



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 777 Newsy Stuff

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

November 21 2011



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INDIA, KERALA, KOCHI, NOVEMBER 12 2011. TANKER LORRIES COLLIDE; DISASTER AVERTED

A major disaster was averted when a tanker carrying about 12,000 litres of diesel went out of control and fell on its side after it collided with another tanker carrying acid at the busy Kundanoor Junction at 7. 15 a.m. on Saturday. About 5,000 litres of diesel leaked on the road through three lids of the tanker under the impact of the fall, posing a grave danger of a fire. Fortunately, the acid tanker withstood the collision. The diesel tanker was on its way after filling fuel from the refinery while the acid tanker was proceeding towards Edappally, traffic police said. Drivers of both the tankers, Manoharan and Vidyasagar, were taken to a nearby private hospital with head injuries. Later, they were discharged. Fire and rescue personnel from Gandhi Nagar, Tripunithura, and Club Road fire stations who rushed to the spot, sealed the area and regulated the traffic along with the police. According to fire force personnel, the tanker carrying the acid collided with the diesel tanker to its left. The police said that one of the tankers might have jumped the traffic signal resulting in the accident. Even as the fuel tanker was being lifted using hydraulic equipment, fire force personnel sprayed it with foam to stave off the possibility of a spark leading to a fire. The diesel from the tanker was also safely transferred to another tanker that arrived at the spot from the Cochin Port Trust, fire force sources said. Fire service personnel had to use water from more than six fire tenders to wash off the diesel from the road to prevent further accidents. Later sand was spread on the road. Traffic through the area remained disrupted for close to three hours after the incident. It had a cascading effect on traffic in the nearby areas including Tripunithura, Maradu, and Pettah. Normal traffic was restored by 10 a.m, traffic police said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/article2621496.ece>

VIETNAM, QUANG NAM, NOVEMBER 12 2011. QUANG NAM FACES OIL SPILL FROM BLAZING TANKER

tuoi tre



The crew of the blazing tanker are taken ashore safely.

The central Quang Nam province authorities are coordinating with relevant agencies to cope with a possible oil spill after an oil tanker burst into flames off the province's coast yesterday. Phuong Nam Star oil tanker blazed up 20 nautical miles away from the Cham Islands at 11:40 am yesterday while it was transporting 5,600 cubic meters of diesel from the Dung Quat Port in Quang Ngai Province to the port city of Hai Phong, Quang Nam authorities reported. The 19-member crew and three others aboard the tanker were rescued by a cargo boat that had received the SOS signals from the tanker, the authorities said. The fire first broke out in the cabin before spreading to other areas, the crew said, adding that they had activated the fire extinguishing system but could not subdue the violent flame. The fire could be caused by a short circuit that exploded the boat's oil steamer, said the vessel's captain, Tran Dong Phong. As the tanker may explode any time, the Border Guard Command has sent two boats to the scene to warn other vessels from entering the dangerous area. The provincial People's Committee has asked for help from the Oil Spill Response Center and the National Search and Rescue Center, said Dinh Van Thu, deputy chairman of the committee. If an oil spill occurs, it will seriously contaminate the waters of the province and create harmful effects on the Cham Islands, a world biosphere reserve, Thu said.

<http://www.tuoitrenews.vn/cmlink/tuoitrenews/society/quang-nam-faces-oil-spill-from-blazing-tanker-1.51141>

USA, TX, SAN MARCOS, NOVEMBER, 12 2011. TEXAS 80 REOPENS SIX HOURS AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL



Firefighters and worker from Mission Well Services on scene after two chemical containers, right, fell off a trailer around 6:24 a.m. Friday.

Traffic reopened on Texas 80 in San Marcos around 12:30 p.m. Friday after a chemical spill closed the road for six hours. One eastbound lane of Texas 80 remains closed as the clean up continues this afternoon. A semi tractor trailer carrying sodium hydroxide or lye, a caustic material, dropped two containers off the trailer around 6:24 am today. The 330 gallon container spilled its contents. No one was injured. Emergency responders, including the San Marcos fire and police departments and Hays-San Marcos EMS, were on scene to respond to the spill this morning. The truck was a part of a convoy for Mission Well Services of San Antonio



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traveling through San Marcos. Alamo 1, a hazardous materials company from San Antonio, is continuing the clean up. Texas 80 was closed from Clarewood Drive to Texas 21 for six hours. State and federal agencies, including Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Parks & Wildlife and the National Response Center were notified of the incident.

<http://smmercury.com/50407/texas-80-open-after-six-hour-chemical-spill-shutdown/>

MEXICO, TABASCO, VILLAHERMOSA, NOVEMBER 12 2011. 3 KILLED IN TANKER MISHAP

Three women were killed and four others seriously injured when a tanker overturned and fell on them on the Durgapur-Bankura National Highway in the district today. A senior police officer said a bus, carrying a group from Contai in East Midnapore district to temple town Nabadwip in Nadia, had stopped on the roadside and some passengers got down for refreshments. As the passengers were standing on the side of the busy, arterial road, a passing tanker suddenly veered to one side and turned turtle trapping seven women underneath. The seven were soon brought out by locals and other members of the group. But while three of them were already dead, four others were rushed to hospital and stated to be in serious condition.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/3-killed-in-mishap/897201.html>

CANADA, B.C, BURNABY, NOVEMBER 12 2011. COMPANY ORDERED TO PAY \$150,000 FOR BURNABY OIL SPILL

mike raptis

A judge sentenced oil giant Kinder Morgan and two other B.C.-based companies on Thursday to each pay \$150,000 for the July 2007 rupturing of a crude-oil pipeline in Burnaby. Provincial Court Judge Connie Bagnall ruled a series of "small errors" led to the big spill, but decided the companies involved did not show negligence in introducing 224,000 litres of albian heavy synthetic crude oil to Burnaby's Westridge neighbourhood and into Burrard Inlet. Around 210,000 litres of the thick, toxic and pungent black sludge were recovered following a months-long cleanup of the area and nearby shoreline after the spill. "This is not a situation where pollution was let out for profit," said Bagnall during sentencing. "The spill was, in contrary, an accident," she said. The companies involved - Kinder Morgan, that operates the pipeline owned by Trans Mountain; Surrey-based Cusano Contracting Inc.; and Burnaby's R.F. Binnie and Associates Ltd. - each pleaded guilty in early October to one count of introducing waste into the environment under the Environment Management Act. Each party will pay a \$1,000 fine and is ordered to contribute \$149,000 into a B.C. environmental trust fund. Trans Mountain is also voluntarily committing \$100,000 to the B.C. Common Ground Alliance to fund DigSafe B.C. workshops. The spill displaced 250 area residents and significantly damaged 11 homes after an excavator operated by a Cusano employee punctured the pipeline which carries crude from Kinder Morgan's Trans-Mountain terminal on the south side of Burnaby Mountain to the company's Westridge Marine terminal. Five households were unlivable for more than four months following the Inlet Drive spill. A geyser of oil shot six to 13 metres in the air for nearly 30 minutes - covering homes, trees, and wildlife, and contaminating 830,000 kilograms of soil. Nearly 78,000 litres poured into Burrard Inlet, impacting 17 kilometres of shoreline. Following the spill, Kinder Morgan spent upwards of \$15 million in remediation costs and millions more for personal property damage. Floating booms were used in Burrard Inlet to contain the spill while water skimmers and vacuum trucks did the rest. While some chemical compounds still exist, health officials determined the area was non-toxic and livable in the months following the spill. The main cause of the spill was an inaccurate, 50-year-old map the companies were working from. The leak was made worse when operators shut off the wrong end of the pipeline, which runs underground for four kilometres in the area and has a vertical drop of 130 metres. The companies had faced a maximum fine of \$1 million each.

<http://www.theprovince.com/Company+ordered+Burnaby+spill/5695591/story.html>

USA, ORE, SALEM, NOVEMBER 12 2011. ALBERTSONS SELLS ITS GAS STATIONS TO TESORO

laura gunderson



[Albertsons](#) is getting out of the gas business to keep its focus on groceries. The Boise-based grocer has sold its 51 store-based gasoline stations in seven states, including Oregon and Washington, to [Tesoro](#) of San Antonio. The sale is the work of [Supervalu Inc.](#), Albertsons' parent, which announced it would sell its 134 gas stations in its western and midwestern regions that operate under the Albertsons, Cub Foods, Hornbacher's and Jewel-Osco banners. "This will allow us to focus on our core grocery business going forward," said Lilia Rodriguez, a spokeswoman for Supervalu. The company intends to use the proceeds from the sale of such "non-core" assets to



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further strengthen its business. Supervalu also said it plans to partner with the new gas station owners so it can continue offering reward programs for its fuel center customers. Supervalu [struggled through the recession](#), with grocery analysts and shoppers alike saying the company missed a chance to distinguish itself as a low-price leader. Aiming to compete better against The Kroger Co. -- the owner of Fred Meyer and QFC -- and Safeway, Supervalu said it has lowered prices and ditched regional private brands for a national "Essential Everyday" label.

http://www.oregonlive.com/window-shop/index.ssf/2011/11/albertsons_sells_its_gas_stati.html

INDIA, CANACONA, NOVEMBER 12 2011. TANKER OVERTURNS WHILE AVOIDING CATTLE ON NH 17

A tanker carrying sulphuric acid overturned along the Barcem-Paddi route of NH 17 early morning Thursday while allegedly trying to avoid stray cattle. Fire department personnel who attended to the incident said the driver sustained serious injuries and was shifted to the Goa Medical College and Hospital, Bambolim, after undergoing preliminary treatment at Hospicio, Margao. The cleaner too has sustained injuries, officials said.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-11-11/goa/30386570_1_stray-cattle-road-mishaps-pillion-rider

USA, IA, DES MOINES, NOVEMBER 12 2011. STATE FINDS SOURCE OF GASOLINE LEAK IN WATERLOO

Iowa officials have found the source of leaking gasoline that had reached a nearby creek and storm runoff pond in Waterloo. The Department of Natural Resources says monitoring wells at a Kum & Go convenience store had indicated there was a leak, and the store management says between 3,000 and 4,000 gallons were missing. Waterloo television station KWWL says (<http://bit.ly/t9yGTR>) a puncture was found in an 80-foot-long line that's used to fill a storage tank at the store. The store owner has pumped out the tank to stop any further leakage. The repaired line and two other lines will be tested.

<http://www.kttc.com/story/16019567/state-finds-source-of-gasoline-leak-in-waterloo>

ENGLAND, LIVERPOOL, NOVEMBER 12 2011. CRASHED PETROL TANKER CAUSES CHAOS ON M53

mark scully

A toppled petrol tanker caused severe delays as a section of the M53 motorway was closed by police. The Shell tanker veered off the road and crashed down an embankment on the southbound carriageway shortly past junction 3 at Woodchurch at around 10.30am yesterday. After initially closing just two lanes, police eventually shut the entire carriageway as the attempt to clear the stricken vehicle began after 12pm, bringing traffic temporarily to a standstill. Fire crews attended to the scene but reported no evidence of fire, while the 46-year-old driver was treated for shock by paramedics. No other vehicles were involved in the incident. The motorway was re-opened just before 4pm but delays and slow traffic continued into the rush hour.

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/liverpool-news/local-news/2011/11/11/crashed-petrol-tanker-causes-chaos-on-m53-100252-29757510/>

USA, MO, DESOTO, NOVEMBER 12 2011. PROPANE TANK EXPLOSIONS RATTLE JEFF. CO. RESIDENTS

michael calhoun

A series of propane explosions rocked residents in the Jefferson County town of Olympian Village late Thursday. "There was a huge fireball. My guesstimation is that the fireball was about 300 feet in the air," Christina Minks said. "We heard the rumble, then we heard and felt the ground shake." It happened at Routes 110 and 67 at a business called R&R Propane. A delivery truck, parked unattended at a pump at a nearby BP gas station rolled away and hit a transfer station, puncturing the main tank and causing that first explosion. Witnesses report at least five additional explosions. "I think there was some safety equipment on the propane tanks themselves that helped to keep it from getting worse," Sgt. James Kausler said. He said no homes were specifically evacuated, but some major roads had to be closed off. Nobody was hurt. Minks said it was a sight to see. "It looked like a miniature sun went up. It was big."

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2011/11/10/propane-tank-explodes-homes-evacuated/>

PHILIPPINES, CEBU, NOVEMBER 12 2011. CALTEX BARES EXPANSION PLANS

Caltex, one of the world's leading energy brands, announced Friday its business expansion plan in the country over the next five years. Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI) Communications and Government Relations manager Toby Nebrida said Caltex will be putting up 400 new service stations in the Asia Pacific region and 120 to 125 of which will be in the Philippines. CPI, which markets the Caltex brand of fuels and lubricants, has more than 850 service stations in the country. Thirty-three service



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stations are based in Cebu. "The energy demand here in Cebu City is surging -- and with our strong brand, dedicated people and partners, we are well-positioned for success," Nebrida said in Friday's Caltex 75th anniversary celebration and local launch of Caltex new tagline and brand campaign "Enjoy the Journey." "We are here for the long haul and we are here to stay. Asia-Pacific is one of Chevron's strategic markets – the Philippines, in particular, is at the center of this market and we're looking at a bright future here," he added. Caltex also unveiled an all-new service station image refresh, which is currently rolling out throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Forecourts are brighter and more contemporary, and the canopy lights are safer and more welcoming at night. "These changes reflect Caltex's confidence in our partners. They are designed to increase our efficiency and cement our presence here in the Philippines. Our strategy for Caltex is to aggressively upgrade and expand our network and facilities in growth centers around the country.

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2011/11/11/caltex-bares-expansion-plans-189989>

USA, CA, BAKERSFIELD, NOVEMBER 12 2011. OILFIELD EXPLORATION RIG CARRYING EXPLOSIVES CATCHES FIRE

 <http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/133724223.html?tab=gallery&c=y&img=2>

An oilfield exploration rig that was carrying explosives caught fire Friday afternoon, shutting down part of Interstate 5. Kern County firefighters and hazmat crews were sent out to the intersection of Interstate 5 and Tracy Avenue near Buttonwillow after reports of a fire. Crews said that when they arrived, they heard an explosion and immediately secured the area.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/29749539/detail.html>

USA, WYO, CHEYENNE, NOVEMBER 12 2011. EPA: HYDROFRACKING MAY HAVE TAINTED WYOMING AQUIFER

david worthington



One of the EPA's monitoring wells in the vicinity of Encana's drilling operations.

An Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) investigation has confirmed what many residents in the rural town of [Pavillion Wyoming](#) already believed – chemicals that are used to mine natural gas have contaminated their groundwater. Pavillion is a town of approximately 165 people located 26 miles away from the city of Riverton. It is also home to natural gas mining operator [Encana](#), which employs a controversial practice known as hydrofracking. Encana is one of the largest energy companies in the United States. [Hydro-fracking](#) is a technique to extract natural gas from shale. A borehole is dug deep into the ground to inject a proprietary chemical mix that breaks up and opens channels in rock formations; gas is then expelled from the rock and collected. Fracking firms are not required to disclose what chemicals are used in the process, and critics [warn](#) that acute environmental contamination is possible. A 2010 documentary called "Gasland" uncovered widespread [groundwater contamination](#) in regions where fracking occurred. A peer-reviewed [study](#) published by Duke University in May found that the energy industry was withholding key data on contamination, and uncovered flammable drinking water around nature gas extraction sites in the Northeastern United States. After being approached with residents' concerns in 2008, the EPA began to sample water from private and municipal

wells in Pavillion during 2009. Its focus shifted to specific areas of concern in 2010, where it also tested a nearby creek, and drilled two monitoring wells. The EPA advised residents not to cook or drink the water, as well as to ventilate their homes while showing. The results of the testing were released on Tuesday and presented in a [public meeting](#). The following substances were found in drinking water wells:

- Thermogenic methane in 10 of 28 wells from ~10 to ~800 ppb
- Diesel and Gasoline Range Organics are widespread (10s to 100s ppb)
- Specific petroleum-related compounds (e.g. adamantanes)
- 2-butoxyethanol phosphate (2-BE) (9 wells), phenols, naphthalene
- High sodium and sulfate (characteristic of entire aquifer)
- No significant nitrate or pesticides



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The EPA says that measures were taken to rule out household chemicals and other commercial sources of contamination other than gas drilling. 2-BE is found in some household cleaners, but has been discovered in other sites suspected of gas drilling related contamination. Results from the EPA's monitoring wells were even more intriguing. Water in those wells had an elevated PH of between 11.2-12; significantly elevated levels of potassium and chloride; synthetic organic compounds including glycols, alcohols and 2-butoxyethanol; methane at near-saturation level (with an isotopic signature similar to production gas); as well as other petroleum-related detections. Those substances included:

- BTEX (including benzene at 50x the level safe for human consumption)
- phenols
- trimethylbenzenes
- DRO

ProPublica, an online publication that specializes in public interest reporting, was at the meeting and [quoted](#) EPA scientist said Nathan Wiser: "It starts to finger-point stronger and stronger to the source being somehow related to the gas development, including, but not necessarily conclusively, hydraulic fracturing itself." Hydrofracking firms have admitted to using diesel fuel in mining operations while the Bush administration [neglected](#) to enforce environmental regulations. Encana has been paying for residents to have access to alternative sources of drinking water, and will continued to do so for the long-term, according to the EPA's [presentation](#). Other steps include voluntary cleanup of legacy well pits, and continuing work to assess the source of the contamination for a final report. The sentiments of some aggrieved residents was captured by ProPublica in a [2009 report](#), "How in god's name can the oil industry dump sh*t in our drinking water and not tell us what it is?" Should the EPA prove that Pavillion's aquifer was contaminated by hydrofracking, it could influence the national debate - especially in northeastern states where there is heavy interest in natural gas drilling. A nationwide safety study is forthcoming.

<http://www.smartplanet.com/blog/intelligent-energy/epa-hydrofracking-may-have-tainted-wyoming-aquifer/10407>

CHINA, YUNNAN, SHIZONG, NOVEMBER 12 2011. CHINA MINE BLAST TOLL HITS 28



Rescuers on Thursday enter a shaft at the Sizhuang Coal Mine in Shizong county, Yunnan province, where a coal and gas outburst killed 28 people and trapped 23.

At least 28 miners have been killed after a blast in a coal mine in China's southwest Yunnan province, while the fate of 15 others is still unknown. Twenty eight bodies have been found, and 15 miners are still trapped underground at Sizhuang Coal Mine, located in the county of Shizong near the city of Qujing. The mine was operating illegally as its license was revoked a year ago, according to a statement from the provincial coal safety supervision bureau. The bureau ordered the mine to stop production in April. Luo Lin, director of the State Administration of Work Safety, along with a group of gas experts from the Chinese Academy of Engineering rushed to the accident site on Saturday afternoon. He ordered local authorities to do

anything possible to save the miners who are trapped since Thursday. The families of 17 victims have received 10,000 yuan (USD 1,577) for funeral expenses.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/china-mine-blast-toll-hits-28/874929/>

NEW ZEALAND, WELLINGTON, NOVEMBER 12 2011. FORMER CEO CHARGED OVER NEW ZEALAND MINE BLASTS

rebecca howard



Peter Whittall after the second mine explosion last November.

Former Chief Executive Peter Whittall is among those charged over a series of explosions that killed 29 workers at a Pike River Coal Ltd. mine last November, the New Zealand Department of Labour said Friday. "He firmly denies all the charges," his attorney Stacey Shortall told Dow Jones Newswires. "He will fight them and fully defend them and he is obviously saddened by the department's decision in these circumstances." The Department of Labour said Thursday that it had laid a total of 25 charges against three parties alleging health and safety failures related to the explosions, but didn't release the names until Friday. The department explained



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Thursday that those charged either had been granted name suppression or had the right to it; the next day it said all suppression orders had been lifted. Ms. Shortall said Mr. Whittall hadn't sought name suppression and "would never want to hide." The other two parties charged, the department said, are Pike River, which went into receivership in December, a few weeks after the explosions, and VLI Drilling Pty Ltd., a subsidiary of Valley Longway International Pty. Ltd., which faces charges relating to maintenance and operation of machinery. Pike River's receivers confirmed Friday that a number of charges have been laid against the company, but declined to make any further comment. VLI Drilling also confirmed the charges. "The Department of Labour is yet to disclose the basis for its allegations to VLI," it added, "after which VLI will be able to consider its response to these charges." Pike River's receivers are currently reviewing bids for its assets, located deep in the rugged Paparoa Ranges about 25 miles northeast of the coastal town of Greymouth on New Zealand's South Island. In late July the receivers said they had received around 30 expressions of interest, though they have declined to comment on the actual short list of bidders. The mine was expected to produce more than one million metric tons a year over 18 years and is believed to contain 58.5 million tons of coal—a mineable value of about four billion New Zealand dollars (US\$3.1 billion). A year later, high levels of gas continue to make it impossible to recover the bodies of the miners killed in the explosions.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204358004577031312732136008.html>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, NOVEMBER 12 2011. SHELL MUST PAY \$1BN TO DEAL WITH NIGER DELTA OIL SPILLS, AMNESTY URGES >> RIGHTS GROUP SAYS OIL GIANT'S 2008 SPILLS HAVE WRECKED LIVELIHOODS OF 69,000 PEOPLE AND WILL TAKE 30 YEARS TO CLEAN UP



Shell's oil spills in the Niger Delta (pictured) mean the region needs the world's largest clean-up, says the United Nations Environment Programme.

Royal Dutch Shell's failure to mop up two oil spills in the Niger Delta has caused huge suffering to locals whose fisheries and farmland were poisoned, and the firm and its partners must pay \$1bn to start cleaning up the region, [Amnesty International said on Thursday](#). A spokesman for Shell said the company and its partners had already acknowledged the two oil spills and started cleaning up, adding it had been hampered by oil theft, which was responsible for most spills in the Delta. [The report](#) by the human rights group to mark the 16th anniversary of the execution of environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa by Nigerian authorities said the

two spills in 2008 in Bodo, Ogoniland, had wrecked the livelihoods of 69,000 people. "The prolonged failure of the Shell Petroleum Development Company of [Nigeria](#) to clean up the oil that was spilled, continues to have catastrophic consequences," it said. The SPDC is a Shell-run joint venture between the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, which holds 55%, Shell, which holds 30%, EPNL 10% and Agip, with 5%. Amnesty said the community's UK lawyers suggested the spill had leaked 4,000 barrels a day for 10 weeks, which would make it bigger than the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska. "Those who used to rely on fishing for a living have lost their incomes and livelihoods. Farmers say their harvests are smaller than before. Overall, people in Bodo are now much less able to grow their own food or catch fish," the report said. [Shell agreed in August](#) that a Nigerian community affected by the spill can claim compensation in a British court setting a precedent for such claims. The Amnesty report urged implementation of [a United Nations Environment Programme report in August](#) that was critical of both Shell and the Nigerian government for contributing to 50 years of pollution in Ogoniland, a region in the labyrinthine creeks, swamps and rivers of the oil-rich Niger Delta. The Unep said the region needs the world's largest ever oil clean-up, costing an initial \$1bn and taking 30 years – proposing that each of the partners of the SPDC pay its share, based on their stake in the operator. Amnesty urged SPDC to set up a \$1bn clean up fund, citing Bodo as an example of a place needing urgent attention. "Bodo is a disaster ... that, due to Shell's inaction, continues to this day. It is time this multi-billion dollar company owns up, cleans up and pays up," Aster van Kregten, [Amnesty International's](#) Nigeria researcher said in a statement. Shell stopped pumping oil from most of Ogoniland after a campaign led by Saro-Wiwa, a writer and activist, but it continues to be the dominant player in the Niger Delta. "SPDC has publicly acknowledged that two oil spills that affected the Bodo community in 2008 were caused by operational issues," Shell spokesman Precious Okolobo said, adding Shell estimated the total size of the spill to be 4,000 barrels. "The reality is that our efforts to undertake cleanup in Bodo have been hampered by the repeated impact of sabotage and bunkering spills," he added. Oil is often spilled during sabotage attacks on facilities and bunkering – tapping pipelines to steal crude. Okolobo said 150,000 barrels of oil are stolen each day in the Delta. "If Amnesty really wanted to make a difference ... it would join with us in calling for more action to address this criminal activity,



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which is responsible for the majority of spills." But Amnesty said even if some spills were caused by theft, "this does not justify a failure to clean up after an oil spill – all oil companies are required to do so, regardless of cause."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/nov/10/shell-nigerian-oil-spills-amnesty>

BRAZIL, SAO PAULO, FRADES FIELD, NOVEMBER 12 2011. BRAZIL'S ROUSSEFF ORDERS PROBE ON CHEVRON OIL LEAK

- Government to probe leak in Chevron's Frade field
- Rousseff seeks "special attention" on probe
- Chevron said source of leak was a seep

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff ordered on Friday an investigation on an oil leak near Chevron Corp.'s Frade field off the country's coast to assess the company's responsibility in the incident. The Mining and Energy Ministry and ANP, the country's oil regulatory agency, will conduct the probe, a statement from the Brasilia-based Office of the President said. The leak was reported on Thursday and Chevron said then that it was related to a natural seep on the seabed and unrelated to Frade's production. Rousseff "asked for special attention and a rigorous investigation on the causes of the accident, and the assignment of responsibilities. Independently of the size of oil spill, the facts must be investigated," the statement said. The president's involvement in the situation indicates that Brazil is taking seriously the issue of oil leaks as it undertakes a massive deep sea oil plan. Controls on offshore oil production were ramped up after the three-month spill in a field operated by BP deposited about 5 million barrels of oil into U.S. waters in the Gulf of Mexico. The BP spill was the largest ever from an offshore well. Calls to Chevron's media office in California seeking comment were not immediately returned. The company said in a statement on Thursday that it had notified the appropriate agencies and was working with partners to deploy response vessels to control the seep and minimize any environmental impact. A subsea vehicle deployed by Chevron found the source of a seep, where hydrocarbons naturally escape from underground. Investigations into the seep's causes were continuing, Chevron said. ANP had already begun its own investigation after earlier reporting oil on the ocean surface about a kilometer (0.6 mile) from the Frade field, which began production in 2009 and averaged 50,000 barrels per day of output in 2010. The leak is in the Campos Basin, which accounts for the bulk of Brazil's oil output off the coast of Rio de Janeiro state. Brazil's output is expected to leap from about 2 million barrels of crude per day now, once vast reserves lying at depths of about 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) below the seabed come on stream. ANP tightened oversight of oil companies in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFN1E7AA1VD20111112?sp=true>

USA, AZ, PHOENIX, NOVEMBER 13 2011. MULTI-AGENCY RESOURCES MESHED WELL AFTER I-10 CRASH >> MULTIPLE AGENCIES WORKED AS SINGLE UNIT

laurie Merrill



Two tankers collided and caught fire on westbound Interstate 10 near Chandler Boulevard on the Chandler-Ahwatukee border.

Just after 8 a.m. Wednesday, the emergency calls went out. Two westbound tanker trucks had collided on Interstate 10 near Chandler Boulevard. A 60-foot fireball ensued and sent a plume of thick black smoke high into the air. Fuel spilled from the tanker that was rear-ended. The driver of the milk truck that hit the fuel truck managed to unbuckle his seatbelt and fall to the pavement, but he died in the fireball, the only fatality. To further complicate the emergency response, the fiery crash took place near the Chandler-Phoenix city line, but on state land near the Gila River Indian Reservation. It was rush hour on one of the most-heavily traveled

routes in the Valley, a main thoroughfare connecting such densely populated cities as Chandler and Mesa to Phoenix and points west. Such a catastrophic event might put another part of the country in a tailspin. But in Maricopa County, where police and fire departments regularly train together, it was second nature to be hurled into an emergency and have to suddenly work together. On Wednesday, fire departments from Tempe, Gila River, Chandler and Phoenix responded. Police from Chandler, Phoenix and Department of Public Service were on the scene. Joining them later would be state Department of Environmental Quality and the Arizona Department of Transportation. "This is what we drill for," said Phoenix Police Fire Capt. Jorge Enrique,



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a spokesman. "We are like the Maricopa County fire department." "We are all on the same radio channel. We all use the same terminology. We all have the same standard operating procedures," Enrique said. Phoenix Fire was first to arrive and was the lead agency, Enrique said. Enrique said emergency workers employed the system they practice during regional fire drills at least once a week: the National Incident Management System, or NIMS. "It is like we have been trained," Enrique said. "We evacuate an area. Set up a plan. Get water out there. Execute the plan." Water tanks were brought in, and the fire was fought in a coordinated effort, using hoses from either side of the inferno to spread blankets of foam, Enrique said. In days gone by, firefighters from multiple agencies would simply fight the fires with no coordination, said Phoenix Police Sgt. Tommy Thompson. Without a lead agency keeping track of which firefighters are going where, resources are squandered, and in some cases lost, he said. An incident-management team directs the operation, which is broken into four areas: Operations, the hands-on problem solving like pouring water on a fire; logistics, anticipating and solving water, food, equipment and staffing needs; planning, preparing a plan of attack; and financing, which includes keeping track of all the money spent for reimbursements. Arizona residents might take it for granted that police officers and firefighters gather, brainstorm and problem-solve together. In some states such cooperation is rare, Thompson said. Maricopa County emergency workers also benefit from updated radio communications. Firefighters can talk directly with each other, or with firefighters from other departments, or with police. This wasn't always the case. Chandler Police this year upgraded its radio system, which before was riddled with dead spots and limited communication with other cities and even with Chandler fire. During the 9/11 attacks in 2001, New York City police were not used to communicating directly with firefighters or even themselves, Thompson said. "To see the blue guys (police) and the red guys (fire) sitting in the same truck brainstorming is huge," Thompson said. "We try to prepare so we can serve the community." DPS spokesman Carrick Cook said the agency often calls upon local police to help during major accidents. Police shut down exit and entrance ramps, manage intersections and keep people away from the crime scenes. In Wednesday's incident, "we are so short-handed, 300 officers short, that we would not have been able to keep people away from the truck or from hitting the first responders," Cook said. A mutual-aid drill was staged in Phoenix recently that 250 agencies attended, including the military and National Guard, Thompson said. The scenario was preparing for a nuclear explosion. After working with 249 other agencies, working with just a handful of others seemed a nearly seamless transition, Cook said. "It was easy, so easy," he said.

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/ahwatukee/articles/2011/11/11/20111111chandler-interstate-10-crash-resources.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, NOVEMBER 13 2011. CYANIDE DEATH FORCES EVACUATION OF SCHWARTZ BREWERY HOTEL IN SURRY HILLS



A Hazmat officer gets hosed down outside the Schwartz Brewery Hotel.

Patrons of a Surry Hills pub were evacuated yesterday after a suspected cyanide leak. Police, ambulance and the firebrigade were called to the Schwartz Brewery Hotel following the discovery of a man's body in an upstairs room. The man was found at about 2pm and initial enquiries led police to believe that he had ingested sodium cyanide. The threat arose from a number of chemical items found in the upstairs room. By 4.30pm the building had been cleared by hazardous materials officers and there was no risk of contagion. The death was not treated as suspicious. The southbound

lane of Wentworth Avenue was closed for several hours while officers investigated.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/cyanide-death-forces-evacuation-of-schwartz-brewery-hotel-in-surry-hills/story-e6freuy9-1226193007631>

USA, ID, LEWISTON, NOVEMBER 13 2011. NORTH IDAHO TANKER CRASH SPILLS FUEL ALONG LOCHSA

Idaho State Police say a fuel tanker crashed about 8 a.m. Saturday on U.S. Highway 12 along the Lochsa River in northern Idaho. An Idaho State Police dispatcher said a large amount of fuel has spilled into a ditch on the side of the highway away from the river and that a hazardous materials team with the Lewiston Fire Department is responding. The dispatcher said the tanker and one pup trailer remain upright, while a second pup trailer is on its side. Police said the crash occurred about 29 miles east of Lowell, or about four miles east of the Wilderness Gateway Campground.

<http://www.greatfallsbtribune.com/article/20111112/NEWS01/111112004/North-Idaho-tanker-crash-spills-fuel-along-Lochsa>



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SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, NOVEMBER 13 2011. MINISTER OF ENERGY WANTS AN AUDIT OF OIL REFINERIES

To address her concerns over the increasing frequency and severity of unplanned refinery shutdowns, the Minister of Energy has directed that the portion of the 20 Year Liquid Fuels Infrastructure Roadmap Project covering the review of the existing refining infrastructure be expedited. She requires that an audit of the existing refineries be conducted to establish their reliability, availability and capacities. South Africa's domestic supply of liquid fuels from its six (6) refineries has been outstripped by domestic demand. The six refineries, whose total capacity is generally quoted around 708,000 barrels per day of crude oil equivalent, are: Sapref and Enref (in Durban), Sasol Synfuels (Secunda), Natref (Sasolburg) and Chevref (Cape Town) and PetroSA's GTL facility (Mossel Bay). As a result the country is perpetually importing finished products. The supply becomes even more constrained during planned shutdowns, where there is increased reliance on imports of liquid fuels. This situation is further worsened by unplanned shutdowns, particularly when a planned shutdown coincides with an unplanned shutdown. Extended shutdowns, that is shutdowns that go beyond their expected start-up dates, have generally increased thereby further complicating matters. In SAPIA's presentation to the Select Committee on the 2nd of November 2011, even the oil industry, conceded to the sorry state of affairs regarding the country's refining infrastructure. The 20 Year Liquid Fuels Infrastructure Roadmap Project will also address port infrastructure requirements. However, it must be understood that decisions regarding big infrastructure projects need to be taken soon because the time between taking a decision and the actual construction and operation of the infrastructure tends to be long. It is without a doubt that South Africa needs to improve its domestic refining capacity to meet the increasing demand for liquid fuels.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201111120011.html>

NETHERLANDS, NOVEMBER 13 2011. DUTCH POLICE SEIZE ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Dutch police have found large quantities of powerful illegal fireworks during raids on homes up and down the country. More than 20 people were arrested during the operation. The fireworks were smuggled into the country from Poland via a Dutch transport company which had no knowledge this was taking place. Police say they have seized more than 3,100 kilos of the illegal explosives. The police had been investigating more than 240 shipments of the dangerous fireworks, which were ordered over the internet. The nationwide operation is part of efforts by Dutch police in recent years to clamp down on the trade in illegal fireworks. Dutch law stipulates that the public may only ignite fireworks on New Year's Eve and during the initial hours of New Year's Day, otherwise special permission is required. Permitted types of these explosives may only be sold by licensed businesses to adult members of the general public and only in the period immediately preceding the New Year festivities.

<http://www.rnw.nl/africa/bulletin/dutch-police-seize-illegal-fireworks>

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, NOVEMBER 13 2011. LAST OIL BEING PUMPED OFF RENA

 **Watch the Video** [Rena oil spill: Latest images of stricken ship](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Rena oil spill: Condition of ship worsened](#)

 **Photo's [7 pics]** [Amazing images: The stricken Rena up close](#)



All remaining oil has been removed from the Rena.

A milestone has been reached in the Rena crisis with most of the oil removed from the grounded vessel and attention now turning to recovering the 1280 containers that remain onboard. Maritime New Zealand said the bulk of oil had been pumped from the vessel with less than 100 tonnes left. The Awanui would be released from duty today. "The sea water is pushing the oil up to the surface of the starboard tank. Now we have got to the last bits so they've got to allow that oil to rise to the top then they'll pump it off, then they'll have to wait a while until another bit rises to the top so they'll be slowly extracting that last bit. Effectively the bulk of it has been pumped and the Awanui will be released," a media spokesperson said. The remaining oil will be received by the Go Canopus which came in to port on Sunday to discharge oil from the Rena. Awanui pumped over 1300 tonnes of oil from the

ship which struck the Astrolabe Reef off the Tauranga coast on October 5. About 1700 tonnes of heavy fuel oil was on board the cargo vessel. About 350 tonnes of oil spilled into the ocean and the starboard tank contained 358 tonnes of oil. Maritime



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New Zealand (MNZ) said on Friday that about 116 tonnes had been removed from the starboard tank by 6am. Salvors have been pumping oil onto the ship continuously since Wednesday night. There is still a small amount of oil that will need to be mopped up. Work can now begin on removing containers from Rena, which Transport Minister Steven Joyce told media will take months. About six containers could be removed each day once the container recovery phase began, depending on weather conditions. "The fragile state of the ship and precarious positioning of the 1280 containers aboard means this will be a long process. "While there is still a long, hard road ahead, the first priority has always been the safe removal of oil from the Rena and it is a huge relief to everyone involved that that has largely now occurred." The shipping company that owns Rena has been told they must remove the vessel once work is complete, however it was still possible the ship could split up, said Joyce. There was a "strong possibility" that some oil remained trapped on the vessel which could be released if it broke up. It was hoped that some beaches would be opened to the public this weekend, but they will remain closed for at several more days, Maritime New Zealand said. Beach restrictions remain in place from Tay Street in Mt Maunganui to Maketu. National On Scene Commander Rob Service said that more surveys and consultation with "key parties" was needed before further beach access would be granted. "We know people want to get onto some of those beaches, but we can't rush in - we must ensure we have worked carefully through that process." There was still a significant amount of oil in the sand and on rocky shorelines. Clean-up teams would be focussing on Matakana and Rabbit Islands, and at Mount Maunganui, Papamoa and Maketu today. Service said those who were clearing oil from the beaches were heartened by the progress salvors had made on board the Rena. "It's great news for us that we are getting closer to the point where the risk of another significant spill from Rena is gone." The cost of the response so far is about \$12 million.

Related Links

[Final pumping starts on RenaNo link between drilling and Rena - KeyRena: 4000 volunteers help clean-up beachesSlow and steady progress on RenaOiled bird emergency response operation winds downNoxious fumes from Rena's rotting food testedRena crisis: new cracks show Rena slick](#)

 [Govt to help Rena-hit businessesRena salvage: 'Preparing for the worst'](#)

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/rena-crisis/5957898/Last-oil-being-pumped-off-Rena>

USA, FLA, SEMPER, NOVEMBER 13 2011. FILM ON LEJEUNE WATER COMES HOME TO WHERE IT BEGAN

Jerry Ensminger ticks off the list of cities where he's traveled with the documentary that tells the story of water contamination at the Camp Lejeune Marine base: Woodstock, San Diego, New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and this weekend, an emotional homecoming in Jacksonville, N.C. Finally, both the retired Marine master sergeant and the movie about him, "Semper Fi: Always Faithful," are coming back to where the story began in July 1983, when his middle daughter was diagnosed with leukemia. Both he and the filmmakers expect an emotional event when the movie is shown Sunday at Northside High School in Jacksonville. It's one of two showings in North Carolina over the Veterans Day weekend. "The people here, they've been following this for all these years and have a much better understanding of the situation," said Ensminger, whose daughter died at age 9. "Many of them were exposed to these contaminants. Many of them are having health effects or worried they may develop effects. This is a whole different ballgame here." The movie, which has won several major film festival awards, tells the story of contaminated wells at the sprawling Camp Lejeune base just outside of Jacksonville. Fuel leaks and other sources of pollution contaminated the wells - for decades, in some cases - before tests alerted officials to the problem. Health officials believe as many as 1 million people may have been exposed to tainted water before the wells were closed more than 20 years ago. It also tells the personal story of Marines, sailors, civilians and their families stationed at the base, focusing on Ensminger, who lives in White Lake, N.C. His daughter, Janey, who was conceived at Camp Lejeune, died in 1985 of a rare form of leukemia. Two other daughters - one older than Janey and another younger - live in North Carolina and will attend the Jacksonville screening with their father. Ensminger has led the battle to find the cause of the contamination and to hold the Marine Corps accountable for it. In the movie, he says his crusade began with one question. "After the shock of her diagnosis wore off, my reaction was to question why," he says in the film. "And that nagging question of why stayed with me through her illness, through her death ... It's something that doesn't just go away. It never does." The movie, which was to be shown Saturday at the Cucalorus Film Festival in Wilmington, N.C., won best documentary awards at the San Diego and Woodstock film festivals. At Tribeca, it won best editing for a documentary and second place in the audience award. But a showing at a high school auditorium in Jacksonville could be the most meaningful, says co-producer and co-director Rachel Libert. "The whole audience is going to have some connection - as a resident, an employee



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or a service person," Libert said. "However they're connected, it really is going to hit close to home for them." Libert and Ensminger will attend both North Carolina screenings. Libert and Tony Hardmon, the other producer and director, were researching a different topic for a documentary when they met Ensminger's sister, who told them about the contamination at Camp Lejeune. They began the project in 2007, wondering how much could Ensminger achieve. "If he were hitting the same wall at the end (of filming) that he was hitting at the start, it would be frustrating for us and be discouraging for audience members," Libert said. "It was really nice to see he was making headway." The film wrapped at the end of 2010, but Libert continues to update it as the story develops. In September, the Environmental Protection Agency classified trichloroethylene - or TCE - as a known human carcinogen. It's one of several chemicals that mixed with the water at Camp Lejeune. Libert noted the EPA designation in the latest version of film. "It felt good to make that change," she said.

<http://www.cineplex.com/Movies/FamousNews/MovieNewsFeed.aspx?story=34080>

USA, MS, STOCKBRIDGE, NOVEMBER 13 2011. STOCKBRIDGE CAR, AMMUNITION FIRE POSED NO HAZARD

Reports of a flaming, ammunition-filled car on the Mass Pike in Stockbridge sent police scrambling late Saturday morning. Responding state troopers closed the turnpike in both directions for about 20 minutes just after 11 a.m. while shotgun shells exploded inside the burning Dodge Ram. "Due to the car being fully engulfed, troopers reported hearing what they believed to be the discharge of bird shot," said State Police spokesman Trooper Todd Nolan. "The ammunition was 'cooking off,' as they say in the trade." The situation, however, wasn't as dire as it first appeared, said Nolan. "Could it be a hazard? Absolutely. Did it turn out to be one? No, it didn't," he said. Police said the stock of ammunition was quickly exhausted, no one was injured and initial requests for a bomb squad response and police K-9 unit were canceled within 10 minutes of being dispatched. Police said they were reacting in part to reports that the driver had fled the vehicle. It was later determined that he left to seek cell phone service to call police. Firefighters from West Stockbridge responded to extinguish the blaze. The truck's owner is 48-year-old Robert Brainbridge of West Hadley. No charges have been filed against him. Nolan said Brainbridge was properly licensed to have the ammunition. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

http://www.berkshireeagle.com/ci_19323194

USA, NOVEMBER 13 2011. GAS COMPANIES CAUGHT USING MILITARY TACTICS TO OVERCOME DRILLING CONCERNS

 **Watch the Video** [Gas Companies Caught Using Military Tactics To Overcome Drilling Concerns](http://news.cbs11.com/video/dallascbs11-15750646/gas-companies-caught-using-military-tactics-to-overcome-drilling-concerns-27234790.html)

Re posted with permission of Carl Weimer of the Safe Pipelines Group
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/safepipelines/>

The CBS video at this link gives a whole new definition of industry "public awareness" efforts.

<http://news.yahoo.com/video/dallascbs11-15750646/gas-companies-caught-using-military-tactics-to-overcome-drilling-concerns-27234790.html>

USA, CT, NEW HAVEN, NOVEMBER 13 2011. MISHAP DURING FUEL TANK REMOVAL UNDERMINES STABILITY OF CHEMICAL PLANT IN NEW HAVEN

william kaempffer

A mishap as workers were digging up a large underground fuel tank outside a Fair Haven chemical plant "compromised" the ground under a section of the River Street building. The problem started Tuesday at 5:10 p.m., and officials were still trying to complete repairs Wednesday afternoon. Police shut down a section of River Street out of concern that a 30-foot smokestack could topple and further undermine the building. All operations were halted at the Von Roll plant, which produces coated electrical insulation and, among other things, has military contracts to produce insulation for Army helmets. Gas and electricity to the building were shut off as a precaution. According to Andrew Rizzo, the city's top building official, the initial problem was related to the incoming tide in the harbor. Workers were "decommissioning" the 20,000-gallon tank, which fueled the boiler in the nearby boiler-room "shack" that is connected to the main building. Since the incoming tide affects the underground water table, and because the tank was nearly empty, it was lifted about three or four inches. That was enough. Fire Chief Michael Grant said a section of the tank became pinned under the footings that support the boiler and tilted it and the 30-foot smokestack. Meanwhile, with the excavation, some of the soil under the blacktop and flooring of the building collapsed into the pit, raising concerns about the structure's stability. Company and city officials bandied several possible solutions. Rizzo said



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the company elected to bring in a crane to take down the stack and lift the boiler out of the compromised building. The boiler would then be installed somewhere else in the facility and the damaged building either razed or repaired. The 41,900-square-foot factory was the site of a 2010 three-alarm fire that damaged the same section of the building. An email message to the Swiss-based owner wasn't immediately returned.

http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2011/11/09/news/new_haven/doc4ebb2c092a466453674823.txt?viewmode=fullstory

USA, TX, PORT ARTHUR, NOVEMBER 14 2011. VALERO REPORTS HYDROGEN SULFIDE AND SULFUR DIOXIDE FLARING AT PORT ARTHUR REFINERY - FILING

ben lefebvre

Valero Energy Corp.) reported emissions Saturday at its refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, according to a government filing made public Sunday. The 292,000 barrel-a-day refinery flared hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide because of a valve leak, according to Valero's filing with the National Response Center. The flaring will continue for several days, according to the filing. A Valero spokesman was not immediately available.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20111113-703393.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, BANGHOLME, NOVEMBER 14 2011. SOME LIKE IT HOT IN CFA SKILLS SCHOOL

donna carton

 **Photo's** [Fiery training exercise at Bangholme](#)



Firefighters from the CFA Patterson River Brigade battled an aviation fuel blaze and much more in a dramatic training exercise at the Bangholme facility.

Just minutes after bringing a fire from a gas tank explosion under control, firefighters battled a blaze from aviation fuel strewn across the road. The "emergencies" were part of an intensive training exercise at the CFA facility in Bangholme. The Patterson River brigade, volunteers and career firefighters, spent hours honing their skills at the large Thompsons Rd training ground. Ambulance crews and the SES also use the facility, where a whole range of fires and accidents can be recreated. Drills operator Peter Quill said the crews trained in as close to real conditions as possible. "We replicate as many hazards as we can. We can work with fire here whereas not all training facilities can. We have a large area of

land so we have quite a few different scenarios set up," Mr Quill said. "Our members and also ambulance crews and the SES, get great benefit from this training ground. They learn and train here and then they continually hone and practise their skills here." The area has fuel and gas storage tanks to simulate an industrial accident, a domestic house, a "fire attack" building where crews can practise putting out a structural fire and a three-storey "Temple of Doom". "The Temple of Doom is our nightmare building," Mr Quill said. "The first floor is set up as a nursing home, the ground floor as a hostel type of place and the basement is an industrial complex. "Once inside there, especially because it has a basement area, there are so many decisions to make. It is a great place for honing our search and rescue skills." Firefighter Mark Welch, who completed his CFA training two months ago, said ongoing training was important. "This is a great facility," Mr Welch said. "Being able to train with fire is a great advantage. We come here as often as we can to keep our skills up. The more we train, the safer our job is. It is surprising what you remember from simulated incidents when you actually get to a real one." Volunteer Elise DeLany described the job as a "mix of teamwork and guts". "The more training you do here, the more you realise you work with a great team you can trust and the more guts you have at a fire because you've been through it here," she said. The training centre at 810 Thompsons Rd, Carrum Downs will be open from 11am-3pm, Sunday, November 20.

<http://hastings-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/gallery-some-like-it-hot-in-cfa-skills-school/>

USA, CA, SUNNYVALE, NOVEMBER 14 2011. STUDY LINKS PARKINSON'S DISEASE TO INDUSTRIAL SOLVENT

neil bowdler

Researchers found a six-fold increase in the risk of developing Parkinson's in individuals exposed in the workplace to trichloroethylene (TCE). Although many uses for TCE have been banned around the world, the chemical is still used as a degreasing agent. The research was based on analysis of 99 pairs of twins selected from US data records. Parkinson's can



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result in limb tremors, slowed movement and speech impairment, but the exact cause of the disease is still unknown, and there is no cure. Research to date suggests a mix of genetic and environmental factors may be responsible. A link has previously been made with pesticide use.

'Significant Association'

The researchers from institutes in the US, Canada, Germany and Argentina, wanted to examine the impact of solvent exposure - specifically six solvents including TCE. They looked at 99 sets of twins, one twin with Parkinson's, the other without. Because twins are genetically very similar or identical and often share certain lifestyle characteristics, twins were thought to provide a better control group, reducing the likelihood of spurious results. The twins were interviewed to build up a work history and calculate likely exposure to solvents. They were also asked about hobbies. The findings are presented as the first study to report a "significant association" between TCE exposure and Parkinson's and suggest exposure to the solvent was likely to result in a six-fold increase in the chances of developing the disease. The study also adjudged exposure to two other solvents, perchloroethylene (PERC) and carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄), "tended towards significant risk of developing the disease". No statistical link was found with the other three solvents examined in the study - toluene, xylene and n-hexane. "Our study confirms that common environmental contaminants may increase the risk of developing Parkinson's, which has considerable public health implications," said Dr Samuel Goldman of The Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale, California, who co-led the study published in the journal [Annals of Neurology](#). He added: "Our findings, as well as prior case reports, suggest a lag time of up to 40 years between TCE exposure and onset of Parkinson's, providing a critical window of opportunity to potentially slow the disease before clinical symptoms appear."

Water Contaminant

TCE has been used in paints, glue, carpet cleaners, dry-cleaning solutions and as a degreaser. It has been banned in the food and pharmaceutical industries in most regions of the world since the 1970s, due to concerns over its toxicity. In 1997, the US authorities banned its use as an anaesthetic, skin disinfectant, grain fumigant and coffee decaffeinating agent, but it is still used as a degreasing agent for metal parts. Groundwater contamination by TCE is widespread, with studies estimating up to 30% of US drinking water supplies are contaminated with TCE. In Europe, it was reclassified in 2001 as a "category 2" carcinogen, although it is still used in industrial applications. PERC, like TCE, is used as a dry-cleaning agent and degreasing agent, and is found in many household products. CCl₄'s major historical use was in the manufacture of chlorofluorocarbons for use as refrigerants, but it has also been used as a fumigant to kill insects in grain. Commenting on the paper, Dr Michelle Gardner, Research Development Manager at Parkinson's UK, said: "This is the first study to show that the solvent TCE may be associated with an increased risk of developing Parkinson's. "It is important to highlight that many of the previous uses of this solvent have been discontinued for safety reasons over 30 years ago and that safety and protection in work places where strong chemicals such as this solvent are used has greatly improved in recent years." She also called for more research to confirm the link between TCE and other solvents with Parkinson's. "Further larger-scale studies on populations with more defined exposures are needed to confirm the link," she said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-15639440>

NIGERIA, YENAGOA. NOVEMBER 14 2011. SHELL REPORTS NEW OIL SPILL IN NIGERIA

samuel tife



Anglo-Dutch energy major Shell said on Sunday it was containing a new oil spill in Nigeria's onshore delta, the latest in a string of leaks from the company's pipelines, which it has blamed on sabotage attacks and oil theft. The spill came from part of Shell's Okordia/Rumuekpe oil pipeline in the Niger Delta, where a fire last week forced the company to cut out some production. Oil spills are common in Nigeria and are often caused by oil thieves and saboteurs who tap into the hundreds of kilometres of unguarded pipelines that vein through the vast waterways, creeks and swamplands of the Niger Delta. "SPDC (Shell joint venture)

contained a spill on the Adibawa delivery line which was reported yesterday. We dispatched our spill containment team to the site as soon as we received the reports, and the leak has been contained," the company said in a statement. It did not give a reason for the leak or any details about the impact on output. Environment Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria said the latest leak was a result of operational failure and poor equipment maintenance by Shell. The oil company is coming under increasing pressure to do more about oil spills in Nigeria after a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report in August was critical of how the company deals with the environmental damage it has caused in Africa's most populous nation. Shell agreed in August that a Nigerian community affected by one spill could claim compensation in a British court, setting a



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precedent for potential future claims. UNEP said Ogoniland, one region in the Niger Delta, needs the world's largest ever oil clean-up, which would cost an initial \$1 billion and could take 30 years. Shell and the Nigerian government both pledged to investigate UNEP's findings but have not yet announced any results.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJOE7AD00Z20111114>

ENGLAND, WOODFORD, NOVEMBER 14 2011. FIRE CREWS TACKLE CHEMICAL SPILL

joe curtis



South Woodford: fire crews tackle chemical spill.

Fire fighters are tackling a chemical spill that has caused huge traffic delays this morning. The London Fire Brigade (LFB) cannot confirm what kind of chemical the drum contains but has up to five fire engines and four chemical teams tackling the spill at Charlie Brown Roundabout in South Woodford, after being called on scene at 7.30am. The drum was also letting off fumes. Police have blocked traffic from entering the roundabout from its north side, from Chigwell Road and Southend Road, though people coming from Gants Hill are able to access it as normal. Traffic is also heavy on the A406 North Circular Road because of the incident while one of its lanes is closed due to a broken down car in lane one.

http://www.thisislocalondon.co.uk/news/9362016.SOUTH_WOODFORD_Fire_crews_tackle_chemical_spill/

USA, ID, BOISE, NOVEMBER 14 2011. GAS SPILL SENDS FIREFIGHTERS TO BOISE SERVICE STATION

Boise Firefighters responded to a small gas spill Sunday at the Jackson's Food on Chinden Boulevard. Boise Fire Captain Eric Quinn told KTVB someone left his car while fueling up, but when his tank was full, the pump didn't shut off. Around one to two gallons of gas spilled out of the tank into the parking lot. Firefighters were able to quickly clean up the mess, but were worried about gas getting into the waterways.

<http://www.ktvb.com/news/Gas-spill-sends-firefighters-to-Boise-service-station-133786668.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, YARRAVILLE, NOVEMBER 14 2011. MOBIL'S LICENCE TO SPILL, AND IT'S LEGAL

jason dowling



Mobil's licence to discharge waste water into the Yarra River was renewed last month but is under review.

The Mobil refinery at Yarraville will be able to continue pumping millions of litres of industrial waste water into the Yarra River every day under an amended licence issued by the Environment Protection Authority last month. The licence is the last of its kind in Victoria. It allows Mobil to pump out waste water accumulated in large fuel storage tanks at the site and water that has been used to test fuel tanks after repairs. "From time to time the terminal ... uses water to hydrostatically test fuel storage tanks which have undergone repair to ensure they are suitable to be returned to petroleum service," Mobil spokesman Alan Bailey said. "This infrequent

water use (which can amount to several million litres per tank) then needs to be released via the waste-water treatment system," he said. Mr Bailey said water released by Mobil was first "processed through the terminal waste-water treatment system (as required by the EPA licence)". One condition of Mobil's industry waste-water licence is that waste water pumped into the Yarra "must not contain visible floating oil". The licence also details limits on the discharge of chemicals such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and xylenes (BTEX) - commonly found in petrol, phenol, iron, lead, manganese and zinc. It is not clear how often the Environment Protection Authority checks the quantity or composition of water released by Mobil into the Yarra River. The authority said Mobil "is required by licence to report annually on its licence conditions and limits. The authority said Mobil's licence - in operation since 1973 - was under review, despite being renewed last month. Mobil has been requested by the EPA to "investigate options for ceasing discharge of wastewater to the Yarra. This will be progressed by the first quarter of 2012." It is understood the authority wants the licence scrapped and Mobil's waste water piped into the sewage



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system instead. But Mr Bailey said the licence amendment last month made no change to the company's discharge limits and Mobil would need to continue discharging waste water. He said that on average the company discharged 24,000 litres of industrial waste water into the Yarra a day in dry weather. He said while the company had reduced the amount of waste water it discharged in recent years, "there will continue to be a need to release regular amounts of waste water from the site". While Mobil's is the only "industry waste water" licence still operating in Victoria, there are dozens of other EPA licences to discharge treated sewage and industry cooling water into creeks and rivers across Victoria.

<http://www.merimbulanewsonline.com.au/news/national/national/general/mobils-licence-to-spill-and-its-legal/2356481.aspx?storypage=0>

NEW ZEALAND, CHRISTCHURCH, NOVEMBER 14 2011. CHEMICAL SPILL AFTER WAREHOUSE FIRE

rachel wattie

 **Watch the Video** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wD_9EORAiis

A large freight warehouse in Christchurch is closed for the day after a fire caused about 2000 litres of dangerous chemicals to spill. Ten fire appliances contained a fire in a large truck and trailer unit which was inside the Freight Direct yard building in McAlpine Street, Wigram, after they were called there about 8.30pm on Monday. However, the fire melted two containers, which each contained about 1000 litres of dangerous chemicals, Fire Service assistant area manager Dave Burford told NZ Newswire. The horticultural and agricultural chemicals included boron acid used in the preservation of timber, Mr Burford said. "It was a major environmental exercise to prevent the liquid getting into the waterways," he said. A clean-up operation is continuing inside the warehouse on Tuesday, but the road and other buildings in the area are open. Investigators are on their way to the warehouse to determine the fire's cause. No one was injured.

<http://www.3news.co.nz/Chemical-spill-after-warehouse-fire/tabid/423/articleID/232775/Default.aspx>

USA, ALA, BIRMINGHAM, NOVEMBER 15 2011. ETHANOL TRAIN TERMINAL TO OPEN IN BIRMINGHAM

joanna schroeder

Birmingham, Alabama is going to be the new home of an ethanol unit train terminal located on the BNSF Railway, owned by BlendStar, LLC, a subsidiary of Green Plains Renewable Energy. The new terminal will have 160,000 barrels of storage and accept 96-car unit trains of ethanol per day. Expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2012, it will solely serve BNSF. "We believe Birmingham is a significant growth market, and development of this unit train terminal is a part of our ongoing effort to expand and diversify our business platform along the value chain," said Todd Becker, President and Chief Executive Officer of Green Plains. "With superior services provided by BNSF Railway and BlendStar, operation of this new terminal will provide better transportation economics to shippers, as it will be the eastern most point for direct ship on the railroad to receive ethanol from the Midwest. This will result in improved ethanol distribution through one of the most modern and efficient ethanol terminals in the U.S. when it is completed." The new terminal will offer a fully-automated rail unloading system with the capacity to distribute nearly 385,000 barrels of ethanol per month with loading service offered 24-hours per day. BlendStar is currently in multi-year negotiations with customers. Once complete, the terminal will be retrofitted to handle other biofuels and liquid products. Kevin Kaufman, BNSF's Group Vice President Agricultural Marketing added, "We are very excited about this terminal being built on the BNSF Railway. This shows our commitment to shippers to deliver the most efficient solutions for their logistical needs. BlendStar is the perfect partner to bring this strategic project on-line and operational next year."

<http://domesticfuel.com/2011/11/14/ethanol-train-terminal-to-open-in-birmingham/>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, NEWPORT, NOVEMBER 15 2011. EXXON WORKING TO RESTART AUSTRALIA REFINERY AFTER TURNAROUND

Exxon Mobil Corp. said Tuesday that it is working to restart its Altona refinery in Australia, which was shut down in early October for maintenance. The plant near Melbourne produces around 12 million liters of refined products daily, enough to fill 300,000 cars, and supplies half of Victoria state's petroleum fuel needs. The turnaround is the culmination of a \$250 million investment program at the Altona refinery since 2008, the company said.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201111150135dowjonesdjonline000042&title=exxon-working-to-restart-australia-refinery-after-turnaround>



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