We're just brown people," said vice chairperson of the Macassar Community Forum, Albert Williams. General studies have indicated that exposure to sulphur dioxide can have adverse respiratory, ocular, neurological, reproductive, developmental and carcinogenic effects but the health of Macassar residents has received very little attention. The University of Cape Town (UCT)

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conducted one set of follow up medical evaluations from 2001 to 2003. Another UCT study published last year, indicated that residents who reported persistent lower and upper respiratory systems disease subsequent to the fire, experienced significant deterioration in their health following the fire. But residents say no one has gotten back to them about the long term health effects. "No one has ever gotten back to us about the health effects. We have an unusually high number of asthma and cancer cases and many people have died of it," said Macassar Community Forum chairperson Colin Davids. Despite the Desai Commission of Enquiry's request that follow up evaluations be carried out on the effects of the fire, no known recent follow up environmental studies have been conducted in the affected areas. Media liaison officer of the national Department of Environmental Affairs, Moses Rannitsheni, said that no one in the department was familiar with the case. When asked for comment, Walkers Attorneys Incorporated director John O' Leary, who acts on behalf of AECl and their insurer, said the matter could not be discussed due to legal processes. "As the issues raised are still subject to the legal process we cannot discuss them with anyone other than the claimants' legal representatives," said O' Leary. AECl said they had nothing further to add. No comment was forthcoming from the Department of Trade and Industry despite repeated requests for information.

<http://westcapenews.com/?p=2811>

USA, CT, PRESTON, MARCH 12 2011. FUEL SPILL IN PRESTON RELEASES A FLOOD OF RED INK >> CLEANUP HAS COST \$585,000 SO FAR

matthew l. brown



Michael Gero from United Industrial Services, based out of Meriden, Conn gathers diesel fuel from a brook behind the Southeastern Area Transit Authority facility on Route 12 in Preston.

The cleanup of a massive diesel fuel spill at the Southeast Area Transit District last summer continues, but the black mark the incident has left on the district's budget is only getting darker. The strain the spill has put on the district's budget is being felt keenly by drivers. The district laid off five drivers Monday and will not fill one vacant position as a way to cope with a nearly \$740,000 budget deficit. Drivers angry about the layoffs say they tried repeatedly to tell district administrators about the strong smell of diesel at district headquarters off Route 12 in Preston, but were rebuffed. Cleanup has cost the district \$585,405 so far, and certainly will go higher. DEP spokesman Dwayne Gardner said about 12,000 gallons of the 20,000 to 30,000 gallons of diesel that spilled onto the ground and into groundwater has been cleaned up. DEP said the spill has not affected drinking water in the area. The district's facility is owned by the state. And Bill Drena, the district's finance manager, said neither the district's insurance, nor the state, which contributes about \$3 million to the district each fiscal year, will pay for the cleanup. Drena said the district has taken out a line of credit at People's Bank to pay for the spill. Drena said the district would have had to lay off drivers even if the oil spill had never happened. As it is, the district will see a shortfall of about \$200,000 this fiscal year after the layoffs. Still, the situation has drivers fuming. Patricia Johnson, one of the drivers laid off Monday, said when drivers complained about the strong smell of diesel at the fueling facility, "they told us it was nothing. It was just the buses. Bowman told The Bulletin last August that workers at the facility were unaware of the spill. She did not return calls seeking comment for this story. But the smell got so bad that passersby began to complain. The spill was discovered by the town's road superintendent who went to SEAT to investigate citizen complaints. Gardner said there's still oil in the groundwater at the site and "a substantial amount in the ground." He said the DEP doesn't have any fines pending against the district. The department "is more concerned about them doing the right thing to remove the product." Because the spill did affect groundwater, DEP has notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Gardner said.

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/news/x13267717/Fuel-spill-in-Preston-releases-a-flood-of-red-ink#axzz1GKNSMzvT>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, MARCH 12 2011. MOTORIST WHO DROVE HIS 4WD INTO THE LEGS OF A TANKER DRIVER IN AN EPISODE OF ROAD RAGE JAILED FOR 28 MONTHS

A Brisbane motorist has been jailed for 28-months after reversing his 4WD into a fuel tanker driver in an act of roadhouse rage more than three years ago. The Brisbane District Court was told Benjamin Francis Cochrane drove into the legs of Matthew Goodman and later "clipped the hand" of the tanker driver while driving dangerously at a suburban service station on November 28, 2007. The court was told Cochrane, then aged 22, flew into a rage when Mr Goodman set up markers around bowlers as he pumped fuel into storage tanks at the Coles Express service station at Daisy Hill, on Brisbane's southern outskirts. Judge Nick Samios was told Cochrane committed the offence less than 18-months after being released from prison

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for two separate attacks on four men - including assaulting two work colleagues after being told his employment had been terminated on March 4, 2005. Judge Samios said Cochrane's second assault - committed the day after workplace incident - involved stabbing two other men, one a friend, in the toilets of a Brisbane hotel. Cochrane, now aged 26, today also received a two-year jail term for king-hitting a pedestrian outside Brisbane's Treasury Casino in an unprovoked attack on August 14 last year. Judge Samios, in sentencing Cochrane who this week pleaded guilty to a count of assault causing bodily harm, said: "You for no apparent reason struck (this man) a blow to the face." "It is a matter of pure luck you didn't kill him. It was a vicious assault." Senior prosecutor Philip McCarthy said it was assaults like the one Cochrane inflicted outside the casino that made the public rightly believe "the inner-city is not safe." "The community is sick of it. The courts are sick of it," Mr McCarthy said. Cochrane's latest courtroom saga began on Monday when he pleaded not guilty to a charge of dangerous driving causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Goodman, but guilty to the less charge of dangerous driving in November, 2007. After a two-day trial, a Brisbane District Court jury found Cochrane not guilty of the more serious offence. The jury had been told Cochrane had gone to the Daisy Hill service station for petrol, but could not get near a bowser because Mr Goodman had placed "witches hats", as required by law, around them as he filled up the station's underground tanks. "You (Cochrane), in a selfish and ignorant way, reversed up to the witches hats ... removed one and drove at (Mr Goodman) the tanker driver ... (hitting) his leg," Judge Samios said. He said Cochrane then drove off, clipping Mr Goodman's hand with his car and yelled: "You fat bastard, I should have run you over." Judge Samios, in jailing Cochrane, also activated 16-months of an as-yet-unserved suspended portion of a two-year jail term imposed in 2006. He ordered Cochrane be released on parole on December 11 this year

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/motorist-who-drove-his-4wd-into-the-legs-of-a-tanker-driver-in-an-episode-of-road-rage-jailed-for-28-months/story-e6freon6-1226019776200>

USA, N.J.DUMONT, MARCH 12 2011. GASOLINE LEAK CLOSES A STREET IN DUMONT



The Gulf station at Washington and Grant avenues in Dumont is closed while officials work to fix a leaking underground tank.

portion of Washington Avenue is closed until further notice as officials investigate an underground tank that leaked gasoline into the sewer system, spreading fumes to nearby properties. Borough officials began investigating gas in the sewer line last week after the Silverberg Organization, an insurance company at 401 Washington Ave., reported smelling fumes, Borough Administrator John Perkins said. Firefighters went door to door and also found fumes at Karla Cino's home and realty office across the street from Silverberg. Cino assumed it was a natural gas leak that dissipated, until she returned home Monday night to a strong odor and found what she believes was gasoline in her basement toilet. That's when she called the police. "I just followed my nose. It was pretty bad," she said, adding that

the smell was nauseating. Perkins said he doesn't believe there was gasoline in her toilet but thinks the fumes traveled into Cino's home through vents. The Bergen County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team traced the leak to the Gulf gas station at the intersection of Washington and Grant avenues, which was closed while the leak is addressed. The state Department of Environmental Protection was called to monitor the cleanup and was still on site Thursday.

Sewer Ventilated

Representatives for Cumberland Farms, which owns the service station, did not immediately return requests for comment. Washington Avenue is closed between Grant and Cresskill avenues while Cumberland Farms ventilates the sewer. Perkins, the borough administrator, said Cumberland may need to dig up Washington Avenue as the investigation continues. "They are doing some drilling and some excavating at the Gulf station to try and identify where it's coming from and to recoup some product that's in the ground," he said. DEP spokesman Larry Hajna said Cumberland Farms installed monitoring wells, was ventilating the sewer and is putting a groundwater treatment system in place. "They've been very cooperative," he said. Hajna said he did not know how long the tank had been leaking or how much gasoline seeped into the ground. "It appears there has been an ongoing leak from a tank," he said. "With all the rain we're having, it has apparently pushed the contamination up through the sewer system." Cino said she's upset borough officials didn't tell residents what happened and said they could have used the reverse 911 system. "It was extremely dangerous, and I just think the public should have been notified," she said.

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Notice Posted Online

A notice on the borough's website alerts residents to the road closure and a gasoline leak but does not provide specifics. Perkins said that once the borough became aware of the leak, firefighters checked homes for fumes, and that is how residents were notified. He said the fumes were contained to Cino's basement and the insurance office. Cino said her utilities were turned off and she moved into a hotel and is having business calls forwarded to her cell phone. Perkins said he did not know how the gasoline entered the sewer system. He said cameras were sent through the two sewer lines under Washington Avenue on Wednesday and found no visible cracks in the pipes, which he described as "pristine."

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/business/news/4962639/gasoline-leak-closes-a-street-in-dumont>

JAPAN, TOKYO, MARCH 12 2011. NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CRIPPLED BY JAPAN EARTHQUAKE



The Fukushima No. 1 power plant of Tokyo Electric Power Co.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan has ordered residents within 10km of Fukushima nuclear plant to leave as radiation levels soar at the site. The Japanese Government has declared an atomic emergency, warning a small amount of radiation could be released. The discovery suggests radioactive steam could spread around the facility operated by Tokyo Electric Power Co. The amount of radiation has reached about 1000 times the normal level in the control room of the No. 1 reactor of the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said. The Prime Minister this morning left Tokyo by helicopter for northeastern Japan to inspect the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant and devastated coastal

regions. Meanwhile, Japan's nuclear safety agency is set to issue an unprecedented order for Tokyo Electric Power Co to open a valve at the troubled Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant to release radioactive steam in a bid to ease a pressure build-up after its cooling system was damaged by yesterday's massive earthquake. The Government had earlier said no radiation leaks were detected among its reactors after the 8.9-magnitude earthquake, Japan's biggest on record, struck yesterday, triggering huge tsunamis. The plant had shut down after the quake, but a reactor cooling system failure had led to the evacuation instruction, a situation the Government said was "under control". The United States has transported coolant to the plant and will continue to assist Japan, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said this morning. "We just had our Air Force assets in Japan transport some really important coolant to one of the nuclear plants," Clinton said at a meeting of the President's Export Council. "You know Japan is very reliant on nuclear power and they have very high engineering standards but one of their plants came under a lot of stress with the earthquake and didn't have enough coolant," Clinton said. Japan has dispatched about 160 military personnel, sending its chemical corps and an aircraft on a "fact finding mission" to the nuclear plant, Kyodo news reported. Japanese authorities have told the UN atomic watchdog there has been no release of radiation from a number of nuclear power plants affected by the tremor, the International Atomic Energy Agency said. Earlier, the IAEA's Incident and Emergency Centre had said the four nuclear power plants closest to the quake which occurred near the east coast of Honshu, Japan, had been "safely shut down". According to the industry ministry, a total of 11 nuclear reactors automatically shut down at the Onagawa plant, the Fukushima No. 1 and No. 2 plants and the Tokai No. 2 plant after the strongest recorded earthquake in the country's history. A fire that broke out in the turbine building of Onagawa nuclear plant in Miyagi Prefecture had been extinguished, the Government said. Operator Tohoku Electric Power said there were no indications of a radioactive leak. Miyagi prefecture was one of the areas worst hit by the tsunami. Millions of households were without power in northeastern Japan, according to Tohoku Electric. As an industrial powerhouse nation poor in energy resources, Japan also draws about 30 per cent of its total power from its 53 nuclear plants.

Related Links

- [Evacuations ordered as fears grow of radiation leak at nuclear plant](#)
- [Radiation 1000 times above normal at nuclear plant](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/japan-declares-nuclear-emergency-following-huge-earthquake/story-e6frf7jo-1226020058265>

USA, CA, SAN PEDRO, MARCH 12 2011. KINDER MORGAN TAKEN TO COURT OVER ALLEGED SOIL CONTAMINATION

Younan Safar, Linda Safar and Y & S Enterprises have taken Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, one of the US's biggest oil pipeline and energy storage companies, to court over an alleged petroleum tank storage leak at Kinder Morgan's site in San Pedro, California, US. Younan Safar, Linda Safar and Y & S Enterprises believe Kinder Morgan disposed, dumped, spilled,

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abandoned and released hydrocarbons and other hazardous materials onto their property, contaminating both the soil and groundwater. Although Kinder Morgan started operating on the site as far back as February 2001 and finished its operations on the base in 2004, the accusers say during this time, when there were 11 above ground storage tanks on the site, contamination damage was done to the surrounding area. However Kinder Morgan says that when it left the site it decommissioned, emptied and cleaned the area, therefore denying it is responsible for any damages. The State of California, Department of Toxic Substance Control has asked for Kinder Morgan to undertake an investigation in order to determine the state of the soil at the site now, fixing any environmental damage that has been done. Younan Safar, Linda Safar and Y & S Enterprises say they took samples of the soil on 6 January 2011 which showed traces of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes. The companies believe that if the soil needs remediation, the process would close their business and damages could climb as high as \$30 million (€21.7 million). The case is due to go to trial on 18 October 2011.

http://www.tankstoringemag.com/industry_news.php?item_id=3342

JAPAN, CHIBA, MARCH 12 2011. LATEST PICTURES OF FIRE IN CHIBA PREFECTURE FOLLOWING JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

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- [Japan earthquake causes oil refinery inferno](#)
- [Large ships washed ashore by Japanese tsunami](#)
- [Japanese tsunami creates whirlpool](#)
- [Japanese tsunami wave approaches shore](#)

Photo's

- [Latest pictures of Japan's 8.8 magnitude earthquake](#)



Exclusive visuals of fire that broke out in the natural gas storage tanks in Chiba Prefecture. Following the massive earthquake that struck Japan, a fire broke out in Cosmo Oil Co.'s refinery near Tokyo causing widespread damage and destruction. The 8.9-magnitude earthquake that affected the region triggered a tsunami that swept away vehicles, ships and buildings. A number of crude-processing plants and nuclear power reactors have been shut to avoid further mishaps. This includes 11 reactors from Japan Atomic Power Co, Tokyo Electric Power Co. and Tohoku Electric Power Co. Bloomberg quoted spokesman Yusuke Kaneda as stating that Cosmo Oil's 220,000 barrel-a-day refinery in Chiba is burning after a fire started at the plant's storage tanks following the quake. Get an exclusive glimpse of the Cosmo Oil Co. refinery fire that erupted following the massive earthquake:

Click On "[Start](#)"

http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/121661/20110311/fire-chiba-prefecture-japan-earthquake-cosmo-oil-co-refinery-japan-atomic-power-co-tsunami_1.htm

CHINA, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, PANXIAN CO, LIUPANSHUI, MARCH 12 2011. 19 MINERS KILLED IN CHINA GAS BLAST



At least 19 Chinese miners have lost their lives in a gas explosion at a coal mine in China's southwestern province of Guizhou. A total of 34 miners were working under the ground early Saturday when the blast took place, local officials said. "The blast hit the Xincheng coal mine in Panxian County, Liupanshui City, at 0: 30 a.m. when 34 mine workers were working underground," Xinhua quoted the officials as saying. Rescue efforts are underway to find those who are still missing as Chinese officials launched an investigation into the cause of the deadly blast. On Friday, another explosion in a coal mine in China's central Hanan province claimed the lives of six workers and left three others missing. "The explosion occurred at around 12: 36 p.m. at the Jinyue No. 2 mine in Jinlian Village, Lengshuijiang City," said Liu Xiaolong, a city official. He further pointed out that rescue workers are trying to find the missing miners. China's mines are known for being

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among the deadliest in the world. Last year, more than 2,400 miners lost their lives in coal mine accidents across the Asian country.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/169445.html>

USA, CA, ALBANY, MARCH 12 2011. ALBANY'S EXPLOSIVE HISTORY WITH DYNAMITE >> IN THE LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES, THE ALBANY AREA WAS ROCKED BY POWDER COMPANY EXPLOSIONS.



It was a windy, brisk afternoon in January 1883 and the workers in the dynamite packing houses of Giant Powder Company were cold. The foreman ordered one of the workers to rake the fire under a nearby boiler that supplied heat, and add more coal. As this task was carried out, a gust of wind blew a hot coal into a transport car filled with loose powder. The result was a chain reaction: the transport car exploded, followed by the packing houses—a half dozen of them—one by one. The workers took shelter in the mixing house, but unfortunately this structure blew up next. Down at the wharf the driver of a wagonload of dynamite jumped into the water seconds before the wagon exploded. Then burning brands from the mixing house set one of the schooners afire while it was being loaded with dynamite. Workers quickly scattered, except for one, who miraculously ran out with a sack and beat out the flames on the dynamite boxes—this would be the only good news of

the day. A total of 37 Chinese workers, as well as the assistant superintendent were killed and nearly all of the plant was destroyed. This was not the first explosion at Fleming's Point (site of today's [Golden Gate Fields](#) racetrack), and it wouldn't be the last, but it aptly demonstrated the dangers associated with the powder plants located in the Albany area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Dynamite manufacturing began in America 16 years earlier when the Giant Powder Company licensed the patent of Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel (of Nobel Prize fame) and began operating near San Francisco. In fact, for many years "giant powder" was a synonym for dynamite in the United States. Dynamite was essential to both gold mining operations and bedrock construction in California, including the building of railroads and dams. Finding a suitable location to manufacture it, however, was problematic as the factories had a habit of blowing apart. Giant Powder had two locations in the San Francisco area (Glen Canyon and the sand dunes south of today's Golden Gate Park) before explosions and resulting opposition forced it to move elsewhere. In 1879, the company relocated to Fleming's Point along today's Albany shoreline. At the time, this area was quite rural and considered far removed from the major cities of Oakland and San Francisco. Unfortunately, the accidents continued. Operations lasted barely six months before another major explosion killed over 20 employees, destroyed six buildings and damaged other structures outside the plant. Giant rebuilt at this site two more times, once after the 1883 explosion and again after a serious calamity in 1892. The latter would prove to be one of the largest Bay Area dynamite disasters of the era.

<http://albany.patch.com/articles/albanys-explosive-history-with-dynamite>

USA, S.C, ANDERSON, MARCH 12 2011. GASOLINE SPILL CLEANED UP

Firefighters were called out Thursday afternoon when gasoline overflowed as a woman was fueling her car at the Quickies store at 11450 S.C. 11 South in Oconee County. About 10 gallons of gas ran out after the woman left the pump running as she went into the store. Units from Oakway Fire Department and the Oconee County HazMat Team went to the store. It took about an hour to get the gasoline cleaned up.

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2011/mar/10/gasoline-spill-cleaned/>

JAPAN, FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE, MARCH 12 2011. BLAST, SMOKE AT FUKUSHIMA NO. 1 PLANT



The Fukushima No. 1 power plant of Tokyo Electric Power Co.

UPDATE AU-DST 7.39pm: 4 people have been injured in an explosion that occurred at the No. 1 reactor of the quake-hit Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant, the operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Saturday.

The explosion was heard at 3.36 pm following large tremors and white smoke was seen at the facility in Fukushima Prefecture, the company said. The four workers were working to deal with problems caused by a powerful earthquake that hit northeastern Japan on Friday. However there is no word on injured worker's condition, Jiji news agency says. Fukushima prefecture says TEPCO'S no.1 reactor

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ceiling has collapsed, Jiji reports. Radioactivity at the plant was 20 times over the normal level, and Japan's Nuclear Safety Commission has said it may be experiencing meltdown. Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO) says explosion may have been hydrogen used to cool Fukushima plant, Kyodo reports.

TV reports have confirmed the Tokyo fire department is sending special nuclear rescue team to Fukushima.

Pressure has reportedly been growing at the plant, with Japanese officials racing against time to cool the reactors that were disabled by yesterday's massive earthquake and tsunami or face a nuclear meltdown. TEPCO is racing to cool down the reactor core after a highly unusual "station blackout" - the total loss of power necessary to keep water circulating through the plant to prevent overheating. Daiichi Units 1, 2 and 3 reactors shut down automatically at 246pm local time yesterday due to the earthquake. But about an hour later, the on-site diesel back-up generators also shut, leaving the reactors without alternating current (AC) power. That caused TEPCO to declare an emergency and the Government to evacuate thousands of people from near the plant. Such a blackout is "one of the most serious conditions that can affect a nuclear plant," according to experts at the Union of Concerned Scientists, a US based nuclear watchdog group. "If all AC power is lost, the options to cool the core are limited," the group warned. TEPCO also said it has lost ability to control pressure at some of the reactors at its Daini plant nearby. The reactors at Fukushima can operate without AC power because they are steam-driven and therefore do not require electric pumps, but the reactors do require direct current (DC) power from batteries for its valves and controls to function. If battery power is depleted before AC power is restored, the plant would stop supplying water to the core and the cooling water level in the reactor core could drop.

Radiation Release

Officials are now considering releasing some radiation to relieve pressure in the containment at the Daiichi plant and are also considering releasing pressure at Daini, signs that difficulties are mounting. Such a release has only occurred once in US history, at Three Mile Island. "(It's) a sign that the Japanese are pulling out all the stops they can to prevent this accident from developing into a core melt and also prevent it from causing a breach of the containment (system) from the pressure that is building up inside the core because of excess heat," said Mark Hibbs, a nuclear expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. While the restoration of power through additional generators should allow TEPCO to bring the situation back under control, left unchecked the coolant could boil off within hours. That would cause the core to overheat and damage the fuel, according to nuclear experts familiar with the Three Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania in 1979. It could take hours more for the metal surrounding the ceramic uranium fuel pellets in the fuel rods to melt, which is what happened at Three Mile Island. That accident essentially froze the nuclear industry for three decades. Seven years later the industry suffered another blow after the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine exploded due to an uncontrolled power surge that damaged the reactor core, releasing a radioactive cloud that blanketed Europe. The metal on the fuel rods would not melt until temperatures far exceed 1000 degrees F. The ceramic uranium pellets would not melt until temperatures reached about 2000 degrees F, nuclear experts said. The Government declared an atomic emergency amid growing international concern over its reactors after an 8.9 magnitude earthquake, the biggest in Japan's history, unleashed tsunamis that swept all before them. The US Air Force, which has many bases in Japan, delivered coolant to a Japanese nuclear plant, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said yesterday, without specifying which plant. The two nuclear plants affected are the Fukushima No.1 and No.2 plants, both located about 250km northeast of greater Tokyo, an urban area of 30 million people. Tokyo Electric Power vented radioactive vapour at five reactors between both plants to release building pressure. "We are not in a situation in which residents face health damage," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano told reporters today, according to Jiji. However, the evacuation area was expanded. A total of 45,000 people living within a 10km radius of the No.1 plant were told to evacuate. Officials today ordered the evacuation of people living within a 3km-radius of the second plant, with those up to 10km away told to stay indoors. When Friday's massive quake hit, the plants immediately shut down, along with others in quake-hit parts of Japan, as they are designed to do, but the cooling systems failed, the Government said. The major fear is that fuel rods, which create heat through a nuclear reaction, could become exposed and release radioactivity. When reactors shut down, cooling systems must kick in to bring down the very high temperatures. These systems are powered by either the external electricity grid, backup generators or batteries. This is key to prevent a "nuclear meltdown" and major radioactive release. Japan's Prime Minister Naoto Kan early today left on a helicopter to Fukushima to assess the situation at the plants operated by Tokyo Electric Power, and other areas in the disaster zone. Military personnel have been dispatched to Fukushima, including a chemical corps and an aircraft on a "fact-finding mission". The UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Japanese officials had kept it informed of their efforts to restore power to the cooling systems while monitoring a pressure build-up. Early in the crisis Prime Minister Kan said no radiation leaks were detected among the country's reactors after the quake. According to the industry ministry, 11 nuclear reactors automatically shut down at the Onagawa plant, the Fukushima No.1 and No.2 plants and the Tokai No.2 plant after the strongest earthquake ever to hit the country. As an industrial powerhouse nation poor

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in energy resources, Japan also draws about 30 per cent of its total power from its 53 nuclear plants. Earlier today the Tokyo Electric Power, which runs the plants, had released some radioactive vapour at the plants in a bid to relieve building reactor pressure.

Related Coverage

- [Japan earthquake: Latest news and multimedia](#)
- [Japan quake toll hits 613](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/special-reports/japan-declares-nuclear-emergency-following-huge-earthquake/story-fn7zkbgs-1226020058265>

USA, FLA, TAMPA, MARCH 12 2011. DIESEL SPILL OUTSIDE USF MOFFITT CANCER CENTER >> OVER-FILLED UGST



About 100 gallons of diesel fuel spilled outside the Moffitt Cancer Center on the USF campus tonight. Tampa Fire Rescue said no injuries were reported and the hospital was operating normally. The spill occurred when an underground storage tank being filled overflowed, said TFR spokesman Capt. Bill Wade. It was blamed on a malfunctioning valve. A private contractor was brought in to clean up the spill, he said.

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/local/article/180508/8/Diesel-spill-outside-USF-Moffitt-Cancer-Center>

RUSSIA, VLADIVOSTOK, MARCH 12 2011. 12 OIL RAILWAY TANKS DERAIL IN EAST RUSSIA, NO SPILL

Twelve oil railway tanks bound for the Pacific port of Vladivostok derailed in the region on Saturday, causing no victims or oil spill but damaging 200 meters of rails, a local rescuer said. "At the moment, three oil tanks have been put back on tracks, and the damaged rails will be repaired by 2 pm local time," the official said. He said the oil tanks carrying 60 metric tons of oil each had not turned over during the derailment. Experts said the accident could have been caused by defects from tank manufacturers, the Russian Railways monopoly said on its Web site.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20110312/162966770.html>

USA, N.D, MINOT, MARCH 12 2011. PIPELINE SAFETY EXERCISE CONDUCTED >> EXERCISE CARRIED OUT TO SIMULATE A PIPELINE LEAK DURING THE WINTER

dave caldwell

Around 40 Enbridge Pipelines employees gathered Thursday morning on a bright, sunny day at a popular area lake, but it wasn't to attend a company recreational outing. The energy delivery company conducted a safety exercise at Nelson-Carlson Lake to simulate a pipeline leak in winter conditions. According to Kesley Myhre, community relations specialist for Enbridge in Minot, in the exercise scenario, a fisherman on the Souris River near Sawyer had noticed what appeared to be oil in the water. He contacted a patrolling sheriff's deputy, who then contacted Enbridge's emergency hot line. Then, a response team coordinated by the Minot Enbridge office swings into action, as it did Thursday at the lake. Jim Tate, Enbridge's Minot area coordinator, walked the group through the game plan, written on a large dry-erase board on the side of one of the command trailers on site. In the exercise, holes were cut and drilled into the 30-inch-plus thick ice to allow the "oil" to be gathered in a certain area, where it could be skimmed off the water. No actual oil was put in the lake during the exercise and there are no pipelines near the Nelson-Carlson area. Myhre said the sweet Bakken crude in Enbridge's local pipelines is especially prone to floating straight to the surface, meaning it would most likely be waiting just beneath the ice. Then, some large chunks were removed using chainsaws and augers handled by workers equipped with life jackets and protective suits. Safety is of paramount importance to the company, Myhre said. "Every Enbridge employee in the North Dakota system is required to attend one drill per year as part of our training requirements," she said Thursday, bedecked in hard hat, fire-resistant coveralls and steel-toed boots near the shore of the lake. "Pipeline leaks are very rare, but we need to be prepared in case of an emergency situation." Members of Enbridge's various area emergency response teams are cross-trained in addition to their regular jobs. "We send people away to training seminars in order to get specialized training on the equipment," Myhre said.

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"It's not part of their everyday job, but they do receive a lot of training in order to properly respond in emergency situations - even though the likelihood of something happening is very rare. "It's also a great team-building activity for all of us to get together and work together." The company conducts two water drills and one ice drill per year, one in each of its three main North Dakota bases that includes Williston, Grand Forks and Minot. The drill actually saw the team execute a plan designed to capture oil in a river environment, but ironically the safety exercise had to be moved from the Souris for safety reasons. "We're drilling here today because the locations that are near our pipelines are river crossings," Myhre said. "With the high water and flow rates that we're having this year already, it just wasn't good from a safety standpoint to be out on those locations."

<http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/552705/Safety-exercise-conducted.html?nav=5010>

JAPAN, MARCH 12 2011. 45,000 FLEE NUCLEAR BLAST AT FUKUSHIMA NO. 1 PLANT IN JAPAN

peter rolfe & samantha maiden

Watch the Video:

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/special-reports/japan-declares-nuclear-emergency-following-huge-earthquake/story-fn7zkbgs-1226020058265>



Fukushima plant explosion >> Footage from Russia Today shows the moment of the explosion at the nuclear power plant.

Update AU DST 11.09 PM: A NUCLEAR power plant exploded, a day after the huge Japanese earthquake damaged the facility's cooling system.

Nuclear authorities had earlier warned that the Fukushima No.1 plant, about 250km northeast of Tokyo, an urban area of 30 million people, "may be experiencing a nuclear meltdown". The plant's cooling system was damaged in the quake that hit on Friday, leaving the government scrambling to fix the problem and evacuate more than 45,000 residents within a 10km radius. The operator of a

stricken nuclear plant, Tepco, believed a reactor container was not damaged despite a large explosion at the plant, Japan's chief cabinet secretary said. Yukio Edano added that radiation levels near the Fukushima plant had fallen after the blast, amid fears of a possible nuclear meltdown following a devastating earthquake and tsunami on Friday. Public broadcaster NHK reported that a blast had been heard at about 5.30pm (Melbourne time) and showed delayed footage of the explosion and smoke billowing from the site, also reporting that the reactor building had been destroyed. TV channels warned nearby residents to stay indoors, turn off airconditioners and not to drink tap water. People going outside were also told to avoid exposing their skin and to cover their faces with masks and wet towels. Meanwhile thousands are feared dead as Japan continues to reel from Friday's horror earthquake and tsunami. There are concerns for the safety of at least 160 Australians in the worst-hit areas of Japan. The powerful quake that unleashed a devastating tsunami appears to have moved the main island of Japan by 2.4m and shifted the Earth on its axis, earthquake experts say. Emergency crews began searching for survivors of the 8.9 magnitude "megaquake" and subsequent tsunami that washed away entire villages, cars and bridges, set oil refineries on fire and had several nuclear power plants on alert on the Pacific coast. Rescuers continued to dig through rubble and pluck survivors of the quake - 8000 times stronger than the one that crippled Christchurch last month - from the roofs of submerged houses. There were fears for the safety of Australians living near the epicentre of the quake at Sendai, 405km north of Tokyo, a popular area for Aussies working as English-language teachers and translators. The regions of Miyagi, Iwate, Fukushima, Ibraki and Aomori were worst affected. Police in Sendai, Miyagi prefecture, said 300 bodies had been found on the shore. The Japanese defence ministry said 1800 homes in Minami Soma, Fukushima prefecture, were destroyed. In Sendai, 1200 houses were toppled by the tsunami. Aftershocks continued to rock the country, including a strong 6.8 magnitude quake that hit 174km southeast of Sendai. At 4pm, the official death toll stood at 613 with 784 missing, but the full death toll was expected to be in the thousands. The Japanese Government mobilised 50,000 military and rescue personnel to spearhead a Herculean rescue and recovery effort. About 5.6 million households had no power and more than a million households were without water. Prime Minister Naoto Kan warned that day one after the catastrophe was a crucial window for survivors. "What used to be residential areas were mostly swept away in many coastal areas, and fires are still blazing," he said. The tsunami that drowned hundreds in northeast Japan mostly spared other countries around the Pacific Rim. The huge earthquake triggered a domino effect of tremors and tsunamis around the Pacific, including in Hawaii, Tonga and California. Waves of up to 4m and travelling at jet speed rolled into Hawaii and caused damage to piers, marinas and some flooding. A 6.1-magnitude earthquake struck Tonga, but no major damage was reported. Several supermarkets reported running out of food in Tokyo as locals rushed to get essential items. Zuji travel managing director James Gaskell said 32 Australians had

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travelled with the company to Japan in recent days, most to the major cities of Tokyo and Osaka. "We're trying to contact them to see if they need help and that they are OK but there is not much information available," he said.

Related Coverage:

- [Video: Fukushima nuke plant explosion](#)
- [Japan earthquake: Latest news and multimedia](#)
- [Minamisoma: Meltdown fears after explosion](#)
- [Sendai: Walls fall from Japan nuclear plant](#)
- [Video: Japan quake toll hits 613](#)
- [Gallery: Japan in ruins](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/special-reports/japan-declares-nuclear-emergency-following-huge-earthquake/story-fn7zkbgs-1226020058265>

INDIA, AHMEDABAD, MARCH 13 2011. 3 DEAD, 4 INJURED IN SANAND TANKER MISHAP

In an accident involving an LPG tanker, an auto rickshaw and a bike, three persons died and four were injured near Sanand on Friday evening. The condition of two of the injured is serious. Sanand police said, the incident took place on the Sanand-Viramgam highway at 5. 15 pm when an LPG tanker heading for Ahmedabad rammed an autorickshaw. A bike with a rider and a pillion that was behind the auto also collided with the tanker. The LPG tanker overturned in the accident, creating scare of gas leakage. Ahmedabad Fire and Emergency Services officials were informed and they have cordoned off the area. "The injured were rushed to VS Hospital in Ahmedabad and two private hospitals in Sanand. The tanker had a driver and a cleaner. The worst hit was the auto rickshaw, which was carrying three persons including the driver. So far, three persons have died in the mishap. We are yet to identify the victims," said Sanand police.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/Three-dead-4-injured-in-Sanand-mishap/articleshow/7683485.cms>

USA, MD, ANNAPOLIS, MARCH 13 2011. TRUCK OVERSPILL AT LOCAL STATION PROMPTS QUICK CLEANUP

laura tayman



Incident occurs at Exxon station on Buschs Frontage Road this morning.

A truck driver pumping gas into an underground tank at a local gas station this morning overestimated the amount needed in the tank, resulting in a gas spill of 100 gallons at the Exxon station in the 300 block of Buschs Frontage Road. A cleanup crew from the Maryland Department of the Environment said they were dispatched to clean up the spill around 6 a.m. this morning. Cleanup efforts were completed by 10 a.m.

<http://broadneck.patch.com/articles/truck-overspill-at-local-station-prompts-quick-cleanup>

USA, OH, WASHINGTON CO, CECIL, MARCH 13 2011. STATE STUDYING EFFECTS OF GAS WELL SITE SPILL, FLARE-UP IN CECIL

jonathan d. silver

State regulators are awaiting results of soil and water tests after being notified Sunday of a spill at a Marcellus Shale well site operated by Range Resources-Appalachia LLC in Cecil, Washington County. Katy Gresh, a spokeswoman for the Department of Environmental Protection, said an initial investigation showed that a flare stack -- a pipe through which the early gas produced at a well is burned -- discharged a liquid waste product called condensate. "What came out was still, at this point, an unknown amount of condensate which would have caused the flare-up," Ms. Gresh said. The spill occurred in Cecil off Swihart Road. A local resident, Rose Churray, said she noticed that the stream of flame produced by the flaring seemed larger than usual. She said she also heard a loud noise and detected a "funny" smell that prompted her to call 911. Ms. Gresh said Range Resources notified the DEP around 9 p.m. that the flare stack discharged. An environmental clean-up company responded. On Monday a state oil and gas inspector and a water quality specialist took water and soil samples, which are being analyzed.

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Ms. Gresh said no samples were taken from nearby Brush Run Creek because there was no indication the spill reached that far. Range Resources spokesman Matt Pitzarella tallied the spill of condensate as "maybe a gallon of gasoline, that's the equivalent of it ... It's probably a few gallons max." Mr. Pitzarella said any spill would have been contained by a liner and absorbent materials. "You don't know how much condensate because it's such a small volume, if any spilled. It's like if your car's leaking a little gasoline or something, which is all condensate is. Plus we have spill tarps everywhere." Condensate is a waste mixture of liquid byproducts from natural gas produced in this region. The condensate is typically separated from the gas before reaching the flare stack, but Mr. Pitzarella said a valve might have malfunctioned, allowing some of the condensate to enter the stack. "It probably flared off pretty bright, brighter than normal. It's not anything that there's a noise associated with it. Or it may have flashed, so instead of a consistent flare it may have sputtered. So if you live nearby, which was probably what generated a 911 call, you would see the light flashing," Mr. Pitzarella said.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11071/1131506-113.stm>

JAPAN, TOKYO, MARCH 13 2011. THOUSANDS SCANNED AMID JAPAN'S NUCLEAR EMERGENCY

stephen mcdonell

Key Points

- **plant has leaked radiation,**
- **160 people could b exposed to radiation**
- **Government declares atomic emergency 140,000 people living within 20 kilometres evacuated**
- **3rd reactor loses emergency cooling system**
- **US nuclear expert calls it one of the three worst in history**
- **French Nuclear Safety Authority says favourable winds will blow radioactive pollution over the Pacific Ocean**



Operators of the Fukushima nuclear reactor have been downplaying the threat to public safety.

The number of people exposed to radiation from the quake-hit Fukushima nuclear power plant in north-eastern Japan could reach as high as 160, authorities warn. Japan's nuclear safety agency says nine people have shown possible exposure to radiation since yesterday's explosion at the plant following Friday's devastating earthquake and tsunami. The quake left the No. 1 reactor at Tokyo Electric Power Co's (Tepco) plant with a crippled cooling system and the operator was forced to release pressure that had built up in the reactor. Soon after Japan's nuclear safety agency reported the levels of radioactivity "have been observed to lessen in recent hours", it was revealed the plant lost its emergency cooling system at a third reactor, requiring the facility to urgently secure a means to supply water to it. The government has declared an atomic emergency and evacuated about 140,000 people living within 20 kilometres of the facility. Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency says estimates suggest the figure of the exposed to radiation could rise to between 70 and 160. Operators of the Fukushima nuclear reactor have been downplaying the threat to public safety. Yesterday's explosion sent plumes of smoke spewing from the ageing plant in the country's north, raising fears of a possible meltdown, but prime minister Naoto Kan has called for calm. Television images have shown the walls and roof of the reactor building being blown apart by the explosion and authorities are preparing to distribute iodine to people living near

the reactors to protect them against radiation exposure. The plant has leaked radiation, but Tepco says the structure encasing the reactor had collapsed at the time of the aftershock but the steel reactor inside it was not ruptured. At evacuation centres, workers wearing white masks and protective clothing have used handheld scanners to check everyone arriving for radiation exposure. "There is radiation leaking out, and since the possibility (of exposure) is high, it's quite scary," said 17-year-old Masanori Ono, queuing at a centre in Koriyama city. People who live within the evacuation zone or show signs of radiation exposure have been separated from others seeking shelter. The World Health Organisation says the public health risk appears to be "quite low", but residents who have been evacuated to shelters say they are still worried about the threat. "Officials said 10 kilometres or 20 kilometres away is safe," one resident said. "But the radiation may change and go out wider. It's very disturbing. There is no way to get out of here."

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'Complete Disaster'

A US nuclear expert has called the nuclear accident one of the three worst in history and warns it could become a "complete disaster" if it goes to a full meltdown. "This is going to go down in history as one of the three greatest nuclear incidents if it stops now," Joseph Cirincione, the head of the Ploughshares Fund, told CNN. "If it continues, if they don't get control of this and ... we go from a partial meltdown of the core to a full meltdown, this will be a complete disaster," he said. But Japan's nuclear safety agency has rated the accident at 4 on the international scale from 0 to 7, an official says. On the International Nuclear Event Scale, a level 4 incident means a nuclear reactor accident "with local consequences". It is on the same level as the worst nuclear incident Japan has experienced, matching the 1999 accident in which a critical nuclear reaction hit an uranium processing plant in Tokaimura, resulting in a radiation leak. "Right now we are considering the accident should be rated four," said a Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency official. "The rating may be changed in accordance with the development of the condition." Meanwhile, favourable winds will likely blow possible radioactive pollution out over the Pacific Ocean, the French Nuclear Safety Authority says.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2011/03/13/3162581.htm>

JAPAN, TOKYO, ARCH 13 2011. JAPAN'S TEPCO PREPARING TO RELEASE RADIATION FROM SECOND REACTOR

kiyoshi takenaka & risa maeda

Tokyo Electric Power Co has begun preparation to release radioactive steam from a second reactor at its quake-struck Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power facility, a spokesman said on Sunday. The TEPCO spokesman said preparation work for the release began at 7:30 a.m. (5:30 p.m. EST). An official from Japan's nuclear safety watchdog said earlier on Sunday that it had received a report from Japan's largest power producer at 5:10 a.m. that the facility's No. 3 reactor had completely lost its emergency cooling function. The TEPCO spokesman said the amount of radiation to be released would be small and not of a level that would affect human health. The No. 1 reactor at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan had released radiation on Saturday, after a powerful earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan the day before left it with a crippled cooling system and the operator was forced to release pressure that had built up in the reactor.

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- [Nuclear meltdown fears](#)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/12/us-japan-quake-tepco-radiation-idUSTRE72B3PJ20110312>

USA, CA, SANTA CRUZ, MARCH 13 2011. OFFICIALS ASSESS DAMAGE AT HARBOR, WORRY ABOUT FUEL LEAKS

jenna bogan

 **Watch the Video** http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_17597910



Some broken docks and debris were pulled out of Santa Cruz harbor Saturday morning after a day of tsunami surges caused by the massive earthquake in Japan. Officials have counted 18 sunken vessels and many more that continue to take on water and are in danger of sinking, according to Coast Guard Lt. Renee McKinnon. The overall damage to the harbor is still being calculated, though the preliminary damage assessment to the port district facility is estimated at \$17.1 million. Port Director Lisa Ekers said at a Saturday morning press conference that half of U Dock is destroyed and at least 10 other docks have significant damage. Andrew Hughan, with the state Department of Fish and Game, said the harbor's top concern right now is oil and fuel leaking from the boats. While officials have yet to find any affected animals, the impact on marine life remains unknown. One small oil sheen was found in the north end of the harbor by Coast Guard helicopters early Saturday morning, though McKinnon said she believes there will be more. Most of Saturday was being spent assessing damage with the help of structural engineers and divers. Although a couple of boats had been removed from the harbor by cranes, the rest would remain until environmental officials determine if they're leaking fuel and other water contaminants. "Our crews are busy at work," Ekers said. "The harbor has a significant amount of damage - our

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hearts go out to all those who have damaged property and have lost homes." Though Saturday's surges were less intense than Friday's, the entrance to the harbor remains closed for public safety. The big waves may have ceased, but Ekers said she believes "the environmental disaster is still going on." With fuel spilled throughout the harbor, multiple unusable docks and several uninhabitable boats, Ekers said her top priorities are to help the 60 registered "live-aboards," people who have made the harbor their home, and raising boats that may still be salvageable. "We're grateful for those who can wait," Ekers said. "It will take some time to determine how much damage there is and we don't know how long it will be until the harbor is fully operational again." For Sean Collins, owner of a sailboat "Zoey" and one of the harbor's many "live-aboards," the surges threatened his home on the water. "The funny thing about Santa Cruz, is that someone says there is a tsunami and everyone goes to the beach," Collins said. The tsunami warning woke Collins on Friday. "The only reason I came back down here is because (this boat) is my home." Collins spent most of Friday trying to keep "Zoey" tethered to the dock. "She broke off twice," he said, adding that without the help of fellow boat owners, he wouldn't have been able to keep "Zoey" anchored. "It was insane - we ran down there when she did a full 360 (degree rotation) and we were so afraid that the floating docks would hit her." Though Collins' boat managed to stay afloat, others were not as lucky. "Eighteen vessels sank," McKinnon said. "We lost at least four to the open ocean and two rowing docks/kayak racks are gone." McKinnon said that most likely no boats would be lifted from the harbor Saturday. She described the removal process as placing air bags that look like large balloons under the boats to lift them, or using cranes, depending on the size and weight of the boats. But McKinnon said her team planned to focus on fuel spillage on Saturday. To contain the spreading, officials place oil booms around vessels believed to be leaking. Keeping anxious boat owners off the docks while damage and environmental assessments are done has not been an easy feat. Scott Sommers, the self-proclaimed 'Mayor of U Dock,' couldn't wait to get to the harbor to assess the damage to his boat, which was surrounded by debris Saturday. "We're a little antsy to find out if everything's OK," Sommers said. "But the harbor (patrol) went down there and said (my boat's) still floating, so that's good." While Sommers does not live on his boat, he cares for it like a house. He said the loss of U Dock is devastating. "We double-tied all the boats with every piece of rope we could find," Sommers said. "But the dock failed, and when it sank, it took all the boats with it." Paul Horvat, manager for the county's emergency services, assured boat owners that his department is doing everything in its power to assist in the damage assessment process so the owners can present an accurate count to the government for possible reimbursement. "We're going to try to get as much disaster recovery for our residents as possible," said Horvat, who is currently working to get state money. "It's pretty devastating," Harbor Commissioner Dennis Smith said. "Until we get divers down to assess, we have no idea how much damage is underwater - it's going to be a slow process to recovery." To aid boat owners like Sommers, Betty T. Yee, First District Member of the Board of Equalization, announced Friday that emergency relief tax extensions for filing, audits, billing notices, assessments and relief from subsequent penalties are available for those individuals and/or businesses impacted by the tsunami surge along the coast in Santa Cruz County. Any taxpayer or fee payer who, as a result of the water surge, cannot meet tax filing and payment deadlines may apply at www.boe.ca.gov. While he said he understands the urge to visit the harbor to investigate damaged property, Santa Cruz Deputy Chief Steve Clark asked that the public continue to cooperate and support recovery efforts by staying away from the water and off the docks, many of which have not been proven safe. "A tsunami watch does not mean watch the tsunami," he said, adding that his officers' duties during the surge revolved around crowd control on and around the Murray Street Bridge where hundreds gathered to watch. "Nature's going to do what nature's going to do," Clark said. "Our main concern is providing security for those whose investments and lives are out there in the harbor." Though the dredge was dislodged from the dock during the surges, Smith assures that no real damage has been reported. "It's anchored with 3,000 pounds and it still managed to break away and turn sideways," said Smith. "But the initial inspection proved that it's not leaking oil or taking on water." Efforts to secure boats to the docks that remained intact, continued Saturday, with boat owners reflecting back on how the community came together under pressure Friday. For Walter Wall and his wife Maureen, that meant working with fellow boaters to tie down the "Mary Alice" so it would not suffer the same fate as the vessel next to it, which capsized Friday. "When mine broke loose, I thought, well, there goes my boat," Walter Wall said. "But, she's hanging in there." Walter Wall, who typically uses his boat for fishing and whale watching, said Friday's surges were like nothing he'd ever seen in the harbor. "It came in here like wildfire at 30 miles an hour and the boats went flying," said Walter Wall, who spent all of Friday helping others tie their boats down before debris broke them loose. A friend of Walter Wall's, who had his boat moved by harbor officials from I Dock to J Dock for dock refurbishment one day prior to the tsunami, also watched his boat capsize. "It's ironic, because if his boat hadn't been moved, it probably would have been just fine," he said. While Walter Wall was quick to lend a hand Friday, Maureen Wall said that both she and her husband experienced a great deal of anxiety. "It was a mess," said Maureen Wall, who was grateful that police were understanding of boaters' concerns. "But it's nice to know that in an emergency, so many people were there to help." For reports of harbor pollution, the Coast Guard asked that the public call 800-424-8802. Ekers recommends that boat owners who

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are aware of damage, contact their insurance company and get a marine surveyor to provide an assessment. Boat owners from Docks U, G and J, are encouraged to contact the harbor office at 475-6161, with reports of damage.

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/ci_17597910

JAPAN, TOKYO, MARCH 13 2011. SIXTH JAPANESE NUCLEAR REACTOR LOSES COOLING >> CASUALTIES RISE

rik myslewski



Officials in protective gear check for signs of radiation on children from the evacuation area near the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Koriyama.

Yet another reactor in Japan's Fukushima nuclear-power complexes has lost its cooling, bringing the total number of problematic reactors in northeastern Japan after Friday afternoon's megaquake to six. This information was provided in a [one-line advisory](#) by Japan's Kyodo News, which is closely monitoring developments at Fukushima No. 1 (Daiichi) and Fukushima No. 2 (Daini): "6th reactor at Fukushima nuke plant loses cooling functions." In addition, Kyodo News reports that "15 people near Fukushima nuke plants [have been] exposed to radioactivity." Kyodo News did not indicate which of the two Fukushima plants suffered the sixth failure. Daiichi has six reactors; Daini, seven miles away, has four. From reports by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), however, it appears as if the most recently troubled reactor may be at the Daini plant. At 2am on Sunday morning in

Japan (Saturday at 5pm in London and noon in New York) Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) released information about the status of both the [Daiichi](#) and [Daini](#) plants. At the Daiichi plant, TEPCO says – and as we [reported earlier](#) – the building housing reactor No. 1 exploded on Saturday afternoon, and the reactor itself, according to TEPCO, is "under inspection". In addition, TEPCO says, "We have been injecting sea water and boric acid which absorbs neutron into the reactor core" – a process that will introduce impurities sufficient to irreparably damage the reactor. In regard to Daiichi's reactors Nos. 2 and 3, TEPCO says: "After fully securing safety, we are preparing to implement a measure to reduce the pressure of the reactor containment vessels under the instruction of the national government." Reactors Nos. 4, 5, and 6 – shut down immediately after Friday afternoon's earthquake – were experiencing no problems as of the time of TEPCO's Sunday morning report. At Daini, TEPCO is preparing to initiate a "partial discharge of air containing radioactive materials" to "fully secure safety" at all four reactors. Casualty reports at Daiichi include two workers injured during the earthquake, radiation exposure to one worker, and four workers "injured and transported to the hospital" as a result of Saturday's explosion. At Daini, according to TEPCO, as of Saturday afternoon "A seriously injured worker is still trapped in the crane operating console of the exhaust stack and his breathing and pulse cannot be confirmed. Currently, the rescue efforts are under way." No later report has included information on the status of that rescue effort.

Updates:

- [Update 2](#) [Japanese nuke meltdown may be underway](#) (12 March 2011)
- [Updated](#) [Emergency declared at second quake-wracked Japanese nuke plant](#) (12 March 2011)
- [Updated](#) [Megaquake cuts Japan phone lines](#) (11 March 2011)
- [Updated](#) [Japanese earthquake sparks nuclear emergency](#) (11 March 2011)

Other News sites

- [Radiation risk from nuclear plant seen as worrisome, not critical](#)
- [Radiation surpasses legal limit in Fukushima nuke plant](#)
- [Q+A-UPDATE 1-Dangers posed by Japan's quake-hit nuclear plant](#)
- [US fears Pacific contamination from Japan nuclear plant](#)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/03/13/japanese_nuclear_site_update/

JAPAN EARTHQUAKE: PICTURES - INTERACTIVE BEFORE AND AFTER

Sun Mar 13, 2011 3:00pm AEDT

Aerial photos taken over Japan have revealed the scale of devastation across dozens of suburbs and tens of thousands of homes and businesses. Hover over each satellite photo to view the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami. Go To:

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<http://www.abc.net.au/news/events/japan-quake-2011/beforeafter.htm>

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