



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 762 Newsy Stuff

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

October 13 2011



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USA, ILL, CHICAGO, OCTOBER 2 2011. FIRE, EXPLOSIONS HIT FAR SOUTH SIDE PLANT

peter nickeas

Maps [12000 S Doty Ave, Chicago, IL 60628, USA](#)



Scene of a Level II Haz Mat just south of 115th St., and the Bishop Ford, in Chicago, on Saturday, October 1, 2011.

Tanks used to ship chemicals blew up at a far South Side industrial plant just before 10:30 p.m. Saturday, creating a 200-foot-wide debris field and prompting a still-and-box alarm and level 2 hazmat response from the [Chicago Fire Department](#). "Some tanks blew up. There's a pretty good sized debris field" at the plant in the 12000 block of South Doty Avenue, said Larry Langford, Chicago Fire Department spokesman. The Fire Department delayed using water because it was not immediately clear exactly what was burning, Langford said, but firefighters

eventually suppressed the fire using foam. The still-and-box alarm was struck out about 11:40 p.m., but the hazmat response remained in effect until about midnight, according to fire officials. Langford said the Chicago Fire Department was at the same location a few months ago for another hazmat event -- when chemicals in a tank began to heat up and had to be cooled -- but details about that event were not available. Nobody was reported injured in tonight's fire, Langford said. During the fire, a ramp for the Bishop Ford Freeway at 115th Street was closed, but it since has been reopened, according to a state police trooper.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-fire-explosions-hit-far-south-side-plant-20111001,0,3871984.story>

USA, GA, STOCKBRIDGE, OCTOBER 2 2011. ONE MAN'S BATTLE AGAINST BIG OIL >> FARMER SUING PIPELINE COMPANY FOR DAMAGE TO LAND, LIVELIHOOD



Stockbridge farmer Marvin Speer is suing Marathon Pipe Line LLC after a gasoline leak was discovered on his property. He called a settlement offer "a slap in the face." A worker is shown in the cleanup area of the gasoline spill on Marvin Speer's property in Stockbridge.

The back seven acres of Marvin Speer's farm are off-limits. A "keep out" sign warns him away and a makeshift fence of yellow tape and orange barrels blocks his entrance. He used to grow hay back there, but the only activity now comes from the whirring cleanup equipment designed to suck gasoline from soil. Speer will never grow hay there again, he says. And the 69-year-old horse farmer wants someone to pay for that. Speer is suing Marathon Pipe Line LLC, part of Houston-based oil giant Marathon Petroleum Corp., over damage to his farm resulting from

a gasoline leak last spring that Speer himself sniffed out during a tour of his property. "They've destroyed everything we've done here," said Speer. "They destroyed our farm, our livelihood, our hay. I'm handicapped on my own farm." Marathon estimated the leak dumped more than 460,000 gallons of gas into the soil in and around Speer's farm on Mount Pleasant Road before he discovered it. That makes it one of the largest gasoline spills in Michigan history. Now, Speer and his family find themselves in a battle that is becoming more familiar around the country. A string of fuel infrastructure disasters stemming from an aging system, inadequate surveillance and careless digging have pitted oil companies against property owners who say they had no idea what they were getting into when they bought land with a pipeline running through it. "Most people don't even know a pipeline is there," said Carl Weimer, executive director of the Pipeline Safety Trust, a nonprofit that pushes for pipeline improvements. "Other times, the property owner ... doesn't have the expertise to think about what might happen in the future. "People need more protection so they are almost forced into thinking about those things when buying property."

Corporate Neighbors

It has been nearly six months since Speer's nose led him to the trickle of gasoline leaking into a drainage ditch that cut through the property he owns with his wife. It didn't take much guesswork on his part to figure out where it was coming from. Speer was well aware of the web of pipelines beneath his pastures. He can stand in his driveway and see five massive fuel storage tanks owned by three different companies - Wolverine Pipe Line, Enbridge Inc. and Marathon - running along the back of his land.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20111002/NEWS01/110020513/One-man-s-battle-against-big-oil?odysey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

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USA, MN, ST. PAUL, OCTOBER 2 2011. FEDS CHARGE CORN PLUS ETHANOL CO-OP WITH A FELONY

dan browning

The southern Minnesota firm allegedly made false statements about its pollution controls. Corn Plus, a major ethanol cooperative in southern Minnesota, was charged Friday with reporting that its pollution control equipment was working properly in late January when company officials knew it was not. The alleged felony offense took place Jan. 27, less than a week after the U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded Corn Plus a grant of \$128,658 from its Bioenergy Program for Advanced Biofuels. The alleged offense also took place while the company was on probation for a previous environmental law violation. Corn Plus, which produces 49 million gallons of ethanol a year 35 miles south of Mankato in Winnebago, pleaded guilty two years ago to a misdemeanor for negligently discharging polluted water into Rice Lake. U.S. Magistrate Judge Jeanne Graham placed the company on three years' probation in October 2009 and ordered it to pay a \$100,000 fine, plus a \$50,000 "community service payment" to a critical habitat program run through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Corn Plus also paid \$861,000 to settle a dispute with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency last year over alleged water quality violations that took place from 2006 to 2008. It paid a \$200,000 civil penalty and agreed to spend at least \$691,000 on plant improvements designed to protect the environment. According to the latest charge filed in federal court in Minneapolis, Corn Plus falsely certified that it was complying with its permit requirements knowing that its pollution control equipment was allowing excessive discharges into the air, a violation of the Clean Air Act. The company was charged by "felony information" rather than indictment, which generally indicates that a plea bargain will follow. Corn Plus referred a reporter to its attorney, Dustan Cross, who did not respond to a message seeking comment.

<http://www.startribune.com/business/130884013.html>

USA, ALA, MOBILE, OCTOBER 2 2011. PRICHARD WOMAN ADMITS FILING 45 BOGUS OIL SPILL CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF FAKE EMPLOYEES



Window of the Pascagoula Gulf Coast Claims Facility office reminds claimants that processing their information may take longer than expected depending on the case's complexity.

A Prichard woman and 2 people she helped with bogus oil spill claims pleaded guilty in Mobile this week to [federal fraud charges](#), giving prosecutors convictions of all five defendants charged in the indictment. Separately, another woman also admitted to defrauding the BP PLC-funded enterprise set up to compensate residents and businesses harmed economically by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill last year. In the conspiracy case, Gladys Douglas admitted that she claimed to own Smitty's Catering and submitted claims on behalf of 45 people that she said worked for her.

Investigators from the U.S. Secret Service determined that Smitty's Catering had no permit to sell food and no business license in Mobile or Baldwin counties. Douglas, 42, ultimately admitted that the business did not exist. She faces up to 20 years in prison for wire fraud, but prosecutors have agreed to recommend the minimum punishment under advisory sentencing guidelines, which likely will be far less than that. According to Douglas' plea agreement, the Gulf Coast Claims Facility denied 40 of the 45 claims that she submitted. Douglas, herself, received \$3,800. That was part of the \$63,600 that the claims fund sent to defendants in the case. Those included 2 other defendants who pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges last week:

- Nicole Buford, who received \$6,000 from the claims fund.
- Vernon Cox, who received \$20,000 from the fund.

[Two other recipients](#) previously pleaded guilty: Pamela Washington, who admitted paying Douglas \$1,000 and receiving \$8,800; and Robert Brown, who admitted paying her \$1,500 and receiving checks totaling \$25,000. Douglas submitted phony documents showing payroll deposits from Smitty's Catering, according to court records. Douglas admitted to investigators that she made those documents on her home computer using images from Commonwealth National Bank's website. In the other claims fraud cases, Alexandria Elexis McKellon pleaded guilty to wire fraud, admitting that she fraudulently obtained \$10,000 from the claims fund by falsely claiming that she had been laid off from a job cleaning houses in Orange Beach. In fact, according to her plea agreement, the company she listed — Southern Hospitality — did not exist. McKellon submitted phony pay stubs and a letter purporting to be from the company's owner confirming the defendant's layoff. Prosecutors agreed to recommend a minimal sentence under advisory guidelines.

http://blog.al.com/live/2011/10/prichard_woman_admits_filing_4.html

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USA, WA, HANFORD, OCTOBER 3 2011. NUCLEAR RELIC >> HANFORD TOURS SHOWCASE HISTORY OF REACTORS, MASSIVE CLEANUP EFFORT AT CONTAMINATED NUCLEAR SITE >> CLEANUP WILL LAST YEARS, BUT AS RECOVERY ACT DOLLARS DRY UP, HANFORD EMPLOYEES FACE LAYOFFS

joseph ditzler



The SX Tank Farm at Hanford Nuclear Reservation, near Yakima, Wash., is shown under construction in this 1953 file photo. Scientists have discovered bacteria living in the toxic sediment beneath underground tanks that have leaked radioactive waste at the Hanford nuclear reservation, home to some of the most highly contaminated soil in the world.

The scale of operations at the Hanford Site, scene of a multi-billion-dollar cleanup of a half-century of accumulated hazardous waste, cannot fail to impress. Even the vocabulary there evokes the gargantuan, the muscular, the toxic. Hard heels. Chemical baths. Canyons. Ocean liners. Plutonium. It is, its keepers boast, the largest, most complex cleanup site in the world. It is measured in decades, hundreds of square miles and billions of dollars. Much of the cleanup work is done: mothballed reactors, demolished buildings, contaminated soil dug up by the ton and

deposited in a sealed landfill. But much is left to accomplish. The site will be active until 2050, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Energy. The pace of operations accelerated with the infusion in 2009 of about \$1.9 billion from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the federal spending plan aimed at stimulating the struggling economy. One contractor, Washington River Protection Solutions, made what it describes as significant progress, using \$12.6 million to create technology that increases sixfold its ability to move 56 million gallons of the world's worst toxic sludge. As the last Recovery Act money was spent this year, Hanford contractors planned 1,985 employee layoffs as a result. In August, the U.S. Department of Energy authorized another 1,100 contractor layoffs because of anticipated cuts to the federal budget. Congress so far has not passed a budget for fiscal year 2012, which began this month. Washington River Protection Solutions, for example, requested \$520 million for its share of the cleanup in the coming year. A House version of the budget allocates \$408 million, the Senate version \$467 million. Neither has been reconciled, leaving the prospect of a continuing resolution that allocates Washington River Protection Solutions \$397 million, said Jerry Holloway, communications manager for the company. As a result, the company announced plans to lay off 475 employees, its share of the 1,100 total. In August, it laid off 19 employees; an undisclosed number lose their jobs Monday, Holloway said Wednesday. Obviously, reducing the workforce means a "reduction in the amount of work we can accomplish," Holloway said. Washington River Protection Solutions specializes in tank waste, one of three realms at Hanford, and one of the most technically challenging. "It's some nasty, nasty stuff in a nasty environment," said Energy Department spokesman Rich Buel.

By Remote Control

At Hanford from 1943 until 1989, World War II through the Cold War, the United States produced the plutonium that gives the nuclear and thermonuclear arsenal its punch. Hanford supplied the material for the only plutonium-fueled nuclear weapon ever employed in anger, the Fat Man bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in August 1945. Throughout its working life, Hanford received uranium at its 300 Area and fashioned it into aluminum-clad fuel rods. Deeper into the 586-square-mile site, at nine reactors erected along the Columbia River, the fuel rods went cold into processing tubes, underwent a controlled chain reaction and came out the back end, hot. From there, the rods went to one of six long, tall, gray and featureless buildings dubbed "canyons" or "ocean liners." Moving from one end to another, through successive chemical baths, the uranium broke down into a slurry, from which the plutonium was extracted and formed into pucks. Left behind was a chemically toxic, radioactive soup that drained into underground carbon-steel storage tanks and was, at least in the hurried days of world war, forgotten. "They were designed to put waste in, not take it out," said Mike Berriochoa, a senior communications specialist with Washington River Protection Solutions. Those tanks, 177 in all, held 56 million gallons of waste. Most, 149, are single-shelled; 28 are double-shelled. Sixty-seven of the single-shelled tanks have leaked, contaminating the soil and possibly the groundwater underneath. Over the years, the sludge hardened and stratified into a salty cake lining the tank, a "hard heel" along the bottom and something between the consistency of sludge and peanut butter in between. The cleanup plan calls for emptying the contents of single-shelled tanks into double-shelled tanks, then piping the whole mess into a \$12 billion vitrification plant as far as eight miles away and turning it into glass for disposal. Removing that material is a challenge. The

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tanks lay 10 feet underground with only a pipe 12 inches in diameter for access. "Inside is a lethal environment," said Berriochoa. "The work must be done by remote control."

Game Changer

With previous technology, Washington River Protection Solutions cleaned out one tank per year. This week it brought out new technology called the Mobile Arm Retrieval System, or MARS, it hopes will clear as many as six tanks per year. The system uses a series of high-pressure nozzles to stream wastewater in jets and scour caked-on waste, then rake it into a place where it can be safely pumped out. MARS was developed over two years and tested for another year, partly in a tank mockup at Hanford. Workers in September installed the apparatus in an actual 250,000-gallon waste tank, rigged it, tested it and prepared the final documentation. Last week, it developed an instrumentation glitch, but Berriochoa said it may be in service by Friday. "It's considered a game changer in the way we get large volumes of waste out of our tanks," he said. "It means we only have to go into the tank one time to get the waste out." To install the machine, workers cut a 55 inch-diameter hole on top of the tank, inside it installed a riser — a sleeve on which the equipment rides — connected hydraulic and electrical lines and covered the hole, all by remote control and from behind walls shielding workers from radiation streaming from the tank, Berriochoa said. The waste pumped from each single-hulled tank is pumped into a double-hulled tank several hundred feet away. Once one tank farm is emptied, the contractors move to the next, moving farther away from the \$12 billion treatment plant now under construction. That's the Hanford Tank Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, designed by Bechtel National Inc. to turn the waste into glass, or vitrify it. The treatment plant, another first-time engineering story, is scheduled to come on line in 2019. Nine years ago, Bechtel estimated the plant could be built for about \$5 billion and come on line in 2007.

http://news.opb.org/article/nuclear_relic/

USA, WA, COWICHE, OCTOBER 3 2011. FIRE DESTROYS SHED IN COWICHE, LIKELY CAUSED BY STORED BIODIESEL

mai hoang

A shed where biodiesel fuel was made was destroyed in a fire late Saturday night. At around 11:30 p.m., firefighters from the Highland, West Valley and Naches Heights fire departments responded to the fire at 50 Hatton Road. Firefighters extinguished the fire in 30 minutes, but spent more than two hours cleaning up, said Highland Fire Department Chief Sam Glanzer. The value of the damaged building was about \$10,000, he said. There were no injuries. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, though it's likely that the biodiesel stored in the shed caused it, Glanzer said.

<http://www.yakima-herald.com/stories/2011/10/02/fire-destroys-shed-in-cowiche>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, STOCKTON, OCTOBER 3 2011. ORICA ADMITS LEAK ALERT DELAY



Investigation ... Orica's hexavalent chromium leak on Kooragang Island spread to nearby Stockton.

Orica has admitted for the first time it delayed alerting the public after one of its factories belched cancer-causing fumes over a Newcastle neighbourhood. The admission by the chemical giant is contained in an unreleased independent report into the gas leak at Stockton on August 8, parts of which have been detailed to The Sun-Herald by a government source. The report clears the Environment Minister, Robyn Parker, over claims she sat on news of the spill but urges the state government to tighten laws forcing companies to report environmental breaches as soon as they occur. The government is expected to scrap Labor's laws that allow companies to notify "as soon as practicable". It took Orica 16 hours after the plume of hexavalent chromium wafted across Stockton to notify the state authorities. "We

have said from the outset that the laws relating to notifying authorities were inadequate," a source said. "We want the public to know immediately if there is any threat to public health. The laws have been too lax but we will move quickly to put the onus on companies to tell authorities immediately [when] a spill occurs." The report by the former director-general of the NSW Premier's Department, Brendan O'Reilly, found: - Orica took more than 16 hours to alert local environment authorities, and more than 42 hours to advise Health authorities. - Ms Parker became aware of the breach after 46 hours. If she had been alerted earlier, Stockton residents could have been told to stay indoors sooner. Mr O'Reilly's report also is expected to say Stockton residents are entitled to be angry at Orica for taking so long to report the matter and that it took health authorities

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days to assure them there was no health risk. "With the benefit of hindsight, Orica would have notified sooner," the report says. The O'Reilly report will be considered by cabinet on Tuesday and will then be made public. The Premier, Barry O'Farrell, will hope it acts as a circuit-breaker on an issue that has provided the Labor opposition with a rare bit of momentum in the past two months. A separate lapse at Orica's Botany plant last Tuesday, when mercury vapour above allowable levels was released into the atmosphere, will make it easier for him to lay blame with the company. But the Premier is expected to face calls to increase fines for pollution breaches. Pepe Clarke, the chief executive officer of the Nature Conservation Council of NSW, said motorists could get a bigger on-the-spot fine for speeding than companies get for failing their pollution licence. "This situation is unacceptable," he said. Top penalties on companies such as Orica, which made a \$1.35 billion net profit in 2009-10, should be increased to provide a real deterrent, Mr Clarke said.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/orica-admits-leak-alert-delay-20111001-1l2r2.html>

NEW ZEALAND, WELLINGTON, OCTOBER 3 2011. MAJOR OIL EXPLORERS GATHER FOR NZ PEP TALK



Oil and gas explorers are gathering in Wellington today as part of a Government push to get more exploration done in New Zealand waters.

A high-powered group of global oil and gas exploration companies, including Chevron and the Chinese national oil company, have converged on Wellington today for a targeted push to encourage new interest in the country's under-explored frontier basins. New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, a division of the Ministry of Economic Development, is using the international attention of the Rugby World Cup and the recently launched New Zealand Energy Strategy to acquaint potential

explorers with the new regime for selectively opening up offshore zones for exploration. Among the dozen or so participants targeted for the strategy session are the super-major global oil company Chevron, owner of the Caltex retail chain in New Zealand but not a current explorer or producer in this country. Also involved are two large "super-independent" players, ENI from Italy and US global player Conoco-Philips. Other American explorer-producers represented at the one day strategy session are Murphy Oil Corporation, Apache Corporation, and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, which has deep-water exploration permits in the Taranaki Basin and the Canterbury Basin. Also attending are the China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC), the Norwegian state oil company Statoil, and the Korea Gas, known as KoGas. A key element of the new energy strategy, the new approach will exclusively use the competitive "Block Offer" method for allocating petroleum exploration rights, in contrast to the first-in, first-served "priority in time" approach. The policy is designed channel investor interest into areas of highest prospectivity, focus government investment to those areas identified as of most interest to potential explorers, and to allow politically sensitive territories to be more carefully managed than in the past. Facilitating discussion to "test drive" the NZPAM's new competitive bid round process for awarding exploration rights is global oil industry strategic consultant Duncan Clarke, of Global Pacific & Partners, who also assisted in selecting attendees. "From the New Zealand point of view, they are very open," he told BusinessDesk. "They're asking 'what do we have to do to get you here?'" While a politically stable and potentially very prospective territory, New Zealand opportunities were nonetheless very much frontier and often deepwater opportunities, meaning the country needed to attract high quality, experienced operators who could withstand a rigorous approvals process and had high environmental standards. The new policy allowed "shaping of bid rounds over the next decade or more", and a "mix and match approach for different kinds of opportunities." "That's the intelligent way to approach the industry," Clarke said, who said New Zealand's six million square kilometre Exclusive Economic Zone represented an enormous opportunity, at one-fifth the size of continental Africa. He dismissed concerns about the environmental dangers of deepwater drilling as "illogical", saying the same argument could be equally applied to shallow water drilling. "The big issue is unlocking national wealth. It's a vote for poverty not to do it. Maybe New Zealand is rich enough to afford that, but I doubt it. In the developing world, no one is in the position to indulge that view." High quality international oil companies now sought to apply the same environmental and operational standards wherever they operated, as they faced reputation risks globally, along with potential destruction of shareholder value if things went wrong. Part of New Zealand's opportunity lay in its high potential for natural discoveries. With the development of a global market for liquefied natural gas and the proposed shutdown of Japan's nuclear power industry after the Fukushima plant disaster, gas demand and prices were on the rise globally, said Clarke. Major oil discoveries in New Zealand would also be handily placed for export to Australia, where there is plenty of gas but relatively little locally produced crude oil.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/business-news/oil-bigwigs-meet-in-wellington-4434508>

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ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES, OCTOBER 3 2011. PDVSA TAKES CONTROL OF ARGENTINE FUEL COMPANY

Venezuela's PDVSA bought Uruguay's 47.19 percent stake in Petrolera del Conosur, which owns 100 service stations in Argentina, the companies told the Argentine securities regulator late on Friday. The amount of money involved was not disclosed in the statement but the head of Uruguay's state energy company ANCAP told Reuters on Saturday the stake had been valued at \$11 million. "ANCAP will receive one dollar because there were lawsuits pending that were valued at the same amount as the shares, \$11 million," said company head Juan Justo Amaro. As a result of its purchase, PDVSA now owns a 94.38 percent stake in Petrolera del Conosur, which operates at a loss. Amaro said the business was not profitable for ANCAP because prices to the public in Argentina were not high enough to cover the cost of buying and distributing the fuel. (Reporting by Maximiliano Rizzi;

http://www.google.com/search?aq=f&hl=en&gl=au&tbn=wns&btnmeta_news_search=1&q=PDVSA+takes+control+of+Argentine+fuel+company

UK, ESSEX, OCTOBER 3 2011. ESSEX: EXPLOSION AT FIREWORK STORE



A firework store in Rochford caught fire.

Homes near to an Essex industrial estate have been evacuated after a container storing one-and-a-half tonnes of fireworks caught fire. Shortly after midnight firefighters reported that the container, measuring 40ft by 10ft, was bulging and that smoke was coming from inside. A 400-metre exclusion zone was been put in place at Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochford, and a care home and nearby cottages were evacuated. Because of its proximity to Southend Airport, a no fly zone has been put in place but this will be reviewed later this morning. At 9am this morning Senior Divisional Officer Matt Furber said: "Residents are likely to be evacuated from their homes for the next six hours as a precaution, as fire crews deal with the incident. "Essex County Fire and Rescue Service are aware of the significant impact on the local area and are minimising it as much as possible. "The fire works stored in the container are the domestic type and they have been exploding inside the container. Fire crews are dousing the container with water. "The Fire Service has been working with the owner of the fireworks who has been providing the service with the relevant information so that crews knew what they were dealing with. "Fire crews are protecting all the surrounding risks neighbouring the incident, such as the factory Store which is being protected by water monitors. There are no reported casualties at the incident." At 11am SDO Furber said: "Firefighting operations have been scaled back and four fire engines and the control unit remain at the scene. There is a lot less smoke coming from the container and good progress is being made. "Fire crews are not approaching the container and ground monitors are in

use. "We anticipate the Sutton Road will be open in the next one to two hours. Access to the Purdeys Industrial estate remains closed whilst the exclusion zone is in place."

Related Links

- [Fireworks force evacuation](#)
- [Essex: Explosion at firework store](#)
- [Fireworks Container Explodes In Rochford](#)

http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/essex_explosion_at_firework_store_1_1077191

AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY, CANBERRA, OCTOBER 3 2011. 901 SITES ON TOXIC LIST, BUT REGISTER BLANK

bianca hall

The Environment Protection Agency's public register of contaminated sites is empty, despite the agency holding a list of 901 "potentially contaminated" sites across the territory. The 901 sites fall into four categories: sheep-dip sites, which may have arsenic contamination, hydrocarbon storage sites, landfill sites and other sites, including chemical storage facilities, unexploded ordinance and sewage treatment works. But the current system, critics say, is hampering a true picture of the

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territory's toxic legacy. The register, which is publicly searchable, has no entries because the EPA has not issued any clean-up orders to land owners for failing to manage contaminated land. A separate record, containing a list of potentially contaminated sites across the ACT, has 901 listings. But to search it, one must first know the precise block number, and be prepared to pay \$34.70 per block searched. An Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate spokesman said the current model - in which people responsible for contaminated land managed its clean-up "by agreement" with the EPA - was working. "It is only where a polluter refuses to or fails to act in accordance with the legislation and policies of the ACT for the management of contaminated sites that the Government would resort to issuing an order which would require the site to be formally registered," the spokesman said in a statement. "To date it has not been necessary to go down that path." In sheer numbers, Canberra Central is the most contaminated town centre, with 351 potentially contaminated sites, including 268 hydrocarbon storage sites. Belconnen, Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and Woden Valley had between 66 and 115 contaminated sites per centre. The EPA says operational service stations - even those with some contamination - pose less risk to the environment and human health than the risks posed by redeveloping former sheep-dip sites for housing. According to its contaminated sites policy, "the past use of the sheep-dip site may have resulted in contamination of soils and groundwater with arsenic and organochlorine compounds". The environment directorate spokesman said that during the 1990s, known sheep-dip sites within ACT residential areas of the ACT were assessed, audited, "remediated" and found suitable for their intended land use. New developments in green field areas slated for new housing would need to undergo similar tests. In November the North Weston Ponds project in Molonglo was halted after the discovery of 162,000 tonnes of toxic soil, mostly containing asbestos, on the site of new housing developments in the city's north-west. The clean-up bill was estimated in May to cost \$20million, while the cost of cleaning up an estimated 600,000 cubic metres of toxic sludge that brought the Eastlake development to a standstill was estimated to cost up to \$100million. Gungahlin Community Council spokesman Alan Kerlin said a publicly searchable register containing all known and suspected sites could mitigate against cost blow-outs. A spokeswoman for Chief Minister Katy Gallagher said the Government would meet with Commonwealth officials next month to discuss how best to ameliorate the past contamination of Territory lands.

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/901-sites-on-toxic-list-but-register-blank/2310786.aspx?storypage=0>

USA, CO, BOULDER, OCTOBER 3 2011. BOULDER GAS PUMP CATCHES FIRE AT 30TH AND VALMONT AFTER BEING HIT BY CAR

heath urie



Firefighters survey the area around a gas pump that caught fire Saturday night after a car ran it over.

Boulder firefighters responded Saturday night to a Diamond Shamrock gas station at 30th Street and Valmont Road after a vehicle hit a gas pump and sparked a fire. A Boulder police officer reported the incident at about 7:45 p.m. Officers shut down northbound 30th Street and the left turn lanes on westbound Valmont Road while firefighters extinguished the flames. According to witnesses at the scene, the driver of a sedan apparently ran over a gas pump and sparked the fire. One person appeared to be taken from the scene by ambulance. A police spokesperson was not immediately available. On Tuesday, two women were transported to the hospital and two others suffered minor injuries after an [elderly woman drove her Lincoln Continental](#) through a plate-glass window into the crowded lobby of the U.S. Post

Office's Valmont Station in Boulder.

http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_19020474?source=most_viewed

NIGERIA, DELTA STATE, UGHELLI-SOUTH, OVIRI-OLOMU, OCTOBER 3 2011. VILLAGERS ASK SHELL TO CLEAN-UP OIL SPILL

emma amaize & akpokona omafuaire

WARRI- Indigenes of Oviri-Olomu community in Ughelli-South Local Government Area of Delta State have called on Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, to urgently clean the oil spill from its pipeline, which reportedly, ruptured in August, at Egbefa, destroying aquatic lives and farmlands. A resident in the community, Mr. Peter Ogbo, said: "The oil spill occurred in

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August; we wrote Shell and they sent people to the place, and since they left, they had not returned to clean it. We are worried about their silence because it is not safe for us. We saw what happened to Jesse people and we don't want that to happen to us. "We are calling on Shell to urgently clean up the spill and save us from the associated risks, which are well known. It is not a bad thing that oil was found in our community. Let Shell immediately clean-up the oil spill from its pipelines in our community before it catches fire." A fisherman, Mr. Idu Ogagarogbe, lamented, "I have lost everything to the spill, my nets and since then, life has been very hard for me and my family. We want Shell to quickly to clean up the area, since they are aware that their pipeline had ruptured. "They knew that it is a natural occurrence, their ruptured pipeline. I just cant understand why they had refused to clean it over a month ago we drew their attention to it. My source of livelihood is gone, I need serious help," he added. Vanguard gathered that two persons, who went for fishing died from oil pipeline fire, about two months ago, at Kunukunuma community of Warri South-West Local Government Area because of the failure to clean up an oil spill that occurred in the area.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/10/villagers-ask-shell-to-clean-up-oil-spill/>

SLOVENIA, LJUBLJANA, OCTOBER 4 2011. SLOVENIAN "PETROL" BUYS GAS STATIONS IN MONTENEGRO

drazen remikovic

According to the Montenegrin media reports, "Petrol", who in early August this year broke an agreement with "Montenegro Bonus" and became the sole owner of Petrol bonus, will buy a gas station in Bijelo Polje, Rezevici Danilovgrad and Ucinj. This investment is worth around 11 million euros. Judging by the announcements at the termination of the contract in August in Cetinje, this will not be the only investments of Slovenian companies in Montenegro. Agreement signed during the termination, Ljubljana's "Petrol" took the entire company Petrol bonus and announced that it plans to continue in the territory of Montenegro to build 12-14 petrol stations worth 25-30 million euros. Cetinje's company Montenegro Bonus, and Slovenia's Petrol five years ago founded the company Petrol Bonus.

<http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=121174>

ENGLAND, SURREY, OCTOBER 4 2011. 8 HURT IN CHEMICAL FACTORY BLAST

 **Photo's:**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2044705/Surrey-industrial-estate-explosion-8-workers-injured-ink-cartridge-recycling-factory.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15159643>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15159633>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.itn.co.uk/home/30602/Explosion+on+industrial+estate+in+Surrey>



A Massive explosion at a chemical recycling plant left eight people in hospital last night, four of them seriously injured. More than 60 firefighters from three counties and scores of paramedics rushed to the scene as workers from nearby offices were evacuated. Residents were also warned to keep their windows shut as flames shot 65ft in the air and clouds of acrid black smoke billowed out of the factory. Unconfirmed reports said the firm at the centre of the incident, at Hobbs Industrial Estate, near Lingfield, in Surrey, was eReco, which specialises in the disposal of printer cartridges. Peter Burns, who works for Trichem, two doors away from the suspected source of the blast, said: "It was like a bomb had exploded. I ran straight out and there were bits floating in the air and flames coming from the building. "There were a few guys staggering out from the building and away from the flames. "There were people coming from all different units gathering around the scene. "The blokes who were badly injured were in a very bad way. They were out of the building being attended to and being given first aid by other workers. Then everybody was evacuated to the field behind the estate." Donna Teall, 47, who works at nearby Knock Bay Hardwoods, said a section of fencing around the estate was cut down by firefighters so that paramedics could take the injured men to an air ambulance which had landed in the same field. She said: "I was working at my desk when I heard a

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bang and a really extended vibration. The whole building shook. "We looked out of the window and then all this stuff started falling. There were printer cartridge boxes and insulation material drifting down. It was surreal. At first I thought a small plane had crashed into the building, then we saw the flames." South East Ambulance Service said the most seriously injured man was airlifted to King's College Hospital in south London, while five others were taken to East Surrey Hospital in Redhill and two more to Royal Sussex County Hospital, in Brighton. Firefighters were hampered by the presence of containers of liquid petroleum gas nearby. Ian Thomson, of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, said the packaging in the unit could reignite, making it dangerous to enter the building. Inspector Angie Austin, of Surrey Police, said investigators would not be able to get into the building until today. She said officers were keeping "an open mind" about the cause of the explosion. The Environment Agency is currently working with specialist teams to prevent any toxic water running into local rivers. The Hobbs Industrial Estate is in Newchapel, just outside the racecourse town of Lingfield. It was once an army barracks but when the Ministry of Defence sold it all the buildings were demolished and it was rebuilt as an industrial estate. About 12 people work at eReco, which has four units on the estate. Surrey and Sussex fire services sent 12 pumps, three water carriers and an aerial ladder platform and other appliances were sent from Kent. Six hours after the blast happened, crews were still damping down the site. Police told residents to make sure their windows remained closed and to stay away from the blast area.

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/275357/8-hurt-in-chemical-factory-blast>

CYPRUS, NICOSIA, OCTOBER 4 2011. CYPRUS PRESIDENT 'RESPONSIBLE' FOR BLAST

A public inquiry into a Cyprus munitions blast that killed 13 people and crippled the island's main power plant has found that President Demetris Christofias was responsible for the disaster. The head of the inquiry, Polis Polyviou, handed over his findings - which are not legally binding - to the president and the attorney general before giving a press conference. "Unfortunately, based on the facts as shown by the testimony that came before me, I have no choice but to conclude that the president of the republic has serious institutional and personal responsibilities in relation to the matter," Polyviou said. "My conclusion is that the main responsibility for the tragedy lies with the president." Polyviou said Christofias's role in the deadly blast was "direct, specific, unambiguous and serious". He told reporters that the president had the "greatest responsibility" because he was in charge of a failed decision-making process that saw no measures taken to protect Cypriot citizens. Christofias was accused of "unforgivable negligence" for allowing the munitions to be stored out in the open at a naval base on the island's south coast for two and a half years and taking no steps to avert the risks despite repeated warnings. "It was a timebomb left at the naval base until it exploded," he said. The lawyer said he was convinced that Christofias was aware of the danger that the deteriorating arms cache posed but chose to keep 98 containers piled up at the base unprotected. They were stored just 150 metres from the island's biggest power station. Last month, Christofias told the public inquiry he was never told of the risk posed by the arms cache. The inquiry's hefty 650-page report argues that Christofias has no excuse to say he was not told of the dangers. "Saying I didn't know is not enough," said Polyviou. "The president of the republic, even if his version is accepted, knew at least from September 2010 that the cargo was kept at a National Guard camp in a field exposed to weather phenomena especially in summer, increasing the danger that comes with the gunpowder deteriorating," he wrote in his report. Christofias said that at no point was he informed of the risks posed by the containers of seized Iranian munitions stored out at the Mari naval base, even after officials met a week before the July 11 blast to discuss their deterioration in the scorching summer heat. The defence and foreign ministers and the commander of the Greek Cypriot National Guard resigned over the blast. The deputy commander was sacked. The containers had been at the base since their seizure in February 2009 when Cyprus intercepted a Cypriot-flagged freighter bound from Iran for Syria, under pressure from the United States and other governments. Christofias said the decision to keep the weapons on the island was the "correct" one after a proposal for the UN to take responsibility for the cache did not materialise. But Polyviou said the munitions were kept on island to placate Syria and Iran in a risky diplomatic game which gave Cyprus no room for manoeuvre. He said that ex-foreign minister Marcos Kyprianou blocked the arrival of UN weapons inspectors who requested they be allowed to check the "actual state of the cargo". "Within two minutes they would have realised the cargo was in a bad state," said Polyviou. The arms were seized after a UN sanctions committee said the consignment contravened a ban on Iranian arms shipments. Relatives of the victims have welcomed the hard-hitting report. The munitions blast killed 13 service personnel and firefighters and knocked out the Mediterranean island's biggest power plant, leading to rolling daily power cuts, economic disruption and public uproar.

<http://news.theage.com.au/breaking-news-world/cyprus-president-responsible-for-blast-20111003-115lx.html>

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USA, IN, GOSHEN, OCTOBER 4 2011. INDIANA INVESTIGATING AMMONIA LEAK THAT INJURED 4 >> TANK EXPLODES DURING WELDING

 **Watch the Video**

http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/Anhydrous_Explosion_sends_three_Goshen_workers_to_hospital_130991848.html



The state is investigating an explosion at a northern Indiana fertilizer distribution plant that injured four people, including two who were in critical condition Tuesday at a Fort Wayne hospital, and caused an ammonia leak. Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators were at T & T Fertilizer southwest of Goshen on Tuesday, IOSHA spokeswoman Chetrice Mosley said. Authorities say four workers of T & T Fertilizer and Southwest Welding in Goshen were injured when a tank exploded during welding Monday. St. Joseph Hospital spokeswoman Shelly Lybarger says 24-year-old Adrian Martin and 16-year-old Anthony Rodes were in critical condition Tuesday. A person answering the telephone at Southwest Welding identified them as employees. The conditions of the other two workers were not available because their names had not been released. There was no answer at T & T Fertilizer on Tuesday. Authorities said the explosion caused about

2,000 gallons of ammonia to leak from the tank. Rob Elstro, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, said most of the leaked ammonia was contained by a concrete pad and wall that surrounds the tank where the leak occurred. He said some ammonia spilled over the side onto surrounding gravel. That gravel was scraped up and put on another concrete slab and was being cleaned Tuesday, he said. The runoff from that was put into T & T application trucks and being applied to nearby farmland "to help with some local farmers," Elstro said. A review of OSHA records showed that neither T & T Fertilizer nor Southwest Welding had any safety violations over the past five years. Neither had notified IOSHA about the accident within eight hours of the accident as required by law, Mosley said. IOSHA was notified of the accident by IDEM, she said. She said the potential fine for failing to report an accident depends on the findings of the investigation. She said the department had not been notified that one of the injured was a 16-year-old. But she said in any accident in which someone under age 18 is injured, the state Department of Labor's Child Labor Division investigates.

http://news.officialwire.com/main.php?action=posted_news&rid=63106

CANADA, B.C, BURNABY, OCTOBER 4 2011. 3 COMPANIES PLEAD GUILTY IN BIG B.C. OIL SPILL

 **Photo's**

http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20111003/bc_oil_spill_guilty_plea_111003/20111003/?hub=BritishColumbiaHome



The three companies responsible for the spill are expected to pay fines and donate to an environmental conservation group.

Three companies connected to a burst pipeline that showered a Vancouver-area neighbourhood with black crude oil pleaded guilty Monday to environmental charges and agreed to pay a total of more than half a million dollars. Construction crews digging a sewer-line trench in Burnaby, east of Vancouver, in July 2007 punctured two holes in a pipeline carrying synthetic crude to a waterfront shipping terminal. Nearly 250,000 litres of oil gushed out in less than half an hour, with some coating nearby residential properties and about 70,000 litres spilling into the Burrard Inlet.

The pipeline was owned by Kinder Morgan subsidiary Trans Mountain Pipeline, which was charged along with construction company Cusano Contracting and the engineering firm R.F. Binnie. The three companies each pleaded guilty to one count under the provincial Environmental Management Act. The companies and the Crown agreed to a series of fines, which were outlined Monday to a provincial court judge in Vancouver. Under the proposed sentence, each company would pay a fine of \$1,000 and give \$149,000 to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. In addition, Trans Mountain would pay \$100,000 to the British Columbia Common Ground Alliance, a non-profit industry group that promotes safe practices to protect underground infrastructure. B.C. Supreme Court Judge Conni Bagnall said she would rule on the sentence in about three weeks. Crown lawyer Jim Cryder outlined an agreed statement of facts that detailed a series of missteps during the planning and construction of the new storm sewer line in a Burnaby neighbourhood. Cryder said the companies failed to take adequate

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measures to determine the location of the pipeline, even when crews identified discrepancies in their diagrams. That meant the operator of heavy excavation equipment didn't realize the machine was about to pierce a 61-centimetre pipeline carrying toxic crude. "Upon the puncture appearing, crude oil began spewing into the air like a geyser," Cryder told court. Cryder said 11 homes were affected by the spill, including several where residents had to wait months to return. About 250 people were immediately forced to leave the area to avoid the oil and the strong smell of crude that lingered in the air. At the same time, oil flowed down local roads and into storm drains. About 70,000 litres eventually spilled into Burrard Inlet, coating plants and marine life, fouling the feathers of Canada geese and affecting 17 kilometres of shoreline. Nearly all the oil was recovered, Cryder said, but the damage to the marine environment still lingers. He said tests in the spring of last year showed most of the habitat appeared to have recovered and the water column showed no signs of lasting impact. However, sediment tests showed signs of contamination, as did tissue tests from red rock crab. Cryder said the proposed sentence was appropriate when balancing the companies' quick response with the seriousness of the spill. Cryder noted the companies immediately began work to mitigate the damage, spending \$15 million cleaning up the marine habitat and millions more to clean the surrounding residential area. None had previous convictions for environmental charges. But he also pointed out that the spill should never have happened in the first place. "It's very clear that there was a rapid implementation of a response and extensive efforts to remediate the impacts of the spill," Cryder said. "All these parties have worked in these areas for some time, and they had the resources and expertise to do a better job. They didn't." The Transportation Safety Board released a report in 2009 that concluded poor communication and lax construction procedures led to the pipeline rupture. The federal agency's report said the real position of the pipeline should have been verified before construction, but a combination of miscommunication and incorrect assumptions by the contractor and Kinder Morgan led to the use of a backhoe in a spot where hand tools should have been used instead. A pre-construction meeting between the contractor and Kinder Morgan never took place, the 2009 report concluded, and no effort was made to clear up discrepancies between a map and the actual pipeline.

http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20111003/bc_oil_spill_guilty_plea_111003/20111003/?hub=BritishColumbiaHome

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, VIRUDHUNAGAR, SATTUR, OCTOBER 4 2011. TWO DIE IN CRACKER FACTORY BLAST

 <http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/tamil-nadu/article2512036.ece>



Devastated: Debris of the shed that was razed in the blast at a cracker unit near Sattur on Monday.

Two workers were killed in an explosion that took place in a fireworks factory near Sattur on Monday and another woman worker was injured. Kesavan (35), son of Muthiah of Elayirampannai near Sattur in Virudhunagar district is running a fireworks factory at Vallampatti. ore than 200 workers were engaged in manufacturing fireworks in 50 rooms. The workers were mixing chemicals in some of the rooms when the chemicals caught fire due to friction. When the fire spread to other rooms, the manufactured crackers started exploding and two rooms were razed to the ground. In the explosion two other rooms were also damaged. ani (35),

son of Mariappan of Vallampatti and Anthoniraj (28), son of Pandi were charred to death. Aswini (22), daughter of Karuppiah of Paraipatti sustained burn injuries. Fire tenders from Sattur and Virudhunagar which rushed to the village managed to put out the fire. The bodies of the two workers were sent to Sattur hospital for postmortem, while Aswini was admitted to a private hospital in Elayirampannai. Sattur DSP Chinniah, tahsildar Balasubramanian, Joint Director of Fire Service Shahul Hameed and others visited the factory. Elayirampannai police have registered a case against Gopalsamy, supervisor of the factory.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/two-die-in-cracker-factory-blast/190030-60-118.html>

USA, WI, WAUNAKEE, OCTOBER 4 2011. HAZMAT TEAM RESPONDS TO WAUNAKEE CHEMICAL SPILL >> SPILL REPORTED AT SCIENTIFIC PROTEIN LABORATORIES

The Madison Fire Department Hazardous Material Team responded to a report of a chemical spill in Waunakee on Monday morning. The Waunakee Fire Department called the Madison Fire Department Hazmat team just after 7 a.m. to assist at Scientific Protein Laboratories at 700 East Main Street for a spill. A worker removed a valve from a 5,000 gallon storage tank, which he thought was empty, but the tank contained 4,500 gallons of Isopropyl Alcohol. The alcohol spilled into an exterior

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15,000 gallon catch basin, which caught all of the contents. The Madison Fire Department Hazmat Team and Waunakee firefighters entered the building in firefighting gear with self-contained breathing apparatus to monitor the atmosphere and deemed the area safe. Workers were allowed back into the building. There was no environmental damage or harm to the community.

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/29375583/detail.html>

NIGERIA, ABUJA, OCTOBER 4 2011. HOW SHELL FUNDED MILITANTS -REPORT -IT'S NOT TRUE -SHELL

olawale rasheed



Oil giant, Shell, has been accused of fuelling human rights abuses in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria by paying money and awarding contracts to armed militants, according to a new report published on Monday in London by a coalition of local and international non-governmental organisations, led by a London based NGO, the Platform. Entitled "Counting the Cost," the report implicated Shell in cases of serious violence in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region from 2000 to 2010, detailing how Shell's routine payments to armed militants exacerbated conflicts and led to the destruction of Rumuekpe town. Shell was also accused of collaborating with the state in the execution in 1995 of writer, Ken Saro-Wiwa and other leaders of the Ogoni tribe. Shell was said to have paid \$15.5 million to the eight families in settlement, and key documents implicating it never saw the light of day during the trial. Shell has, however, disputed the report, defending its human rights record and questioning the

accuracy of the evidence, even while it has pledged to study the recommendations, according to its London office. The coalition backing the report includes Centre for Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD), Friends of the Earth Netherlands/Milieudefensie, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, Social Action, Spinwatch and Stakeholder Democracy Network. According to Platform's report, Shell continues to rely on Nigerian government forces, which have perpetrated systematic human rights abuses against local residents, including unlawful killings, torture and cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. Key findings of the report include testimonies of contracts that implicated Shell in regularly assisting armed militants with lucrative payments, such as an alleged transfer of over \$159,000 to a group credibly linked to militia violence in late 2010. Shell was also alleged to have, from 2006 onwards, paid thousands of dollars every month to armed militants in the town of Rumuekpe, in the full knowledge that the money was used to sustain three years of conflict. Platform's investigation alleged that government forces, hired by Shell, perpetrated atrocities against local civilians. (Shell disputes the report, but has pledged to study the recommendations). Last year, Shell was said to have transferred more than \$159,000 to a group credibly linked to militia violence. One gang member, Chukwu Azikwe, told Platform that "we were given money and that is the money we were using to buy ammunition, to buy this bullet, and every other thing to eat and to sustain the war," adding that his gang and its leader, S. K. Agala, had vandalised Shell pipelines. "They will pay ransom. Some of them in the management will bring out money, dole out money into this place, in cash," he said. Platform alleged that in Rumuekpe, "the main artery of Shell's eastern operations in Rivers State," Shell distributed "community development" funds and contracts via Friday Edu, a youth leader and Shell community liaison officer. By 2005, Mr Edu's monopoly over the resources of the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC) was reported to have sparked a leadership tussle with Agala's group, with the latter reportedly forced out of the community and a number of people killed. The allegations, according to Platform, were largely substantiated by a Shell official, adding that a manager with Shell confirmed that in 2006, one of the most violent years, Shell awarded six types of contract in Rumuekpe. Rumuekpe is just one of several case studies examined by the report, which alleged that in 2009 and 2010, security personnel guarding Shell facilities were responsible for extra-judicial killings and torture in Ogoniland. Meanwhile, a Nigerian environmental activist, Sunny Ofehe, standing trial in The Netherlands for alleged plot to bomb pipelines in the Niger Delta, has cried out, saying "I am not a terrorist or suicide bomber." In an e-mail made available to the Nigerian Tribune, Ofehe, who is also the founder of Hope for Niger Delta Campaign, said his travail was traceable to the parliamentary testimonies he gave at the Dutch parliament about degradation of Niger Delta environment by Shell Oil and other oil majors. "I have been campaigning against environmental devastation of our people's environment for many years and testified at the Dutch Parliament against Shell in a parliamentary hearing, where Shell was summoned to defend its practice in the region," he said. He said less than a month after the hearing, "a team of about 30 policemen came to my house and arrested me on trumped-up charges and I was detained for 14 days before being released, but remained a suspect, adding that "when they could not establish a case against me, they came up with a new charge of

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conspiracy to commit terror act by blowing oil pipelines belonging to Shell in the Niger Delta. "I became the first person to be charged under this law since it came into effect in 2004. I appeared in court for the first time on September 5 and we now have a new hearing date of December 5, 2011."

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/front-page-news/29134-how-shell-funded-militants-report-its-not-true-shell>

USA, TX, WAXAHACHIE, OCTOBER 4 2011. FIRE DESTROYS WAXAHACHIE CHEMICAL PLANT

daniel c. houston



A member of the [Waxahachie](#) Fire Department stands on top of a firetruck ladder hosing down flames produced by a fire at the Magnablend Incorporated Chemical Plant on Monday in [Waxahachie](#).

An enormous fire engulfed a Waxahachie chemical-mixing facility on Monday, destroying the complex and emitting a cloud of smoke that could be seen clearly on the horizon more than 60 miles away in Waco. Waxahachie fire authorities brought the blaze under control by mid-afternoon, according to Waxahachie fire chief and Baylor graduate David Hudgins, but were not able to salvage any significant part of the facility. No employees or emergency personnel were injured. "Our fire department responded as did many agencies from the surrounding cities, and I think when we got here there were flames coming out the back of the building," Amy Hollywood, public information officer for the city of Waxahachie, said. "Within just no time it was fully involved with multiple explosions." A spokesman for Magnablend Inc., the chemical-mixing company whose facility was destroyed, was not available by Monday's deadline to speak on the cause of the fire. Hudgins said the fire could have been caused by an electrical malfunction, a bad chemical mixture or a host of other possibilities that may never be completely known. "All we know is that they were mixing chemicals and they had some kind of reaction that was not normal," Hudgins said. "It was almost like steam or something like that that was coming out of

this large vat — thousands of gallons — and at that point they decided to go ahead and start the evacuation." While the chemical smoke produced by the fire could be seen for miles, air tests gathered by the Environmental Protection Agency did not reveal particles that would be dangerous to inhale, Hollywood said. "The EPA has been doing air testing — they've had flyovers and they've taken samples — and they found no particulates, no harmful particles in the air and no what they refer to as an 'action-level' [threat]," Hollywood said. "So at this point, the results show no threat to public health." One fire truck was destroyed when a tank of chemicals spilled out of the building, changing the course of the fire and igniting the vehicle, Hudgins said. City officials, worried that the fire could spread beyond the limits of the Magnablend property, ordered a local elementary school and other buildings near the area evacuated until the fire was brought under control, according to Hudgins. Aside from a small grass fire across the access road, the fire was successfully contained. "Our main concern was that we had several tank cars over there, and if one of them had caught on fire, they can shoot off like a rocket," Hudgins said. "They were all aimed these two directions, so we had to evacuate everything [in those directions]."

<http://baylorlariat.com/2011/10/03/fire-destroys-waxahachie-chemical-plant/>

USA, OH, HARRISON TWP, OCTOBER 4 2011. TANKER IGNITES, TEMPORARILY SHUTS DOWN PORTION OF I-75

Watch the Video <http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/tanker-catches-fire,-temporarily-shuts-down-portion-of-75>

A portion of I-75 north near the Needmore exit was temporarily shut down after a tanker caught on fire. It happened at approximately 8 p.m. Sunday. According to fire officials, the passenger side tire caught on fire where the truck bed meets its load. An official cause is still under investigation; however, officials believe the breaks ignited the blaze. No one was injured. According to officials, the tanker was carrying a flammable paint material used on aircrafts. The chemical did not leak onto the roadway. Traffic reopened around 10 p.m.

<http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/tanker-catches-fire,-temporarily-shuts-down-portion-of-75>

USA – NATIONAL TANK TRUCK CARRIERS, OCTOBER 4 2011. TANKER ROLLOVER PREVENTION VIDEO AVAILABLE

The [National Tank Truck Carriers](#) (NTTC) is making its cargo tank rollover prevention video free to anyone interested in techniques to help prevent tanker rollovers. "National Tank Truck Carriers is pleased to offer free access to the cargo tank

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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 762 Newsy Stuff

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

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rollover prevention video that we developed with the [U.S. Dept. of Transportation](http://www.transportation.gov) with Spanish subtitles added," said NTTC Chairman Greg Hodgen, Groendyke Transport. "While it is a requirement that a tank truck driver be able to speak English, we believe that there is a real safety benefit to providing training in the person's native language. Rollovers happen around the world and we hope that this video also will be used in Spanish speaking countries." The video focuses on the causes of tank truck rollovers and what actions drivers can take to prevent rollovers. It features tank truck equipment and comments from professional tank truck drivers. The video can be viewed from the NTTC website at www.tanktruck.org. Click on 'news and links' to access the video. A free copy of the video can also be reproduced.

<http://fleetowner.com/equipment/news/tanker-rollover-prevention-video-1003/>

USA, CA, LYNWOOD, OCTOBER 4 2011. TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS, SPILLS 2,000 GALLONS OF OIL IN LYNWOOD

A tanker truck loaded with used motor oil overturned this morning, spilling 2,000 gallons onto Imperial Highway in Lynwood, authorities said. The accident on Imperial Highway between Atlantic Avenue and St. James Road was reported at 1:44 a.m., said Los Angeles Fire Department Dispatch Supervisor Andre Gougis. Imperial Highway was closed in both directions between Atlantic Avenue and the Long Beach (710) Freeway, said Lt. Dan Nathan of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department's Century Station. The westbound lanes were reopened around 6:30 a.m., but the eastbound lanes remained closed. Firefighters first installed a dirt dike around the oil to keep it from running into storm drains, then hazardous materials specialists set about the time-consuming clean-up, Gougis said. No one was injured in the accident, he said. What caused the truck to overturn was not immediately determined.

http://www.presstelegram.com/breakingnews/ci_19029071

USA, TX, WICHITA FALLS, OCTOBER 5 2011. NO INJURIES IN CHEMICAL FIRE >> HAZMAT WORKERS TAKE CONTROL AT PLANT

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2011/oct/04/hazmat-incident-factory-under-control/>



Wichita Falls Fire Department hazmat crew members work inside and outside of the Texas Recreation plant.

Workers were evacuated from a Wichita Falls manufacturing plant Tuesday morning when a chemical fire quickly escalated into a hazardous material situation. Local firefighters and hazmat emergency workers responded to the Texas Recreation Corp. plant, 908 North Beverly, just after 9 a.m. Fire Marshal David Collins said a fire had started in a vat containing a mixture of three chemicals used in the production of the plastic flotation devices the plant manufactures. Collins said the building's fire suppression system kicked in and began pouring suppressants into the vat. That caused some of the hazardous chemicals to overflow and spill from the vat onto the ground, he said. "That's what prompted this to become a hazardous materials situation. We have a station that's dedicated to these kinds of situations," Collins said. Seven engines and at least 20 personnel were called in to work the scene. Wichita Falls police blocked traffic at the intersections along North

Beverly. Collins said all the building's employees were evacuated when the original fire call went out. He said there were no reported injuries. There were no evacuations of any other residences or businesses in the area. All of the plant's workers were sent home for the day as firefighters remained on scene awaiting the arrival of a cleanup crew from Fort Worth. Roads near the building were reopened later in the day

<http://www.timesrecordnews.com/news/2011/oct/04/no-injuries-in-chemical-fire/>

INDONESIA, DEPOK, OCTOBER 5 2011. POLICE SEIZE 5,000 PIECES OF FIREWORKS

Depok Police say that they have seized more than 5,000 illegal fireworks from two sellers at Tajur Halang and Bojong Gede areas in Depok. "One of the arrested men has now been sentenced to five years in prison," Depok Police head Sr. Comm. Mulyadi Kaharni said Tuesday as quoted by tempointeraktif.com. He said that police had also confiscated raw materials including five kilograms of potassium, a kilogram of sulfur and a set of tools for producing fireworks. He added that the police had also seized two firearms of the Madsen and Doorlock type and also six replica FN revolvers and AK 47 "air soft" guns. He

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said that the confiscation had been part of the Sendak Jaya operation targeting illegal firearms and explosives. The operation lasts from Sept. 23 to Oct. 2 as part of precautions before the gubernatorial election, SEA Games and a soccer match between Indonesia and Qatar.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/10/05/police-seize-5000-pieces-fireworks.html>

IRELAND, COUNTY MONAGHAN, GLASLOUGH VILLAGE, OCTOBER 5 2011. ILLEGAL FUEL LAUNDERING PLANT RAIDED

Garda and Customs officials have arrested two men and seized 40,000 litres of illegal fuel in a raid on a sophisticated oil laundering plant in Glaslough, Co Monaghan. Vehicles and equipment used in the laundering operation were also seized in the operation. They included a 15m tanker and lorry, a van, a forklift and a compressor. The raid, which took place last night, involved officers from the Customs service and members of the Garda Regional Support Unit. Two men in their 30s from Northern Ireland were arrested at the scene and were taken to Monaghan Garda station for questioning. The illegal plant was capable of laundering around 8 million litres of fuel annually, resulting in a potential loss to the Exchequer of an estimated €4 million per annum. Yesterday's raid follows an operation last month in which 150,000 litres of laundered fuel were seized at illegal plants in six counties, of which was one of the largest laundering plants ever found in the Republic. The plant discovered in Monaghan was found at a warehouse in Corrygarry, Castleblayney, and was laundering fuel when the Garda and Customs team moved in. It was capable of laundering about 18 million litres of fuel annually, resulting in a potential loss to the Exchequer – and revenue for the gang responsible – of an estimated €9 million per annum.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2011/10/04/breaking24.html>

USA, PA, BETHLEHEM, OCTOBER 5 2011. WELDING WORK SPARKS FIRE AT BETHLEHEM STEEL CORP. BLAST FURNACE

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wfmz.com/news/Fire-at-blast-furnance-in-Bethlehem/-/121458/2330272/-/tiask7z/-/>
<http://www.wfmz.com/news/news-regional-lehighvalley/Firefighters-battle-blaze-at-Bethlehem-Steel-blast-furnace/-/132502/2259046/-/b7oeemz/-/>



Sparks and hot metal from welding work set fire to residual grease inside the dormant Bethlehem Steel blast furnace C this afternoon, sending plumes of black smoke from the 203-foot-tall stack.

No, the dormant fires of the Bethlehem Steel Corp. blast furnaces were not re-lit. This afternoon's fire at one of the iconic blast furnaces was a small affair, accidentally sparked by maintenance workers, according to Bethlehem Deputy Fire Commissioner Bob Novotnack. Sparks and hot metal from welding work fell onto residual grease inside blast furnace C, Novotnack said. The grease caught fire, liquefied and spread. Dark black plumes of acrid smoke poured from the center portion of the 203-foot-tall furnace at 1:30 p.m. The fire was out in 30 minutes and crews waited on site for the metal to cool, Novotnack said. No one was injured. Novotnack said the furnace was not damaged. He and Bethlehem Mayor John Callahan wondered aloud if a fire even could damage the 69-year-old furnace. Mike Piersa, of

the National Museum of Industrial History, believes the furnaces are pretty sturdy. Callahan said he wasn't worried about the hulking furnaces, but instead the millions of dollars of investment that has been poured into the former industrial site that is owned by the Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem. The C furnace is just east of the Levitt Pavilion at the ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks. The ArtsQuest farmers market and Oktoberfest will go on as scheduled, according to ArtsQuest spokesman Mark Demko. Work on a visitors center and other construction near the furnaces continued through the fire. Piersa said grease is all over inside the furnaces. He helped firefighters figure out what might fuel a fire inside the structure. Accessing the furnace from the river side, firefighters put water and a dried chemical on the flames. About 1 o'clock this afternoon, flames were visible inside the furnace and a massive plume of black smoke was being emitted. SteelStacks and PBS 39 were not evacuated. Sands employees were doing the maintenance work, Novotnack said, and it isn't uncommon for various crews to be working on the site. Piersa said the other buildings on The Steel site are more vulnerable to fire damage, and initially he worried about the fire spreading, though it was obvious when he first arrived and spoke to firefighters that he was nervous about a fire in the big blast furnaces.

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/bethlehem/index.ssf/2011/10/bethlehem_steel_corp_blast_fur_2.html

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