



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 714 Newsy Stuff

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USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, MAY 19 2011. GULF OIL SPILL DOC 'THE BIG FIX' SCREENS IN CANNES



Nesting loon sits Tuesday afternoon, May 3, 2011, on one of three nest site platforms that have been placed on Big Fish Lake near Cold Spring, Minn. Experts say it's too soon to be sure about how Minnesota's loons and other migratory birds fared in the Gulf of Mexico over the winter. Many bird-watchers have been worried about the impact of the BP oil spill.

A provocative documentary screened Tuesday at the Cannes Film Festival argues that the human and environmental devastation of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill has been covered up by authorities eager to return to business as usual. "The Big Fix,"

by husband-and-wife American directors Josh and Rebecca Tickell, features interviews with Louisiana fishing families whose livelihoods and health have been hit by the spill, then expands into a sweeping critique of American capitalism. The title cuts two ways: the movie argues the U.S. political and economic system is rigged, and huge changes are required to correct it. Josh Tickell, whose last film was another oil-related documentary, "Fuel," said the current movie argues that "screwing in a light bulb or buying a hybrid car are not going to change the relationship between the government, the energy industry and the financial sector." "It's like playing cards, and the house has the deck stacked against you," Tickell told The Associated Press. "The Big Fix" has high-profile support from Tim Robbins and Peter Fonda, executive producers on the movie. Fonda also appears in the film, which is sure to be strongly criticized by the energy industry. The film disputes industry claims that the millions of gallons of oil spilled after the April 22, 2010, explosion on the BP PLC-owned Deepwater Horizon rig have largely been cleaned up or dispersed. It says a huge undersea slick is poisoning the ocean and that chemical dispersants used to break up the oil are harming the region's residents, many of whom say they have developed blisters, rashes and respiratory problems. BP and the U.S. government have said the use of the main chemical, Corexit, was the best option in the circumstances. BP said Tuesday that it "worked hand-in-hand with and under the direction of the Coast Guard and the EPA (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) on the use of dispersants." Made in the polemical documentary style popularized by Michael Moore, "The Big Fix" depicts Louisiana as a petro-state controlled by oil companies, and Washington politicians as in hock to powerful lobbyists. It includes the voices of Louisiana residents alongside an array of mostly left-of-center writers, journalists, academics and politicians. The viewpoints of BP or other oil companies are notably absent. Tickell said he asked for interviews with executives from BP and other companies featured in the film but that all declined. "The Big Fix" had an official premiere at the French Riviera festival later Tuesday, followed by a beachside party. Tickell acknowledged the irony of launching his plea for social and political change at a glitzy movie extravaganza. "You can look at a festival like this as an expression of the very power elite and wealth the film criticizes," he said. "But Cannes has made a platform for politically and socially provocative films. They know it's not just about red carpets and movie stars. It's about the human predicament."

http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2011/05/gulf_oil_spill_doc_the_big_fix.html

USA, TX, HOUSTON, MAY 19 2011. JUDGE UPHOLDS SAFETY FINES AT DELEK TEXAS REFINERY

erwin seba

An administrative law judge upheld \$32,850 in fines against Delek US Holdings' 58,000 barrel per day Tyler, Texas, refinery issued by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the federal worker safety agency said on Wednesday. A Delek spokesman said the company had no immediate comment about the ruling. Delek had appealed seven serious violations issued by OSHA following a safety inspection of the Tyler refinery. OSHA inspectors found violations of federal process safety regulations, the agency said. Delek has 20 days from the issuance of the judge's decision to file an appeal with the independent U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1826509520110518?sp=true>

ECUADOR, LAGO AGRIO, MAY 19 2011. JUDGE AT HEART OF LANDMARK OIL POLLUTION CASE UNFAZED BY SPOTLIGHT

Sitting in a dimly lit office with blue paint peeling off the walls, Judge Nicolas Zambrano is remarkably relaxed for a man responsible for the biggest environmental damage ruling in history. In February, Zambrano ordered Chevron Corp. to pay up to \$18 billion for oil pollution in the region around this hard-edged frontier town on the fringe of the Amazon jungle. Only the tab likely to be faced by BP PLC over the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico has the potential to be bigger. Sporting a gold watch on his left wrist and an arresting shaven head, Zambrano -- the sixth judge to preside over the case -- has received his fair share of attention since his 188-page blockbuster. He said, with a straight face, that the Chevron case is like any other. "The case is as important as all the cases that are handled by this court," he said in a rare interview. "We treat all cases with

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the same attention and depth." Zambrano, who has the tough stare of a former prosecutor, is clearly aware of the attention his ruling has received around the world. After all, the case has, in one form or another, been ongoing for 18 years and has spawned a documentary film, "Crude," and a Vanity Fair cover story, not to mention frenzied allegations of fraud and corruption. Asked how he managed the burden, Zambrano replied, "With a lot of work." Now, with his ruling on appeal and Chevron desperately seeking to prevent its enforcement in courts around the world, some might be forgiven for thinking the case is reaching its final stages. Based on how contentious the case has become, that's probably not a wise assumption.

Boomtown

Lago Agrio was hewn out of the jungle during the early oil boom following Texaco Petroleum Corp.'s arrival in the mid-1960s. Buildings were not so much constructed as thrown together. Little has changed since. It retains the feel of a bustling, overtly masculine boomtown, right down to the large building sporting pictures of scantily clad women and a sign that reads, in Spanish, "House of Appointments." The influence of the oil industry can be seen everywhere, from the pipelines running along the side of the road to facilities for processing crude. The wells themselves -- many of which are still operating, overseen by the state-owned oil company, Petroecuador -- are dotted around the surrounding area, often reachable only by gravel tracks. While the discovery of oil paved the way for an influx of workers and settlers encouraged by the Ecuadorean government to occupy plots near newly built roads, it also had a considerable impact on the environment. The effects were felt most keenly by the local indigenous communities. On that, both Chevron, which acquired Texaco and its legal obligations in 2001, and the plaintiffs could possibly concur. But it is about the only point they might even be close to agreeing on. The areas of contention in the litigation are almost countless. They include: what sites Texaco was responsible for remediating after it ceased all operations in 1992, whether it actually did the remediation it said it would to the necessary standard, and the location of waste pits near wells where drilling mud and some oil from the initial testing of each well's production volume were discarded. Some of the pits, topped with a thick coat of oil open to the elements, have been sitting largely untouched since they were first dug in the 1970s. Then there is the raging debate over what impact the pollution -- including wastewater from drilling operations -- has had on human health and whether Chevron should pay damages relating to that too. Further complicating the matter is the fact that for most of the time Texaco was operating in Ecuador it was part of a consortium working alongside Petroecuador, which has not been sued. Who bears responsibility and for what has become an intriguing puzzle.

PR War

Opinion locally is uniformly against Texaco, according to Victor Gomez, a radio journalist in Lago Agrio who has followed the case. "The general feeling is that Texaco is guilty and it has to pay up for the damages," Gomez said. "People are aware that this is an important case, they know that the whole world was waiting for this ruling." The public relations battle has played itself out in multiple ways, not least in the rival tours that the two sides give of the disputed sites for the benefit of reporters. The plaintiffs lead what has been dubbed the Toxic Tour (or, even more snappily, the Toxitour), while Chevron has what could perhaps be called the Teflon Tour, since the company says none of the allegations stick. The itinerary is highly selective, with considerable effort given to debunking the other side's arguments. The plaintiffs' tour focuses on arresting visuals and charged emotions, with Donald Moncayo, a local member of the Amazon Defense Coalition, taking reporters to one site that Texaco said it had remediated. On a tour earlier this month, he eased an augur into the soil near a remediated pit, dug down, and then triumphantly displayed large chunks of semi-solid oil. "That's why the judge finds them guilty," Moncayo said. Chevron spokesman James Craig, took a more detached approach on his tour, on which he is accompanied by several bodyguards. Referencing paperwork he brought with him, he gave Chevron's version of the history of each site and put great store by the 1995 agreement that Texaco signed with Ecuador that described which areas it would remediate. In 1998, the Ecuadorean government signed off on a final release in which it agreed that the remediation had been completed (the plaintiffs say the agreement only released Texaco from its obligations to the government and does not affect third-party claims). Craig also seeks to highlight what Chevron believes are inconsistencies in the case by visiting sites he says Chevron has been found responsible for even though Petroecuador has remediated them or is in the process of doing so. "Things aren't always as they seem," he said.

Legitimacy at Issue

With the case on appeal in Ecuador, the future is far from certain. A panel of three judges has been selected and, almost predictably, Chevron has challenged the selection process. "We don't have a lot of confidence in the court's ability to properly adjudicate this case," Craig said. The plaintiffs, equally predictably, are critical of Chevron's tactics. "It's the same tired old song just a different dance," Ecuadorean attorney Pablo Fajardo said. While Chevron maintains that courts in Ecuador are particularly hostile, it has had better luck in the United States. The company has already won a preliminary injunction from U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan of the Southern District of New York that would prevent the plaintiffs from enforcing the ruling in U.S. courts and possibly elsewhere. Events in New York are a reminder that the case is, in effect, made in America. It was

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Cristobal Bonifaz, an Ecuadorean lawyer based in Massachusetts, who first had the idea to file suit on behalf of indigenous plaintiffs. The suit was filed in New York in 1993. U.S. law firms have bankrolled the plaintiffs for years, even after the case in New York was dismissed and refiled in Ecuador in 2003. It seemed they were on the verge of success when Chevron started to succeed in its efforts to undermine the case thanks, ironically, to the release of "Crude," the documentary film that was intended to help the plaintiffs. Via court-ordered discovery overseen by Kaplan, Chevron obtained outtakes from the movie that showed American lawyer Steven Donziger making unwise comments about the Ecuadorean legal system. Among other things, Donziger emphasized the need to pressure the judicial system in Ecuador to rule in favor of the plaintiffs. "We believe they make decisions based on who they fear the most, not based on what the law should dictate," he said in one scene. That and other evidence, including indications that the plaintiffs influenced an independent report submitted by a court-appointed expert, prompted Chevron to file a federal racketeering suit against the plaintiffs' legal team. Kaplan then issued his preliminary injunction preventing enforcement of Zambrano's ruling overseas. Much to the despair of the plaintiffs, Kaplan has appeared to have some sympathy for Chevron's contention that the entire case is an extortion racket made possible by a failing court system in Ecuador that is constantly subjected to political pressures from the government. From the plaintiffs' perspective, the appeal in Ecuador -- which could yet end up before the nation's highest court -- could be the easy part. Then, there is the uphill battle of enforcing the judgment overseas, a route the plaintiffs have to take because Chevron has no assets in Ecuador. That could go on for years.

'I Haven't Felt Pressured'

In Zambrano's office, incongruously located on the fourth floor of a shopping mall, the only sunlight comes from a small window up near the ceiling. Zambrano, watching his words carefully, was reluctant to comment on the facts of the case while it is on appeal. That is because the case could yet return to him. He tells curious reporters they are welcome to look at the files - all 2,067 -- if they want all their questions answered. But his demeanor does not suggest he is concerned much with what is being said about him and the Ecuadorean court system in a courtroom in New York. "We judges have to stick to the technicalities of it, as far as we can," he said. "There's no doubt it's received attention at an international level, but I haven't felt pressured or affected because this is what we do on a daily basis."

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/05/17/17greenwire-judge-at-heart-of-landmark-oil-pollution-case-89753.html>

USA, N.D, BISMARCK, MAY 19 2011. COMPANIES FACE MILLIONS IN FINES OVER FLOODED OIL PITS

james macpherson

Nineteen oil companies working in North Dakota's oil patch face fines totaling several million dollars for failing to protect waste pits from spring flooding, state regulators and health officials said Wednesday. Lynn Helms, the director of the state Department of Mineral Resources, told The Associated Press that 47 waste ponds were swamped this spring by meltwater from one of the state's snowiest winters on record. The waste pit breaches came after widespread warnings of the spring flood potential following heavy snowfall across the state. Williston, in the heart of the state's oil patch, had nearly 100 inches of snow this year, topping the previous high of about 95 inches set in 1895, the National Weather Service said. Helms said at least five swamped sites will be fined more than \$500,000 each because no action was taken to prevent the spills. "Their response to the cleanup also was very slow or inadequate," he said. Owners of 40 of the sites will be fined a minimum of \$12,500, he said. Complaints against the companies will be filed soon, and the total amount of the combined fines is still being tallied, officials said Wednesday. Runoff from the waste pits, which are about the size of a large swimming pool and can contain oil, diesel, drilling muds and chemicals, has not threatened drinking water sources, said Dennis Fewless, director of water quality for the state Health Department. "Having said that, there will be a continual process of testing," he said. Cleanup is still going on at many of the spill sites and could take months, officials said. They said the number of polluted acres is still unknown. Glenn Wollan, a field supervisor with the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division, said New York City-based Hess Corp. accounted for nearly a third of the reported spills. Hess is one of the oldest operators in North Dakota's oil patch, first tapped 60 years ago. Runoff from one site owned by Hess in Williams County made its way to Lake McLeod, near Ray, officials said. Representatives for Hess did not immediately return calls for comment Wednesday. The company has said before that the bulk of their reported spills were contained at the site where they occurred. Hess has said that less than three barrels of oil or drilling mud made it into Lake McLeod, and that cleanup was being done to skim pollution off the lake. Regulators warned oil companies by telephone and by letter to in March to build dikes and take other precautions to prevent overflow of the open pits due to runoff. Fewless, of the state Health Department, said some companies appear to have ignored the warnings. "Frankly, some of these companies didn't feel we could get this amount of runoff, but Mother Nature proved we can," he said.

http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/state-and-regional/article_d0b366d2-8161-11e0-ad54-001cc4c002e0.html

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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, MAY 20 2011. CREWS BATTLE MASSIVE FIRE AT DANDENONG SOUTH OIL PLANT

amelia harris



The huge fire at the oil plant in Dandenong South.

Firefighters have contained a monster blaze involving 700,000 litres of flammable liquid at an oil manufacturing plant in Melbourne's southeast. Country Fire Authority firefighters were joined by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to try to bring the blaze measuring 1800sqm under control. Crews managed to contain the fire to the TriTech Lubricants site by about 2am. The factory at 170 Williams Rd has been destroyed. The CFA had warned residents living in Dandenong South, Lynbrook, Hampton Park and Cranbourne North to remain indoors with windows and doors firmly closed. The warning has now been lifted. About 100 firefighters battled the

blaze at its peak along with 17 fire trucks and three cherry picker-style cranes. CFA operations officers Arthur Haynes said crews had to work hard to contain the blaze because of the amount of flammable liquid involved. "We think the fire started in the office. We'll have fire investigators there this morning," Mr Haynes said. "We haven't determined the cause of the fire yet." Greens Rd was closed between Frankston-Dandenong Rd and the South Gippsland Hwy as the fire raged. One witness described seeing towering flames and huge plumes of thick smoke just after the blaze erupted. "It was an intense fire," he said. "Just when you thought it was under control it would flare up again." No one was injured in the blaze and authorities have not yet determined if it was suspicious. According to the company's website, the Australian-owned TriTech Lubricants was established in 2002 and moved to its current premises in 2009.

Related Links

- [Massive fire destroys oil manufacturer](#)
- [Crews battle massive fire at oil plant](#)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/crews-battle-massive-fire-at-melbourne-oil-plant/story-e6frf7jo-1226059320195>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, MAY 20 2011. MASSIVE FIRE DESTROYS OIL MANUFACTURER

• [Watch the Video](#) <http://video.heraldsun.com.au/1938867512/Factory-inferno>

• [Watch the Video](#) <http://video.heraldsun.com.au/1938509018/Massive-fire-destroys-oil-manufacturer>

• [Photo Gallery](#) <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/photo-gallery/gallery-e6frf94x-1226059425933?page=1>

• [Photo Gallery \[15\]](#) <http://dandenong-leader.whereilive.com.au/photos/gallery/dandenong-south-factory-fire/>



A massive fire has destroyed the factory of a Melbourne oil manufacturer where 700,000 litres of flammable liquid is held on site. Firefighters battled for hours to try and dampen the out-of-control blaze in complex and arduous conditions last night. The Country Fire Authority, backed up by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, will likely be at the TriTech Lubricants factory in Dandenong South for most of today after the blaze broke out about 8pm (AEDT) yesterday. A CFA spokesman said the fire was a huge headache for firefighters because it could not be fought with water, which would have worsened the blaze. Foam was also a problem because it would have polluted the local area and caused an environmental hazard, the spokesman said. A small amount of foam was used to stop the blaze spreading to surrounding factories in the industrial area, including a nearby glass factory which housed dangerous chemicals. The blaze destroyed the factory and was threatening massive 20-metre-high drums containing flammable liquid, the spokesman said. Several of the drums exploded. Firefighters were spraying water on the remaining drums to cool them down and prevent further explosions, he said. Initial estimates of the amount of flammable liquid at the site were of 70,000 litres, but the CFA spokesman said the estimated volume was later lifted to 700,000 litres. The factory makes products such as petroleum-based oil, motor oil and lubricant. The spokesman said there was a significant amount of thick black smoke in the area. "It is a concern for us that there's smoke. We're asking everybody to stay indoors and close the windows," he said. Residents living in Dandenong South, Lynbrook,

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Hampton Park and Cranbourne North were told to remain indoors. About 20 CFA units and six MFB trucks were at the scene with about 130 firefighters working to contain the blaze. It is not yet known what caused the blaze. Fire investigators will not be able to access the site until it is deemed safe, which may not be until the weekend. According to the company's website, the Australian-owned TriTech Lubricants was established in 2002 and moved to its current premises in 2009.

Related Links

- [Crews battle massive fire at oil plant](#) Herald Sun, 5 hours ago
- [Police investigate factory blaze](#) Herald Sun, 29 Apr 2011

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/massive-fire-destroys-oil-manufacturer/story-e6frf7jx-1226059342140>

USA, OH, WINTON HILLS, MAY 29 2011. FIRE BREAKS OUT AT CHEMICAL COMPANY

trina edwards

A fire broke out last Wednesday night at a chemical company in Winton Hills. It happened around 11:45 p.m. at Emery Industries on Este Avenue. When firefighters arrived, they found a 250-gallon vessel with heavy fire from the top that was threatening a building next to it. It was determined that the product in the tank was Dowtherm, a heat transfer fluid. It was determined that streams would be directed on the tank to cool it and a misting spray was placed on the flames to keep them from entering the building but not extinguishing them. Once the tank was cooled down the vapors stopped escaping and the fire went out. Dowtherm is used as the fuel to apply heat to the process they were running in that part of the plant. Company officials said that when they started the process up it built 3 times the pressure it normally does. The relief valve opened and the product in the air reached an ignition source and ignited. Dowtherm is a low level irritant and contains components that have caused cancer in laboratory animals. All fire fighters operating at the scene used Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The leak was not large enough to cause any evacuations except for the plant workers. Loss is listed at \$750,000. No firefighters or civilians were injured. The cause at this time is a chemical reaction.

<http://www.fox19.com/story/14675401/fire-breaks-out-at-chemical-company>

USA, MI, HARBORCREEK TWP, MAY 20 211. FIRE CHIEF: 26 FIREFIGHTERS EXPOSED TO CHEMICALS DURING HARBORCREEK PLANT FIRE

ron leonardi

Firefighters who fought a blaze that heavily damaged a Harborcreek Township biodiesel plant Saturday night were exposed to a mixture of at least nine chemicals, Fairfield Hose Co. Chief Jim Hawryliw said Wednesday. Authorities also said as of Wednesday evening, at least 26 of the estimated 100 firefighters at the blaze had sought medical treatment in the past few days for a variety of respiratory-related problems. None of the symptoms are life-threatening, and no firefighters have been admitted to a hospital, said Carrie Colleran, medical director for prehospital services at Saint Vincent Health Center. "I know there were at least 10 firefighters from both companies in North East -- Fuller and Crescent Hose -- who were treated," Colleran said. Hawryliw organized a meeting Wednesday night at Fairfield Hose Co. to discuss concerns related to Saturday's chemical fire at 4680 Iroquois Ave. The 56,000 square-foot plant there is home to both American Biodiesel Energy Inc. and North American Powder Coatings. Investigators are still gathering information and have not yet determined what caused the blaze. No one was believed to have been inside the plant when the fire broke out, authorities said. About 100 firefighters from 12 area companies responded to the plant at about 8:18 p.m. Saturday. It took firefighters more than six hours to bring the blaze under control, and another four to five hours before it was extinguished. Fire crews were called back to the plant Sunday evening and Monday morning after flames rekindled in portions of the building. About 40 people attended Wednesday's meeting, including area fire officials, state Department of Environmental Protection representatives, Erie County Hazardous Materials Team officials, a chemist, fire marshals, and insurance agents. "After the fire, we felt it was good to get everybody together in one room so we're all on the same page when it comes to the safety of our members and of the community," Hawryliw said. "With all the chemicals involved in the fire, we had a lot of concern about that." Firefighters who have sought medical attention have complained of sore throats, headaches, respiratory ailments, flu-like symptoms, burning in the upper airways, mouth and nose, blurry vision, coughing, chest tightness, back pain and neck pain, Colleran said. "There are some folks who do have some minor symptoms that haven't sought care that I have talked to," said Colleran, who also serves as medical director for the Fairfield, Brookside, Crescent and Harborcreek volunteer fire companies. "But there are 26 confirmed firefighters who have sought care that we are aware of," she said. Included in that number are three firefighters who suffered minor injuries, including one who was treated for chemical burns, Colleran said. "We're accepting the fact that we got exposed to a little of everything," Hawryliw said. Hawryliw said the biodiesel plant's owner, Lee Akerly, of Harborcreek Township, identified to DEP and Hazmat officials nine chemicals that were inside the building: vegetable oil, glycerin, ethanol, methyl

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hydroxide, toluene, sulfuric acid, dry lye, powder coating and sodium methoxide. "I believe there could be more chemicals in there," Hawryliw said. "I believe the list we got was nine, but I think every day you go in there, you'll probably find something else. That's what our biggest concern is. "We've been to that plant a lot over the years, with all the chemicals, and we were just never sure exactly what's in there," Hawryliw said. "It's been ongoing for 30 to 40 years. That was always the building we were afraid was going to burn for the simple fact that there are so many chemicals in there." Hawryliw said he believes a majority of firefighters who responded to the blaze Saturday, or who were at the building Sunday or Monday, will have to replace contaminated gear and equipment. The cost of replacing that equipment, he estimated, could be \$1.5 million. Items that might have been ruined because of chemical contamination include coats and pants, boots, helmets, gloves, hoses, air packs and fire engines. "One of our key issues is to try and get some sort of monetary estimate at what it will cost to replace that," he said. "A simple set of bunker gear -- helmet, air pack -- may cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000," Hawryliw said. "If we have 100 firefighters, that cost is going to be a lot." Thick, black smoke billowed from the plant Saturday night, and flames shot at least 100 feet high. "It's being recommended that anybody who had any smoke into their gear has to have their gear replaced," he said. "It has contaminants from the fire. That's going to be up to the discretion of each fire chief."

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110519/NEWS02/305199944/-1/news>

USA, GA, DEKALB CO, MAY 20 2011. MORELAND AVENUE KROGER GAS STATION ROPED OFF AFTER 20-GALLON FUEL SPILL >> DEKALB COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE OFFICIALS ON SCENE

péralte paul



The filling station at the Kroger on Moreland and Easat Confederate avenues in Southeast Atlanta was closed off Thursday afternoon following a 20-gallon fuel spill. The gas station at the Kroger store off Moreland Avenue at East Confederate Avenue is closed following a fuel spill. The gas station was roped off with yellow caution tape Thursday afternoon as DeKalb County fire officials worked to address the problem. A fuel hose connected to a tanker that was filling the underground tanks somehow became loose resulting in 20 gallons of gasoline spilling out, said Norman Augustin, assistant chief of operations at the DeKalb Fire and Rescue Department. The department's hazardous materials team responded and quickly got the spill under control, he said. None of the spilled gasoline went into nearby storm drains, which is a major concern in such incidents, Augustin said. No injuries were reported. The filling station will remain closed until the investigation into how the hose became

disconnected is completed, said Glynn Jenkins, a Kroger spokesman. He said he did not have a timetable for when it will reopen.

<http://eastatlanta.patch.com/articles/moreland-avenue-kroger-gas-station-roped-off-after-20-gallon-fuel-spill#photo-6148942>

USA, LA, SHREVEPORT, MAY 20 2011. THREE ARRESTED IN ALLEGED SCHEME TO SELL GAS STOLEN FROM CALUMET

carolyn roy

Watch the Video <http://www.ksla.com/story/14679393/three-arrested-in-alleged-gas-theft-ring>



Crime scene tape surrounds the pumps at the Chevron on Mansfield Rd., Shreveport.

Three men have been arrested for their alleged involvement in a scheme to steal thousands of gallons of gasoline from Calumet in Shreveport and re-sell it at a local gas station. Shreveport police say the arrests are the result of an investigation that lasted several months and involved surveillance video and a sting operation. It all started, they say, with an anonymous tip to the local refinery. Calumet notified police. Police first arrested 2 Calumet employees, 28-year-old Kevin Harris and 29-year-old delivery driver Jacob Morrow. Both are charged with felony theft. Detectives say they admitted to the crime, and told police who they sold the stolen gasoline too. "We actually set up a controlled buy where the owner of the station

was seen paying for fuel that he knew was stolen," said Detective Michael Tyler with the Shreveport Police Department. Thursday morning officers arrested 29-year-old Amir Khurram, the owner of the Chevron on Mansfield Road near Valley View

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Drive in West Shreveport. He has also been arrested and charged with felony theft. "Calumet will review the policies and practices concerning the loading of fuel customers at the refinery as the external investigation continues," said Tom Germany, Shreveport Calumet Plant Manager. Shreveport investigators say at least 8,600 gallons of gasoline was taken from Calumet by the employees and sold cut-rate to the owner of the Chevron, who in turn allegedly sold it to his customers. Investigators have shut down the pumps and seized \$27,000 in cash from the station as well. What's more, investigators say, the same octane gasoline was sold from all three pumps.

<http://www.ksla.com/story/14679393/three-arrested-in-alleged-gas-theft-ring>

USA, TX, ABILENE, MAY 20 2011. 18-WHEELER CARRYING OILFIELD CHEMICALS TIPS OVER

celinda emison

The Abilene Fire Department's hazardous materials team was called out Wednesday after an 18-wheeler truck carrying oil field chemicals tipped over in the 4600 block of South Treadaway. The HazMat team only responded to the incident as a precaution, said Jeremy Williams, spokesman for the fire department. Both the truck and the trailer overturned in the accident that occurred at 6:30 p.m. The tractor-trailer rig was carrying two, 55-gallon barrels and four, 500-gallon totes of Feritol 280, a mildly poisonous chemical used in the oil field. The containers never fell out of the truck, and only overturned in the trailer, Williams said. "The containers did their job and there was no spill of the chemical," he added.

<http://www.reporternews.com/news/2011/may/19/18-wheeler-carrying-oilfield-chemicals-tips-over/>

UK, WALLINGTON, MAY 20 2011. MEN SAVE TRAPPED DRIVER'S LIFE AFTER WALLINGTON GAS CYLINDER EXPLOSION

matt watts & hannah mcclaverty-williamson



The car after the explosion.

Two men saved a trapped motorist's life after pulling him from his burning car after a leaking gas cylinder exploded in his boot. The motorist, in his 50s, is understood to have been driving in Stanley Park Road, Wallington just before 5pm yesterday, when unaware of the cylinder leak, he lit a cigarette. The flame from the lighter ignited the gas, causing a gas explosion, which blew out all of the car's windscreens and windows, sending glass and debris up to 40 ft from the moving car. The fireball singed the driver's hair and eyebrows, and caused minor burns to his face. The car then crashed into a signpost. Eyewitnesses reported the man was trapped inside the car as smoke and flames began to engulf the vehicle. Two men in high-visibility jackets driving a truck loaded with a skip were then seen stopping, pulling the door open, and dragging the man from the burning car, before getting back into their vehicle and driving off. Rob Cummings, red watch manager at Wallington fire station, said: "I would say they have saved this man's life. The car was completely on fire when we arrived, and if he was trapped in the car no one would have survived that." He said it would be nice if the men came forward so they could be congratulated for their bravery. The driver was treated by London Ambulance Service at the scene, who took him to [St Helier Hospital](#). Homes were evacuated

in the vicinity as firefighters and a section of the road closed off as they worked to cool the propane cylinder down to avoid any further explosions. The incident happened in Stanley Park Road near the junction of Queen Mary's Avenue.

http://www.thisislocalondon.co.uk/news/9037315.BREAKING_NEWS_Men_save_trapped_driver_s_life_after_explosion/

NETHERLANDS, THE HAGUE, MAY 20 2011. SHELL 'APOLOGISES' FOR WORLDWIDE DAMAGE IN "ERRATUM" TO ANNUAL REPORT >> FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL NEW REPORT DISPLAYS 12 CASES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL WRONGDOING.

 **Document** [Download the "erratum" here](#)



During the Shell annual general assembly (AGM) in The Hague, Friends of the Earth International presented an "erratum" [1] to Shell's 2010 annual report. In this spoof "erratum", which was distributed among shareholders, Shell 'admits' that it is "causing a lot of unwanted and unnecessary damage" in its global oil-gas- and biofuels operations. The company also states that Shell "has learnt from these mistakes" and pledges to take "full responsibility to prevent and mitigate costs for the environment and people affected by our operations". The "erratum" published by Friends of the Earth International highlights 12 cases from 5 different continents. It displays climate and other environmental impacts from Shell's oil

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and gas operations including the risk of environmental damage through unconventional and dangerous gas production methods (coal seam gas/coal-bed methane) in Australia. Shell owns 50% of Arrow Energy which is focused on the development of coal seam gas in the Surat and Bowen Basin's in Queensland. The report also highlights Shell's violations of human rights and labour irregularities, such as those resulting from Shell's joint venture with Brazilian biofuel producer Cosan S.A., which has been linked to slave labour and violations of labour rights. Furthermore, the report lists cases of corruption and interference with politics in order to ensure business profits. The erratum, which should serve as a wake up call for Shell's shareholders and board, is backed by an in-depth report about the 12 cases involving life threatening pollution, bribery, slavery and violation of national and international laws. Paul de Clerck, coordinator of the corporates campaign at Friends of the Earth International, said: "We expect that the promises in the erratum we wrote for Shell will become reality. Shell is aware of the damage it is causing to the environment and of the violation of rights of local communities that it is involved in. We want the company to take measures to restore this damage and to prevent further wrongdoing". During the presentation of the "erratum" to Shell's shareholders and board, representatives from different communities affected by Shell's wrongdoing were present:

- Eric Dooh, a Nigerian farmer who is taking Shell to court in The Netherlands [2] for refusal to clean up oil spills in his fishponds and on his fields said: "Oil spills from Shell pipelines caused the water and agricultural land in our village to be severely polluted. We want Shell to clean up the pollution so we can fish and farm again".
- Lionel Lepine, representing the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in Canada said: "Shell's tar sand operations are disrupting our traditional way of life. They are destroying our air, water, land and medicinal plants and the birds, fish and animals we depend on to sustain our people" Mr. Lepine also stated that "Shell's footprint in our lands will have a multi-generational effect on our children not yet born, they are violating our Indigenous rights, the rights of our sacred Mother Earth and we are here at their AGM to put them on notice that we will stop them."

Friends of the Earth International demands from Shell that the company:

- Cleans up pollution and compensates victims
- Improves maintenance of its operations to avoid new cases of pollution
- Reduces the carbon footprint of its operations
- Terminates operations posing severe risks to water supplies, health, agriculture and biodiversity, such as high-volume gas-fracking, tar sands, Arctic and deep sea drilling
- Ceases the violation of human rights and compensates victims.

Notes

[1] The spoof erratum can be downloaded here: <http://www.foei.org/shell-report>

[2] On May 19, Eric Dooh will for the first time face Shell in court during a hearing in The Hague. For more information about the court case and about what will happen on May 19, please visit: <http://www.milieudefensie.nl/english/shellinnigeria>

Related Links

- [Shell and activists accuse each other of delaying oil case](http://www.engagemedia.org/Members/emnews/news/shell-apologises-for-worldwide-damage-in-2011erratum2011d-to-annual-report)

<http://www.engagemedia.org/Members/emnews/news/shell-apologises-for-worldwide-damage-in-2011erratum2011d-to-annual-report>

CANADA, QUEBEC, TRURO, MAY 20 2011. WILSON FUELS HAS EYE ON ACQUIRING MARITIME-BASED SHELL STATIONS

harry sullivan



This gas station on Robie Street in Truro could be included in any future sale of Shell stations in the Maritimes.

News that Shell Canada is planning to divest itself of 260 gas stations has piqued the interest of Wilson Fuels. "It's the type of business we're in and we have an interest in it," Wilson Fuels president Ian Wilson said on Thursday. The Calgary-based company announced this week that it is seeking a buyer for about 260 Shell-branded retail sites in Quebec and the Maritimes. The Canadian arm of Royal Dutch Shell PLC said in a press release that it is seeking a buyer or buyers interested in expanding in these markets while remaining "stewards" of the Shell brand. That means that even if Wilson Fuels, which was founded in Truro, were the successful bidder, the gas stations would remain under the Shell banner. The network includes convenience food stores, car washes and other customer-driven offerings, as well as the gasoline components of the operations. "I think that's what they're

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looking for, is to maintain the Shell brand," Wilson said. "We're certainly capable of operating them under the Shell brand and that wouldn't compromise our ability to continue to operate them under the Wilson's brand as well." Shell has a mix of different types of stations, with some directly owned by shell, while others are owned by third parties which carry the Shell brand. Wilson Fuels currently owns and or operates "a bit over 50" gas stations and acquiring the Shell stations would be a big move, Wilson said. In all likelihood, the Shell station located on Robie Street in Truro would be included in any future sale. "I mean it would be a great boost for our business if we could successfully acquire these sites," he said. But he also said it is very early in a process that will likely involve numerous players. "It's a great opportunity for someone and I think there are going to be a number of interested parties, so it will be a very competitive process." Wilson said as well that a \$260 million price tag that has been touted for the Shell properties is also a very preliminary figure. "Well, I think that would be a very rough estimate just based on very incomplete information. I think if the information becomes clear the number will crystallize into something else," he said. "I think the \$260 million was just a real guess, based on just thin information ... "At this time its quite early and our information is based off the public press release."

<http://www.trurodaily.com/News/Local/2011-05-19/article-2521373/Wilson-Fuels-has-eye-on-acquiring-Maritimebased-Shell-stations/1>

USA, IL, ROXANA, MAY 20 2011. VAPORS CAUSE CONCERNS FOR ROXANA RESIDENTS

cynthia m. ellis



A pressurized system was in use on Chaffer Avenue and screened from a nearby home with a fence and plywood. The Illinois EPA has warned some residents in the area not to sleep in their basements, prompting some to evacuate their families. URS Corp. was joined this week by workers from Pro Act Services Corp., an environmental treatment systems company from Ludington, Mich. There now are at least 19 monitoring wells along Chaffer Avenue from East Second Street south to East Fourth Street.

Vapors from volatile organic compounds that have gone subterranean have prompted the EPA to warn some residents not to sleep in their basements. The situation has prompted one or more families to move from their homes. Earlier this month, workers from URS Corp. attracted attention when they started digging a relief well near Chaffer Avenue and Fourth Street in Roxana. The digging was part of an overall plan in reaction to the detection of an elevated level of hydrocarbons along the west fence line of the ConocoPhillips Wood River Refinery. Workers from URS and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency visited homes, asking residents for permission to drill small holes in their basements. "Everything was going along as we had hoped, and then elevated levels of hydrocarbons and lower explosive limits were found in the ground beneath several homes during testing," said Chris Cahnovsky, regional manager with the IEPA Bureau of Land. Cahnovsky said indoor air samples have been tested in 15 homes, and although the results of the indoor air quality were deemed OK, the Illinois Department of Public Health suggested that residents who were living in the basements of at least two not continue to do so in case of vapor intrusion. "It's simply a precautionary measure," Cahnovsky said. He said no one was ordered to move from any of the homes tested. Those who left did so voluntarily, based on the recommendation by IDPH. He said there were at least a half-dozen homes that showed no signs of vapor toxins in the ground beneath the basement's surface. Vapor intrusion occurs when vapors and gases from contaminated soil and groundwater seep into indoor air spaces and pose potential health problems. When volatile chemicals or petroleum products are spilled on the ground or leak from underground storage tanks, they can give off gases, or vapors, that can migrate from the subsurface into overlying buildings. The vapors move through the soil and seep through cracks in slabs or basement floors and walls, openings for utility lines where pipes and electrical lines go through the foundation, crawl spaces below floors and other openings. Indoor air samples are collected to characterize the nature and extent of air contamination within a home or building. They are compared to sub-slab or crawl-space samples and outdoor samples to help determine where the volatile chemicals may be coming from, such as indoor sources, outdoor sources and/or from soil gas below the building. Several homeowners, who did not want to give their names, said they are concerned by the discovery of hydrocarbons and explosive gases found beneath their homes. One resident said everyone has been fair about what's been going on so far, but he felt they were being kept in the dark. "No one is really telling us anything," the resident said. Residents from two houses were being put up in hotels because of concerns about vapors. "We just want to know what's going on," the person said. "I think we have a right to know, especially when it concerns our health and our property." Cahnovsky said anyone interested in the project or the work schedule can visit <http://roxanainvestigation.urs-stl.net/> to find out more. He said the website contains up-to-date information on the work, as well planned future work. Workers began checking the soil and

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groundwater for benzene contaminants on the village's east side more than two years ago. A total of 8,400 gallons of benzene leaked from an underground pipeline more than 25 years ago when Shell Oil Products U.S. owned and operated Wood River Refinery. Benzene is a volatile organic compound. It is a chemical component of gasoline and other petroleum hydrocarbons with the most serious potential health effects. Cahnovsky said the IEPA has been monitoring the area around the plant since the 1986 leak. An increase in benzene levels was discovered in 2005. Shell sent out letters to local residents stating the increased level could have been from the migration in the groundwater from the 1986 release. Shell is paying for all monitoring, and IEPA approved the program. Shell also is paying for the hotel stays of those who left their homes. There has been benzene found between 40 and 45 feet beneath the surface of the ground around the plant. Officials said the situation in Roxana is far different than in neighboring Hartford, where an underground plume of gasoline rises and falls with the water table. Basements would fill with fumes each time the water table rose. In some cases, years ago, homes would burst into flames on occasion. A series of monitoring wells are in place around town to detect gas vapor and refined products in the soil. Cahnovsky said the solution to cleaning up any subsurface contamination that is producing the vapors is by installing vapor control mitigation systems. He said the systems remove soil vapors below basements, foundations or within crawl spaces. He said vapors are vented outside and above the home, where they become dispersed and harmless. In addition, any cracks in a building foundation should be sealed to help prevent vapors from entering the home. Once the source of vapors is eliminated, the mitigation systems no longer would be necessary, he said. Roxana Mayor Felix Floyd said he checked with contractor URS, the IEPA and other officials. "They've continued to assure me there is no threat to the health and safety of our residents," he said. Floyd said he and other village officials are going to continue to monitor the situation.

<http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/vapors-54158-homes-residents.html>

USA, MI, INGHAM CO, WHITE OAK TWP, MAY 21 2011. OFFICIALS: PIPELINE SPILLED UP TO 462,000 GALLONS OF GAS IN INGHAM COUNTY FARMLAND >> COMPANY ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED VOLUME TO BE 126,000 GALLONS

louise knott ahern

 **Photo Gallery:**

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110520/NEWS01/105200327/Marathon-Pipe-Line-officials-say-much-462-000-gallons-gasoline-spilled?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>



Marathon Pipe Line LLC officials now say as much as 462,000 gallons of gasoline might have leaked last month from a faulty pipeline that runs beneath the rural farm fields here. That makes the leak anywhere from two to four times larger than previously reported. Marathon originally estimated that 126,000 gallons had leaked into the soil before it was detected April 13. However, public health and environmental officials say there still is no indication that the gasoline has contaminated local residential wells. The leak was discovered by a farmer who noticed gasoline trickling into a county drainage ditch that separates his property on Mount Pleasant Road from an adjacent fuel storage facility. The facility is made up of four massive tanks, one of which is owned by Marathon Pipe Line. Officials confirmed the much larger leak after a memo explaining it to county officials was obtained by the Lansing State Journal on Thursday. "Marathon has continued a

rigorous investigation to understand the cause and volume of the Bauer Drain Release," said the company memo, which officials said was scheduled to be publicly released today. "As a result of this ongoing investigation and recent deployment of new technology we have revised our initial estimate. We now estimate the released product to be between 7,000 barrels and 11,000 barrels."

Meeting to be Held

At 42 gallons per barrel, the makes the new estimates between 294,000 gallons and 462,000 gallons. However, the company cannot yet say how long the pipe was leaking before it was discovered or why its own safety mechanisms failed to notice that it was losing gasoline. Company officials likely will face those questions again next week. Marathon will hold a public meeting at the White Oak Township Hall sometime next week to discuss the revised estimate, said Kim Sakowski of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, which is overseeing the cleanup effort. A date for the meeting had not yet been selected as of Thursday. Nearby homeowner Ashley Ray said she and other residents are mostly concerned about the safety of their drinking water. "I'm more concerned now that it will eventually get into my ground water and contaminate my well and cause

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my husband and our neighbors to get sick," said Ray, 26, after learning of the larger leak estimates from a State Journal reporter.

Tests Ongoing

Environmental and health officials have been monitoring and testing nearby wells since the leak was discovered. All tests have come back clean. They said Thursday that one of the things working in their favor is that the size of the plume - how far the gasoline spread outward - has not changed despite the larger volume estimates. "They've identified where this thing starts and stops and what's in between," said Brad Wurfel, communications director for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. However, Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann said that a larger spill could mean a longer cleanup, which could potentially give the leaked gasoline more time to seep toward the water line. "I think that has to be carefully watched," Lindemann said. "The longer it takes them to get all the product out of the ground, the larger the risk of further contamination and migration of this product downward, and that bothers me some."

New System

Marathon officials said they cannot say how long the cleanup will take. Estimates have ranged from months to years, although those estimates were prior to Thursday. The revised leak amounts came from a new data collection system that can better measure the saturation of gasoline in the soil, according to the company's memo. "While the volume has increased, we remain confident that the release remains contained," Marathon Pipe Line spokesman Robert Calmus said Thursday. "Our number one concern is doing what's right. We are going to do everything possible to remediate this to the satisfaction of our neighbors and of the government agencies involved."

What's Next

Marathon Pipe Line LLC officials will hold a public meeting next week at the White Oak Township Hall to discuss revised estimates of the amount of gasoline that leaked into the ground near Stockbridge, said Kim Sakowski of the [Michigan](http://www.michigan.gov) Department of Environmental Quality. A date had not yet been selected as of Thursday.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20110520/NEWS01/105200327/Marathon-Pipe-Line-officials-say-much-462-000-gallons-gasoline-spilled?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

USA, ALA, CHILTON CO, JEMISON, MAY 21 2011. I-65 CLOSED AFTER TANKER OVERTURNS IN CHILTON CO.

john shryock



Traffic along Interstate 65 at the 217 mile marker in Chilton County is being diverted around a large tanker truck wreck. The crash happened just before 2pm Friday. State Troopers said the driver was not injured in the accident. The [Clanton Advertiser](http://www.clantonadvertiser.com) is reporting that the interstate is closed after an 18-wheeler carrying a load of diesel fuel overturned in the median. State Troopers independently confirmed fuel as the cargo and said the Department of Transportation was in the process of removing the remaining fuel from the tank. Traffic in the northbound direction are being diverted onto exit 212 and reconnecting at exit 219. The opposite path is being taken for southbound lanes of traffic. State Troopers are not sure when the interstate

will reopen. If you're traveling along Interstate 65 in this stretch of roadway, expect delays.

<http://www.wsfa.com/Global/story.asp?S=14686830>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, MAY 21 2011. MAN SAYS EXXON'S TOXIC GAS MADE HIM DEAF

sabrina canfield

Exposure to toxic gas at Exxon's Chalmette, La., refinery made a towboat captain deaf in one ear, the licensed pilot claims in a federal complaint. Tammie White claims that Florida Marine Transportation, his employer at the time, should have provided him with a respirator and chemical-release detection system, at a minimum, because the Exxon refinery has a known history of periodically releasing toxic chemicals. White says he came into contact with the highly toxic H₂S gas during a delivery this past January, transporting bulk liquid barges to load heavy crude oil. After he smelled sulfur, White "quickly became nauseated, dizzy, with headaches and eye pain and collapsed," according to the federal complaint. "Captain White subsequently suffered a total loss of hearing in his right ear and suffers from a loss of balance and ringing in the ears." Even minute quantities of H₂S can be fatal, White claims, and the Exxon Chalmette facility has a long history of H₂S gas releases. This past October, for instance, a worker died at Exxon Chalmette from inhaling H₂S gas while trying to fix an H₂S pipeline leak. The refinery's release of the chemical is ongoing, according to the lawsuit, which notes that Exxon Chalmette reported H₂S release as recently as April 26, 2011. Yet, in spite of the known threat, Florida Marine Transportation does not equip its

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boats with an H2S detection system, and it does not provide workers with respirators that would defend them against the gas, White says. "H2S can smell like rotten eggs but can also quickly deaden a person's olfactory nerves and eliminate one's ability to smell the gas," according to the complaint. "Common symptoms of H2S exposure include nausea, vomiting, eye damage, dizziness, shortness of breath and death." White is suing Florida Marine, under general maritime law, and says it is unlikely the Coast Guard will renew his master's license since he is deaf in one ear and has lost his sense of balance.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2011/05/19/36687.htm>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, MAY 21 2011. EPA SUSPENDS CHEMICAL REPORTING UNTIL STRICT CHANGES FINALIZED

jonathan bardelline

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will let companies hold off on reporting some information about chemicals while it makes changes that will require companies to report additional information and more frequently. Under the Toxic Substances Control Act, companies that manufacture or import any of about 83,000 chemicals are required to report data on how they use, process or manufacture those chemicals. Current rules say updates need to be made every five years and say chemicals needed to be reported only if certain amounts are produced. [Proposed changes](#), which would affect a large number of chemical manufacturers, would:

- Make reporting more frequent, at every four years;
- Lower the threshold for when chemicals need to be reported on;
- Require additional information to be turned over;
- Require electronic reporting.

The EPA put out the proposed changes in August 2010, and is [suspending the next reporting submission period](#) — June 1 to Sept. 30, 2011 — until those changes are finalized so that the changes don't occur in the middle of a reporting period, the EPA announced. The current rules, which were put in place by changes made in 2003, require reporting every five years by companies that manufacture or import 25,000 pounds or more of a chemical at one site. Companies that manufacture more than 300,000 pounds of a chemical in a reporting year must also submit information.

Companies have to submit information such as how many workers are potentially exposed to chemicals, how the chemicals will be used, maximum concentrations and if chemicals will be in products intended for children. The proposed changes would shorten the reporting frequency to every four years (which was the frequency before the 2003 changes) and also eliminate the thresholds for reporting. Companies would also be required to file reports electronically and submit additional information, such as if chemical substances or byproducts are being recycled, reprocessed or reused. The EPA has not announced a timeframe for when it expects the changes to be finalized and reporting to resume.

<https://www.greenbiz.com/news/2011/05/20/epa-suspends-chemical-reporting-until-strict-changes-finalized>

USA, CA, SAN JOSE, MAY 21 2011. COAST GUARD WORKING TO CLEAN UP DIESEL FUEL SPILL IN ALVISO SLOUGH

mark gomez

One day after a kayaker spotted a sheen of diesel fuel in the Alviso Slough, crews were still working to clean up the site. The spill was reported Thursday about 7 a.m., according to a Coast Guard spokeswoman. The San Jose Fire Department hazardous materials team was the first to arrive and tried to contain the spill by placing a containment boom around a barge. The Coast Guard sent a pollution response team from San Francisco to oversee the cleanup and containment efforts. As cleanup crews worked throughout the day, using absorbent pads to soak up the spill and a hard boom around the area to contain the spill, the sheen eventually dissipated, according to Lt. j.g. Laura Williams. The barge that spilled the diesel fuel has no owner or identifying numbers, Williams said, adding that it has been in the area for about a year. The Coast Guard hired a private contractor to assess the barge and determined there was no leak involved but more likely a spill from the engine room or deck, Williams said. Officials were not able to determine how much diesel had spilled. Because the barge is in an ecologically sensitive area, officials are taking their time to develop a plan that gives access to the barge without damaging the environment. "The barge is still upright and hard aground," Williams said. "The barge is not going to go anywhere."

http://www.mercurynews.com/science/ci_18105370?source=rss

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USA, IN, COLUMBUS, MAY 21 2011. COLUMBUS MAN BURNED BY ANHYDROUS TANK

chris schilling

A Columbus man sustained a chemical burn while he was collecting scrap metal Friday when anhydrous ammonia sprayed from a tank authorities think was altered to illegally transport the chemical. Randall Erdmann, 52, was treated at the scene for burns to his lower left leg. He was not taken to the hospital, according to Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department. Erdmann was looking for scrap metal in the area of Roads 400N and 575E when he found a metal tank and opened the valve. The tank contained anhydrous ammonia, which sprayed on his leg, the sheriff's department said. Deputies believe the tank was altered to illegally transport anhydrous ammonia, a farm fertilizer used in the illicit production of methamphetamine. Sheriff's Chief Deputy Maj. Todd Noblitt said residents should stay alert when encountering suspicious items because methamphetamine cooks often discard trash from their labs along roads and in fields and wooded areas. He encouraged anyone who sees something suspicious to not touch it and report it to local law enforcement, 379-1689.

http://www.therepublic.com/view/local_story/Columbus_man_burned_by_anhydro_1305925798/

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO, SAN JUAN, MAY 21 2011. CAPECO TO PAY \$8.2M FOR PRICO OIL DEPOT EXPLOSION

Caribbean Petroleum Corp., former owner of a fuel depot that exploded nearly two years ago, has agreed to pay more than \$8.2 million to help with cleanup costs, the U.S. Department of Justice said Friday. The money will be used to reimburse the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Coast Guard as well as cover penalties for federal violations, the agency said in a statement. Capeco filed for bankruptcy protection in August 2010 after its operations were nearly paralyzed by the October 2009 explosion at its fuel depot in Bayamon. The blast destroyed 15 of the site's 40 oil storage tanks and sent tremors across the capital of San Juan. It also damaged 17 additional tanks, causing the release of 30 million gallons of petroleum, the agency said. Hundreds of people had to evacuate. Puma Energy Caribe LLC bought Capeco's facility along with 147 service stations earlier this month through a court-ordered bankruptcy sale, according to the statement.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9NBF0P03.htm>

USA, AZ, MARICOPA, MAY 22 2011. FUEL LEAKS FROM TRUCK AFTER CRASH IN MARICOPA

📺 Watch the Video :

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/local/5-injured-and-freeway-closed-due-to-wreck-involving-diesel-tanker-122394639.html>



Authorities say fuel is leaking from a semi-tanker truck Saturday afternoon in Maricopa after a three-vehicle injury collision. The Arizona Department of Public Safety said it happened around 1:45 p.m. on northbound State Route 347 at Rancho El Dorado. DPS said the truck hauling fuel ruptured because of the incident and is leaking a large amount of diesel fuel. SR 347 will be closed for at least an hour to possibly eight hours due to the spill, DPS said. It's unclear how many people were injured. The cause of the crash is unknown at this time.

http://www.abc15.com/dpp/news/region_central_southern_az/maricopa/dps%3A-fuel-leaks-from-truck-after-crash-in-maricopa

USA, N.C, CAMP LEJEUNE, MAY 22 2011. MARINE CORPS CAN'T FIND RECORDS OF CRITICAL TESTS

william r. levesque

some soil at Camp Lejeune, N.C., was so saturated with fuel and chemicals by the late 1980s, the Marine Corps knew it was critical to test the air in nearby buildings for carcinogens. "We want to be sure that there are no compounds present inside the work spaces in these buildings — which could have a long-term chronic adverse health effect on occupants," base environmental engineer Bob Alexander told the public in 1988. Testing, he said, would begin "in the very near future." But nothing in the vast collection of public records detailing one of the nation's worst contamination sites shows the Marine Corps kept that promise. The only indoor air quality testing reflected in records occurred a decade or more later. And by then, fuel odors were so bad that five buildings would be demolished. After weeks of searching their files, Corps officials acknowledged

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to the St. Petersburg Times that they could find no documentation that testing was completed before the late 1990s. But Marine spokesman Nat Fahy said testing may nonetheless have occurred. Records, he said, may have simply been destroyed pursuant to the Marines' document-retention guidelines. Fahy did not respond when asked if the Corps could say independent of any record if those tests were completed. "The absence of records more than 20 years later does not necessarily mean action was not taken," he said in an e-mail. The Corps "takes vapor intrusion seriously and has taken ... steps to ensure the safety of those who live and work at Camp Lejeune. We believe that any testing that may have been done was done in a timely manner." Mildred Duncan, 62, a retired civilian computer specialist at Camp Lejeune, worked in a building in the 1980s evacuated several times due to fuel odors. "This is a betrayal," Duncan said. "It's like they lied to us. They kept us in those buildings, breathing all that. It's not right." Fuel and chemical fumes are one of the topics federal scientists expect to examine as they determine if up to 1 million Marines and civilian employees exposed to contaminants in water and air at Camp Lejeune suffered adverse health effects. People who may have been exposed over a 30-year period come from every state in the nation. About 170,000 people who lived or worked on the base have signed up for a registry to get updates of research. Some 14,500 are from Florida, the second-highest total in the nation behind North Carolina. Contaminated drinking water is the focus of current research and undoubtedly exposed far more people than air. But tens of thousands of Marines and civilians undoubtedly worked or passed through perhaps a dozen or more buildings near sites of contamination, Marine critics say. These buildings included warehouses, maintenance shops and a data processing center. They were all near vast underground plumes of solvents and fuel, including gasoline that leaked from Lejeune's Hadnot Point fuel depot, which closed in 1991 after 50 years of operation. The depot's corroded tanks and pipes may have leaked more than 1 million gallons of fuel, records show. Fuel is still being pumped out of the ground today. "It's unfathomable why they wouldn't have done the testing after committing to do it," said Richard Clapp, a professor emeritus of environmental health at Boston University who has worked extensively on Lejeune pollution issues. Inhaled pollutants can be especially dangerous because they are absorbed by the body more quickly than water, he said.

...

The extent of fuel leakage at Hadnot Point came into sharp focus in the late 1980s when engineers discovered an underground layer of pure gasoline 15-feet thick. In May 1988, a private contractor, Environmental Science and Engineering, finished a study with recommendations on how the Corps and Navy could clean up the contamination. The report wasn't just about leaking fuel, though the largest source of pollution at Hadnot Point was gasoline. ESE recommended five measures to protect public health, including air monitoring in about a dozen buildings. "In the event of compounds being detected above the threshold limit ... acceptable to humans, immediate measures, such as forced ventilation, should be taken to reduce health risks" until permanent measures could be taken, ESE's report said. Camp Lejeune officials didn't raise any objection. Indoor air testing was discussed at an Aug. 9, 1988, public meeting of base officials and environmental regulators, a transcript shows. The Corps made it clear: Testing would occur. "We believe in maximum disclosure, minimum delay," Marine Maj. Stewart Wagner said at the meeting. But plans hit a snag. It was soon clear that proposed testing "exceeded the capabilities" of industrial hygiene staff at the base who were assigned to do it, said an Oct. 5, 1988, memo by Lejeune's commander. He suggested hiring a private company. The Times asked the Corps if it could locate a contract to show if this was done. Once again, a Corps spokesman said such a contract could not be found and noted the absence of a contract did not mean one did not once exist. "It's the 'the dog ate my homework' excuse," said former Marine drill instructor Jerry Ensminger, whose 9-year-old daughter died of leukemia he thinks is linked to Lejeune pollution. Were personnel at the base pressing the command about the odor of fuel? The Corps said it could not find a record of complaints on fuel smells. But records and interviews show that complaints were, in fact, being generated. OHM Remediation Services Corp., a contractor helping in the cleanup of Hadnot Point, noted in a 2001 PowerPoint presentation that fuel odors in Building 1101 had been "reported for years" before 1997. Roy Bell, a retired Lejeune firefighter, said the odors could be overpowering and that workers in buildings near the fuel depot had long complained. "There were lots of fumes," Bell said. "We would get calls that people smelled gasoline." Bell said firefighters initially knew nothing about the extent of spillage at the fuel depot. In 1999 — eight years after the depot was closed — fumes became a critical problem. Complaints mounted. Navy records show a series of complaints in the spring at Building 1101, just a few hundred feet from the fuel depot. On Dec. 10, 1999, workers were evacuated. Testing commenced and the Corps and Navy implemented plans to prevent fumes from entering numerous buildings. But despite extensive efforts, problems persisted. In late 2006, fuel fumes again led to the evacuation of 1101. Eventually, that building was converted from office space to a warehouse so workers would not be exposed. Five other buildings were razed. All this and much more is detailed in a veritable mountain of paperwork about Camp Lejeune pollution. The Corps said it follows Navy guidelines on how long it keeps records, and documents from the 1980s would not be saved for decades. If true, it's a policy that is not uniformly executed. Hundreds, if not thousands of documents from the same period have not been destroyed by the Corps and are

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available. One such document is a July 15, 1988, memo by the Corps' commandant recapping requirements under the federal Superfund law for sites like Lejeune with hazardous substances. That memo said Superfund records must be kept 50 years — a rule the Corps said did not apply in this case. The memo notes: "It is unlawful to destroy, mutilate, conceal, or falsify such records." Asked exactly what the Corps' policy is on records retention, a reporter was given a Web link to the current 473-page Navy manual on records management. In that manual under the heading "Hazardous Substance Records" is this: "Destroy when 50 years old."

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/military/marine-corps-cant-find-records-of-critical-tests/1170791>

USA, N.D, BISMARCK, MAY 22 2011. OIL SPILL INVESTIGATED; CATTLE INTO CONTAMINATED POND

An oil spill northeast of Watford City in the Keene area apparently flowed out of a containment dike into a stock pond where cattle drank and into a creek that drains into Lake Sakakawea. The spill site was investigated Thursday by McKenzie County Emergency Manager Jerry Samuelson, who was alerted by the landowner and he then contacted the State Health Department. Samuelson said well owner Newfield Exploration, Denver, reported a 100-barrel spill May 2 during the blizzard that knocked out power to the region. The company said the oil was contained to a pit on the well site, but either more oil or the same oil has overflowed since then, Samuelson said. "They don't seem to be aware the spill is over two miles long," Samuelson said. "It looks like there's a lot more than 100 barrels." Samuelson said he's most upset that Newfield didn't let the cattle owner know about the contaminated stock pond, if it had knowledge. Travis Thompson, of rural Keene, is running about 140 head that had access to the oily water in the pond. Samuelson said Thompson reported that a veterinarian told him the cows would either survive ingesting oil, or not. Thompson said he'd rather not comment for the story, but did say his animals appeared "to be fine." State Veterinarian Susan Keller confirmed that some animals had access to the stock pond, but how much they drank, with the option for fresh water in other potholes and creeks, is unknown. The effect to the animal would depend on how much it consumed. She said she has questions about the incident and will do some follow up investigation. Keller said the pond should be tested to make sure it's safe for future use. Thompson is renting the land and landowner Phyllis Yesel, of Watford City, could not be reached for comment. The State Health Department responded immediately after being contacted Friday morning of the apparent overflow and sent an environmental geologist to inspect the spill site. Scott Radig, who directs waste management for the agency, said Newfield reported the original spill May 2, and told the department at that time there was no risk of any impact, so the spill was not investigated. Radig said the initial report was that 85 barrels were recovered from the spill, which apparently occurred because Newfield's diesel-driven pump kept operating during the storm and no one could get to the well to shut it in. "They reported it was contained within the dike except for a small amount of oil sprayed in the strong wind," he said. Radig said he was awaiting more information from the field to learn the extent of the spill and whether the May 2 spill and the overflow into the stock pond and Sand Creek drainage are related. When Newfield reported it had recovered 85 barrels that should have meant the company brought in equipment to suck the spilled oil into a truck, he said. "We take it seriously when there's the potential for livestock to be injured and we take it seriously when there's the potential for wildlife to be injured," Radig said. A call to Newfield for comment went unreturned and a second and third call went directly to an automated answering system.

http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/local/article_fb25e6fa-8333-11e0-9745-001cc4c002e0.html

USA, TX, GALVESTON, MAY 22 2011. WORKER SUES BP OVER INJURY FROM FALLING PIPE AT TEXAS CITY REFINERY

Complaining that a pipe struck him while he was working at BP Products North America Inc.'s Texas City refinery, Mateo Espinoza has filed suit against the petrochemical company and plant manager Keith Casey. The lawsuit filed May 10 in Galveston County District Court claims Espinoza sustained injuries to his head and right shoulder as a result of the June 9, 2010, incident. Recent court documents show the plaintiff was working at the plant and was instructed to help other workers move a 40-foot pipe that was hanging from the work area and sustained by cables. "The plaintiff began working as instructed when, suddenly and without warning, the cable sustaining the pipe broke causing the pipe to fall and strike the plaintiff on his head and right shoulder," the original petition says. "Unbeknownst to the plaintiff, the area in question posed an unreasonable risk of harm to him and other workers." It shows "at all times hereto, BP's activities were managed and controlled by Keith Casey." "As the owner and entity controlling the area at issue, BP knew or should have known that the area posed an unreasonable risk of harm to the plaintiff and other workers," the suit says. Consequently, Espinoza seeks unspecified monetary damages and a jury trial. He is represented by Ireson, Weizel & Hightower P.C. The case has been assigned to Galveston County 10th District Court Judge David Garner.

<http://www.setexasrecord.com/news/235641-worker-sues-bp-over-injury-from-falling-pipe-at-texas-city-refinery>

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