



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 761 Newsy Stuff

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

October 10 2011



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SCOTLAND, ORKNEY, SEPTEMBER 30 2011. DISTILLERY FINED FOR LEAKING 4000 LITRES OF DIESEL INTO CANAL >> SEPA OFFICERS TRACED THE OIL BACK TO A TRIBUTARY OF CANAL AND HIGHLAND PARK DISTILLERY IN ORKNEY.



Highland Park: Distillery fined for polluting canal.

A distillery company has been fined £15,000 after nearly 4000 litres of diesel leaked into a canal. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) said it was contacted by a member of the public in October last year about a layer of oil visible on the surface of the Crantit Canal in Kirkwall, Orkney. Sepa officers traced the oil back to a tributary of the canal and further investigation of the source led them to the Highland Park Distillery. Analysis confirmed there was a match between the diesel taken from the water and a sample taken from the distillery. Operators found a leak in the fuel delivery pipework between the fuel tank and the company's boiler house, Sepa said. In August, Highland Distillers Limited admitted failing to comply with the

conditions of its water use licence at Kirkwall Sheriff Court. The company was fined £15,000 on Wednesday by Sheriff Graeme Napier after admitting three charges of contravening the licence, which ultimately led to the pollution of the canal between September 1 and October 28, 2010. Erica Harrap, Sepa's reporting officer, said: "Diesel can have a severe polluting effect if it enters the water environment. The oil forms a film over the water, resulting in low levels of oxygen which can lead to the death of fish and invertebrates. "A Sepa survey of the Crantit Canal confirmed that the ecology of the watercourse had been affected. "Due to the length of the watercourse affected, the extent of the ecological damage and the visible pollution, the release of diesel fuel oil into the Crantit Canal was categorised as a major environmental incident." A spokesman for Highland Distillers said: "As soon as the source of the leak was identified the company notified Sepa, took immediate steps to clean up the effects of the leak and repaired the malfunctioning pipe. "We are pleased that there is no lasting damage to the environment as a result of the leak. "New processes have also been put in place to reduce the chance of this type of incident recurring." He added: "Highland Distillers has a record of no prior convictions or enforcement actions by Sepa. We would like to reassure local residents of our strengthened commitment to the environment on Orkney."

<http://news.stv.tv/scotland/north/272536-distillery-fined-for-leaking-4000-litres-of-diesel-into-canal/>

ENGLAND, ESSEX, OCTOBER 1 2011. PETROL STATION SHOP DESTROYED IN BLAZE



Fire at the BP Garage in Bradwell between Coggeshall and Braintree.

An intense blaze at a filling station shop could have been much worse if a quick-thinking staff member hadn't turned off the fuel pumps. The BP garage on the A120 in Bradwell, near Coggeshall, caught alight at around 5am on Sunday. Three fire crews from Coggeshall and Braintree were called to the fire, which completely destroyed the filling station. Neil Sieman was working at the garage at the time of the fire and, before fleeing, turned all the petrol and diesel pumps off, potentially saving the homes and lives of nearby residents. Andrew Nice, 35, whose car was parked at the petrol station overnight, had a lucky escape when he went to move it. He said: "I had to drive it out and just after I did that the roof fell through and then you could see the flames. I was really quite scared." "Neil said it probably started from an electric

box but he went into the storeroom and turned the pumps off first. I reckon if he hadn't done that we'd all have been evacuated." Another witness, Jayani Kaluthanthri, 34, was getting ready to go to work at the petrol station for 6am when she noticed the chaos outside. She said: "There were people running in the road and police stopped me from going any further. Flames were 20ft from the roof. It was horrendous – I've only seen something like that on TV. "My knees were shaking and Neil was so shocked he was given oxygen. But luckily he turned off the pumps." Garage forecourt worker Liam Frid, 17, was also due to work that morning. He said: "I woke up to the fire engines sirens and lights. Words cannot describe how I feel." It took two hours for fire crews to extinguish the flames and the police were also called as smoke began to affect the A120. Nearby resident Bob Hume, 80, said: "Smoke was coming out of the building and over the top of the fire engines. You could only see their lights." Incident commander, station officer Steve Wintrip, from Braintree fire station, said: "Crews wearing breathing apparatus did an excellent job tackling the fire in arduous conditions and prevented the fire from spreading to the petrol pumps and the canopy covering the forecourt." Jobless staff at the burnt-out petrol station are now taking it in turns to

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stay on guard, making sure no one has the opportunity to loot fuel or goods. An investigation into the cause of the fire has now begun and it is thought that repair work may take three or four months.

<http://www.thisistotalexsex.co.uk/Petrol-station-shop-destroyed-blaze/story-13426270-detail/story.html>

INDIA, KISHANGANJ, OCTOBER 1 2011. PROBE ORDERED INTO OIL TANKER DISASTER, TRAIN SERVICES RESTORED

bhuvaneshwar prasad

A departmental inquiry has been ordered into the freight train disaster in which 20 oil tankers caught fire after some bogies jumped off the rails near Chanamana halt between Magurjan and Aluabari stations on the Kishanganj and New Jalpaiguri section under Katihar division of [North-East Frontier Railway](#), some 40 km from Kishanganj on Wednesday. One person was also killed in the incident. Meanwhile, train services on the mainline between Kishanganj and NJP, which were disrupted for close to 12 hours, have been restored. However, some long-distance trains were cancelled on Thursday because of heavy dislocation of train services in the section, according to NFR PRO Jayanta Kumar Sharma. Asked if the railways apprehended any kind of sabotage behind the freight train derailment and consequent fire, Sharma said he could not make any comment till the inquiry was made. Among the 20 oil tankers which were gutted in the blaze, a dozen were loaded with diesel while eight others carried petrol. Each oil tanker had the maximum capacity of 70,000 litres of fuel, railway sources in Katihar said. The railways is yet to work out the extent of losses caused due to the derailment of the freight train. Katihar Railway SP S Paswan, who visited the accident site on Wednesday, told TOI on Thursday that he had ordered a thorough investigation into the mishap. Kishanganj Congress MP Asrarul Haq visited the panic-stricken villagers of Chanamana on Wednesday and demanded a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the next of kin of 42-year-old [Matlur Rahman](#) who died when burning oil from the tankers fell on him while he was taking a bath in a pond. It may be recalled that one of the biggest train disasters of the last century had taken place at Gaisal station, some 19 km from Kishanganj. Over 300 passengers were killed when Guwahati-bound Awadh- Assam Mail train had collided into the upcoming Delhi-bound Brahmaputra Mail on the night of August 1, 1999. Earlier, oil wagon freight train disasters had taken place at Dhulabari in 1985 near Chanamana in 2006. In between, another train mishap took place near Magurjan in which some passengers were also killed, sources said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Probe-ordered-into-oil-tanker-disaster-train-services-restored/articleshow/10182058.cms>

USA, FLA, DAVIE, OCTOBER 1 2011. MAN FLEEING POLICE HITS PUMP AT GAS STATION, SPARKS EXPLOSION

laura c. morel

▶ **Watch the Video** <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/130817413.html>

▶ **Watch the Video** <http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21005503113784/>



A man fleeing from police crashed into a Chevron gas station Thursday evening, causing an explosion that damaged his car as well as two other vehicles. Davie police were trying to stop Carlos Puente, 46, for a tag not registered to his car at about 5:45 p.m. near Oakes Road, authorities said. But Puente fled and slammed into the gas station in the 4700 block of South State Road 7, said police spokesman Sgt. Christopher Chastain. Puente, driving a white Mustang, slammed into a gas pump, causing the explosion that ruined his car and two Toyotas. There were no injuries reported, Chastain said. After the collision, Puente ran from his car and hid in nearby bushes, but was found and arrested, Chastain said. Rolando Ramos, of Davie, said he was working at the gas station's car wash when he heard

the Mustang screech down State Road 7 before crashing into the gas station. "It was atomic. It was a big scare," Ramos said. As the flames engulfed the cars, Ramos, along with other gas station employees, ran toward a nearby McDonald's. After all, Ramos said, "It's a gas station. It's very dangerous." Sue Caspanello, of Davie, lives in a trailer next to the gas station. Caspanello said she was asleep in her bedroom when she heard a loud "boom." Her first thought, she said, was that her home was on fire. "It shook my trailer," she said. When Caspanello went outside to investigate the source of the explosion, she saw the gas station engulfed in flames and smoke. On Thursday night, the gas station was surrounded by yellow caution tape as the three partially charred cars remained near the pumps. An official on scene photographed the wreckage. Puente will be charged with driving with a suspended license, Chastain said. Other charges are pending. Chastain said Puente is on

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probation, but did not know for what offense. In 2008 and 2009, Puente was charged with driving under the influence, Broward County records show, and he was charged with driving with a suspended license in 2009. "It's unfortunate that he disobeyed the officer," Chastain said.

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/man-fleeing-police-hits-pump-at-gas-station-1887746.html>

USA, CA, SAN PEDRO, OCTOBER 1 2011. COAST GUARD LOOKING FOR OIL IN SUNK WW2 TANKER OFF OF CAMBRIA

The Coast Guard awarded a contract to Global Diving and Salvage Inc. to determine if oil is present aboard the sunken ship S.S. Montebello, which sits 900 feet below the ocean surface approximately 6.5 miles off the coast of Cambria, Calif. The S.S. Montebello sank after a Japanese submarine torpedoed the large oil tanker on December 23, 1941. The Montebello broke apart and sank landing upright with her bow broken off and landing apart from the majority of the wreckage. Multiple dive operations have been conducted between 1996 and 2010 to survey the site and determine the hull's integrity. To date, no signs of leakage have been detected, and from previous scans, the hull appears to be intact. "The California coast is a vital national resource that we must protect," said Coast Guard Capt. Roger Laferriere, who is acting as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator. "Working in concert with our state and local partners, it is our duty to ensure we gain good information about the Montebello so we can do our best to protect the marine environment." "This sampling and observation operation will provide the answers needed to truly assess what threat, if any, the Montebello poses," said Capt. Chris Graff from California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response, who will be serving as the State On-Scene Coordinator. A special remotely operated vehicle will be sent to retrieve oil and sediment samples. OSPR and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration technicians will independently conduct testing of the samples. Observations and sampling of the wreck will be made within a two week period beginning on or about Oct. 10, 2011. The two-week time frame is considered the best window of opportunity to do an observation patrol on the sunken vessel because, historically, the weather is best in that particular stretch of the Central Coast. For more information on the S.S. Montebello, visit

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/Admin/Montebello/index.aspx>

<http://www.kionrightnow.com/story/15582279/coast-guard-looking-for-oil-in-sunk-ww2-tanker-off-of-cambria>

USA, MA, BRIDGEWATER, OCTOBER 1 2011. DRIVER INJURED AFTER CAR HITS GAS PUMP IN BRIDGEWATER



A driver was treated for minor injuries to her arm Thursday morning after losing control of her vehicle and hitting a gas pump in Bridgewater. Abdeslam Aouni had just finished putting the nozzle of a gas pump into a car Thursday when he walked into the office of the BP gas station. Moments later, he heard a the sound of tires hitting a curb and the roar of an engine before a gray Ford Mustang fish-tailed into an adjacent pump and swerved across the street into a neighboring parking lot. When he returned to the car whose gas he was just pumping, he found the driver in tears. "Two minutes ago, if you were standing right there, you have been hurt," the woman told him. Officials say no one was seriously injured when a Bridgewater woman cashed her car into a Route 18 gas station, severing the pump and causing a small amount of gas to spew from the ground. Samantha Harris, 23, likely lost control of her vehicle because of wet conditions, Police Lt. Thomas Schlitz said, though he doesn't expect her to be cited in the accident. Harris suffered minor arm injuries, but refused to go to the hospital, Fire Capt. Eric Elder said. Witnesses said Harris was traveling west on Winter Street shortly around 8:30 a.m. when she tried to turn left onto Bedford Street (Route 18), jumped the curb, swiped a gas pump and came to rest outside an auto body across the street at 707 Bedford St. Her car suffered "significant damage," Elder said, and was later towed. The accident caused a "minor release of product," he said, though workers said they acted to cut the power and gas to the station

shortly after the crash. "We cut it quick," said Orlando Largas, who works at the station. The gas station was scheduled to remain closed until the fire department deemed it safe, said Deputy Chief Tom Levy. The damaged pump appeared to buckle from the impact of the crash. The state fire marshal's office was also on scene to investigate whether the gas station was code compliant.

<http://www.tauntongazette.com/news/x1291383361/Driver-injured-after-car-hits-gas-pump-in-Bridgewater>

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USA, KS, WICHITA, OCTOBER 1 2011. PLANT MAINTENANCE CREATES STINK ACROSS WICHITA [MERCAPTAN]

Officials say a lubricant plant in Wichita performing routine maintenance has created a strong gas odor that has spread across the city. Officials say the source of the gas odor has been tracked down to Universal Lubricants, Inc in the 2800 block of North Ohio Street. HAZMAT investigators have determined the smell is being caused by chemical called mercaptan. The chemical is an odorant added to [natural gas](#) to give it a pungent smell for safety purposes. Mercaptan is a harmless gas that produces a sulfur-like smell that can be unbearable to some people. Residents in the city of [Wichita](#) and towns to the south may notice a strong gas smell in the area. Officials say a lubricant plant in Wichita was performing routine maintenance on Thursday night and used a solvent to clean some of their equipment. Because of weather conditions including a low cloud ceiling, the smell is not dissipating as quickly as it should. Wind is blowing the smell south into the towns of Haysville and Derby. Many residents have called 911 to report a strong smell of gas. Some have reported feeling sick from the smell. HAZMAT workers have made contact with management at the lubricant plant and are investigating the situation. Officials say there is no reason at this time for people to worry but if someone feels sick from the odor they are encouraged to seek medical attention.

http://www.kake.com/news/headlines/Plant_Maintenance_Creates_Stink_Across_Wichita_130825713.html?ref=713

BELGIUM, BRUSSELS, OCTOBER 1 2011. USE OF CHEMICALS FOR FRACKING MAY BE ILLEGAL UNDER REACH, EUROPEAN COMMISSION SAYS

Oversights in REACH registration dossiers could mean the use of hazardous chemicals in hydraulic fracturing to extract shale gas is technically illegal in the European Union, the European Commission told BNA Sept. 27. Commission environment spokesman Joe Hennon said the Helsinki-based European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) had examined REACH registration dossiers "for a selected number of chemical substances having a high probability to be used in shale gas operations," and had found no instances of chemical safety assessments mentioning exposure scenarios related to hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. This could mean that "registration dossiers submitted by the industry to ECHA are incomplete, and do not allow shale gas operators to take appropriate risk-management measures when using the substance specifically in shale gas operations," Hennon said. Consequently, until they notify ECHA and provide relevant usage information, including a chemical safety report, "shale gas operators are not allowed to use a substance which does not fulfil REACH requirements," Hennon said. Fracking involves the injection of water, sand, and other chemical additives into rock layers to allow gas to flow into a well.

Use Allowed Only for Registered Purposes

The potential problem for shale gas operators was first raised at a conference on REACH in Brussels Sept. 23 by the most senior official in the Commission's environment department, Karl Falkenberg. "None of the substances used [for fracking] have been registered for this process in Helsinki so far," Falkenberg said. "You can only use substances for registered purposes. We need to know what substances are used to get to this resource [shale gas]," he added. Hennon said that ECHA's examination of dossiers for fracking use scenarios had covered ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, glutaraldehyde, hydrochloric acid, hydrotreated light petroleum distillates, isopropyl alcohol, methanol, polyacrylamide, and sodium hydroxide. Under REACH (Regulation No. 1907/2006 on the registration, evaluation, and authorization of chemicals), a fracking operator would be classified as a "downstream user" of chemicals, triggering a number of obligations. As well as the obligation to demonstrate safe use of substances by providing exposure scenarios and chemical safety reports, downstream users face information requirements, including a duty to notify ECHA if a substance is considered to be of "very high concern" under REACH, meaning it is included in a candidate list for possible bans. Acrylamide, used to form polyacrylamide, is on the REACH candidate list because of its carcinogenic and mutagenic properties.

Industry Unaware of Problem

Hennon said there could be other explanations for the missing fracking exposure scenarios. It was possible that "the substances for which registration dossiers have been reviewed by ECHA are not the ones currently used or expected to be used by operators for shale gas operations in Europe," he said. It was also possible that some substances did not meet the criteria to be registered by the first REACH registration deadline of Nov. 30, 2010, which applied to substances manufactured in, or imported into, the European Union in annual volumes of 1,000 metric tons or more, and to some classes of hazardous chemicals at lower volumes. However, a spokesman for Cuadrilla Resources, which is carrying out exploratory shale gas operations in the United Kingdom, told BNA that it used hydrochloric acid and polyacrylamide—two of the substances examined by ECHA—for fracking. "We'd heard nothing at all about this," and "we're looking into it," the Cuadrilla spokesman said.

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EU Countries Split Over Fracking

Fracking is controversial in the European Union. France banned the process in June because of fears of potential environmental damage (34 INER 643, 7/6/11). However, Poland, which holds the rotating presidency of the EU Council, is a strong advocate of shale gas extraction, seeing it as a way to reduce dependence on coal while remaining independent of Russian gas imports. Poland is believed to have Europe's largest shale gas reserves (33 INER 556, 6/9/10). Renata Bancarzewska, spokeswoman for the Polish Representation to the European Union, said "it is obvious we have to respect [EU] rules," but would not comment further on REACH and shale gas. There is no shale gas production in the European Union at present, but production could begin by 2015 in some countries, according to the European Commission. "It is up to member state enforcement authorities to ensure that shale gas exploration and exploitation projects fully comply with REACH requirements, and to subject operators to penalties in case of noncompliance," Hennon said.


<http://www.bna.com/chemicals-fracking-may-n12884903614/>

USA, TX, PASADENA, OCTOBER 1 2011. NO INJURIES IN FIRE AT PASADENA REFINING SYSTEM, INC. PLANT

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/video?id=8374367&pid=8374253>

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/video?id=8374374&pid=8374253>

 **Watch the Video** <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8374253>

 **Photo's** <http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Fire-at-Pasadena-refinery-2196922.php>

 **Photo's** <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/gallery?section=news&id=8374426&photo=1&pid=8374253>



Officials battled a fire at a Pasadena area plant, but there was no danger to the community. The fire broke out shortly after 1:30pm at the Pasadena Refining System, or PRSI, plant on Red Bluff. Thick black smoke could be seen for miles. Company spokesman Faheem Kazizi says a fire in the crude unit caused a loss of steam, prompting the thick black smoke. He adds that no one was injured. The cause of the blaze is not known at this time. No shelter in place was issued for the community at large, but some Pasadena ISD schools on the north side of the plant were under a shelter order that has since been lifted. The impacted schools were DeZavala Elementary, Jackson Intermediate, Pasadena High, Gardens Elementary, Kruse Elementary and Richey Elementary schools. A Pasadena ISD

official says students weren't on the affected campuses, due to a staff development day, but teachers and staff were on the property. Firefighters sprayed down the scene with water, and workers could be seen milling about in the area. It took crews about an hour to put out the flames. Shortly after 4pm the official all clear was given. Pasadena Refining System is an independent refiner and marketer of petroleum products.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/gallery?section=news&id=8374426&photo=1&pid=8374253>

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, OCTOBER 1 2011. INDUSTRIAL SOLVENT TCE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS TO PEOPLE

louis sahaun

EPA finds trichloroethylene causes kidney and liver cancer, lymphoma and other health problems. The decision could raise the cost of cleanups nationwide, including in the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys. One of the most widespread groundwater contaminants in the nation is more dangerous to humans than earlier thought, a federal agency has determined, in a decision that could raise the cost of cleanups nationwide, including large areas of the San Fernando and San Gabriel valleys. The final risk assessment for trichloroethylene by the [Environmental Protection Agency](#) found that the widely used industrial solvent causes kidney and [liver cancer](#), lymphoma and other health problems. That lays the groundwork to reevaluate the federal drinking-water standard for the contaminant: 5 parts per billion in water, and 1 microgram per cubic meter in air, officials said. Paul Anastas, assistant administrator for the EPA's office of research and development, said toxicity values for TCE reported in the risk assessment released this week may be used to establish new cleanup strategies at 761 Superfund sites, as well as in aquifers supplying drinking water to millions of residents in the San Gabriel and San Fernando valleys. The risk assessment had been subject to more than a decade of delays. A 2001 draft assessment that suggested a strong link between TCE and [cancer](#) was opposed by the [Defense Department](#), the Energy Department and [NASA](#). The Pentagon had demanded greater proof that industrial substances cause cancer before raising cleanup costs at more than

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1,000 polluted sites. "This risk assessment is a big deal because it will strengthen protections for people who live and work above TCE plumes — and there are a lot of them — and could force serious rethinking about the extent of cleanup efforts," said Lenny Siegal, executive director of the Mountain View, Calif.-based Center for Public Environmental Oversight, which posted a letter Monday signed by activists across the country, demanding that the final risk assessment be released. It was released Wednesday. Jennifer Sass, senior scientist at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said the decision "launches new arguments about what the safety standards should be. In the meantime, people impacted by this pollution can now link their disease to it in litigation with more confidence because the science is no longer in dispute. TCE causes cancer." TCE has been discovered in nearly every state but in none more widely than California. Military bases including Camp Pendleton and Edwards Air Force Base have [Superfund](#) sites with TCE contamination. The Los Angeles metropolitan area overlies a checkerboard of underground plumes of TCE, and has high ambient levels of the chemical in the air. More than 30 square miles of the San Gabriel Valley lie in one of four Superfund sites that contain TCE. The San Fernando Valley overlies a large plume grouped into three separate Superfund sites. The former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in Orange County sits over a plume several miles long. Developed by chemists in the late 19th century, TCE was widely used after [World War II](#) to degrease metal and electronic parts, and then dumped into nearby disposal pits and storage tanks at industrial plants and military bases, where it seeped into aquifers. The public can be exposed to TCE in several ways, including by showering in contaminated water and by breathing air in homes where TCE vapors have intruded from the soil. TCE's movement from contaminated groundwater and soil into the indoor air of overlying buildings is a major concern. "Vapor intrusion represents toxic exposure which is continuous and difficult to avoid," Siegal said. "It's not like you can live on bottled air in your own home or school."

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-toxic-risk-20110930,0,1063431.story>

USA, HI, HONOLULU, OCTOBER 1 2011. SAFETY VIOLATIONS OUTLINED AT SCENE OF DEADLY EXPLOSION >> \$415,000 IN FINES



The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' (DLIR) Hawai'i Occupational Safety and Health Division (HIOSH) has completed its investigation of the April 8, 2011 Waialeale bunker explosion that claimed the lives of five employees of Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. (DEI) and has proposed penalties in the amount of \$415,200. Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. will have an opportunity to contest the penalties. A state, county and federal multi-agency team was formed to investigate this incident because of the various jurisdictional issues and the magnitude of the event. The explosion occurred on the morning of April 8, 2011, as employees of Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. were taking apart commercial grade cake-style fireworks within Bunker A-21 at the Waialeale Self Storage. "We have concluded that there were so many unsafe working conditions and work practices that could have

caused the explosion. To continue efforts to find a single cause would neither be productive nor serve our mission of assuring safe and healthful working conditions for every working person in the State," said HIOSH Administrator Jennifer Shishido. "At the end of our investigation, we identified eleven potential causes for the explosion, each of which carries a penalty for violating health and safety laws." Citations are being issued to Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. for:

- 1 Failure to conduct a hazard assessment on the dangers of disassembling pyrotechnic materials which may have become more shock, heat, and friction sensitive due to unknown compounds within the pyrotechnic formulation, and uncontrolled environmental conditions within the bunker such as excessive heat and humidity.
- 2 Failure to use bonding, grounding, and anti-static materials to control the potential of ignition by static electricity.
- 3 Failure to ensure that supervisors properly reinforced the training of employees in the danger of using metal tools, work practices that may create friction, and other sources of ignition while working with pyrotechnic contents that are sensitive to heat, shock, and friction.
- 4 Failure to provide at least two exit routes were not available to permit prompt evacuation of employees during an emergency.
- 5 Failure to store flammable liquids away from exits or areas normally used for the safe egress of people.
- 6 Failure to separate the work involving pyrotechnic materials from other explosives within the bunker.
- 7 Failure to provide non-ferrous, non-sparking tools while working with explosive pyrotechnic materials.

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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 761 Newsy Stuff

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- 8 Failure to control the presence of combustible materials such as empty packing materials and rubbish in an area where pyrotechnic materials were being separated and maintained.
- 9 Failure to prohibit spark producing devices, i.e. employees' cars, within 50 feet of the bunker entrance where pyrotechnic materials were being disassembled and maintained.
- 10 Failure to erect appropriate warning signs on access roads leading to the bunker where pyrotechnic materials were present and being disassembled.
- 11 Failure to conduct a hazard assessment to determine the appropriate personal protective equipment to be worn by employees while performing work with explosive pyrotechnic materials.
- 12 Failure to require employees to don appropriate personal protective equipment.

Although HIOSH's investigation is complete, other agencies—including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Health Response Team are awaiting additional information such as: laboratory tests on the exact composition and the sensitivity to ignition of the pyrotechnic materials present in the bunker at the time of the incident; and metallurgical testing of the various tools used in the operation such as PVC cutters, lopping shears, scissors and metal wire cutters. "While our thoughts remain with the families of the five men lost in this tragedy, we urge all employers who work with or may work with pyrotechnic materials to take appropriate actions to prevent any similar incident," said DLIR Director Dwight Takamine. For more information about the regulation and appropriate handling of pyrotechnic materials and other explosives, visit http://hawaii.gov/labor/hiosh/standardsreformatted/standard_pt3.shtml.

http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Safety-violations-outlined-at-scene-of-deadly/69oBj_ketk2F-qGSZilm8g.csp

USA, AKA, POINT HOPE, OCTOBER 1 2011. SHELL'S ALASKA OIL PLAN CONTESTED BY INUPIAT VILLAGE, GROUPS

katarzyna klimasinska

Royal Dutch Shell Plc's U.S. approval for oil exploration in Alaska's Beaufort Sea is being contested by groups including the Natural Resources Defense Council and an Inupiat village worried about the risk of spills. The Natural Resources Defense Council, based in New York, and Point Hope, a settlement on Alaska's North Slope, were among a team that sued the Interior Department for deciding to allow the drilling. Holly Harris, an attorney for the environmental law firm Earthjustice, said today on a conference call with reporters. President Barack Obama's administration failed to ensure the environment will be protected during drilling, as required by a law regulating offshore development, Harris said. Earthjustice filed the petition in the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for 12 environmental organizations and Point Hope. "Approving this kind of risky behavior without an adequate environmental review, and without public input is unlawful," Harris told reporters. "We are going to do everything we can to bring this to the" court's attention. The Hague-based company was cleared by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement on Aug. 4 to begin exploring in July 2012 and tap Arctic leases it bought in 2005 and later years, in which it has invested about \$4 billion. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management doesn't have a comment on the groups' complaints, spokeswoman Melissa Schwartz said in an e-mail today. Shell's plan for the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, which are estimated to hold about 25 billion barrels of oil, have been delayed by environmental groups, North Slope residents and the administration over concerns that a spill may kill polar bears and hurt bowhead whales, key to the North Slope subsistence lifestyle. A federal appeals court in 2007 halted Shell's Chukchi work in response to complaints from the groups. Shell remains confident that the approval of the Beaufort exploration plan will be upheld in court, spokesman Curtis Smith said in an e-mail today.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-09-29/shell-s-alaska-oil-plan-contested-by-inupiat-village-groups.html>

VIETNAM, BA RIA-VUNG TAU, OCTOBER 1 2011. TANKER COLLISION CAUSES PETROL SPILL

More than 343cu.m of petrol spilled into the sea off Vung Tau after a domestic oil tanker was hit by a Singapore-flagged vessel yesterday morning. One of Petrolimex 02's starboard tanks was breached in the collision with Lewek Penguin 16 nautical miles south-east of Vung Tau at around 4am. The hole, which was about 4 metres wide, quickly spilled oil into the sea. No human casualties were reported. The Vung Tau Port Authority said the 20,000-tonne tanker had left Dung Quat Refinery in central Quang Ngai Province carrying petrol for HCM City. Shortly after the incident, the Ba Ria-Vung Tau Coast Guard responded by sending a boat and dozens of troops to the site. The provincial Environmental Protection Agency sent staff to monitor coastal areas from Vung Tau to Xuyen Moc District for signs of the oil slick. No signs of the petrol have been spotted along the beach

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so far. Tran Ngoc Thoi, deputy chairman of the Ba Ria – Vung Tau People's Committee, ordered district authorities and other agencies to keep a close eye on the spill be ready for a quick response. The Vung Tau Port Authority granted permission to the Petrolimex 02, which was carrying 6,538cu.m of oil, to anchor at Nha Be Oil Port and transport the remaining oil to avoid any unexpected explosions.

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/Miscellany/216063/Tanker-collision-causes-petrol-spill.html>

USA, LA, JENNINGS, OCTOBER 1 2011. CHEMICALS EXPLAINED >> NITRIC ACID LEAK >> CUMENE, A FLAMMABLE AND INHALANT RISK

erin nicole & julie darce

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.wafb.com/story/15581905/i-10-shut-down-between-jennings-and-welch>

Two separate incidents caused miles of traffic on I-10 Thursday. The first was a nitric acid leak that created the initial traffic jam. Then a few hours later an accident involving another chemical further added to the congestion. It began Thursday morning when an 18 wheeler began leaking nitric acid on I-10 Eastbound near Jennings. Traffic was directed through Jennings and authorities warned motorists to anticipate traffic delays throughout the rest of the day. A hazardous materials crew blocked off eastbound lanes at the Roanoke exit. Not long after the spill, a passenger car stuck in the traffic-jam rear-ended a tractor trailer near mile marker 60 eastbound on I-10. That trailer just happened to be carrying Cumene, a flammable and inhalant risk.

Chemicals Explained

Due to the hazardous materials involved in both incidents, the westbound and eastbound traffic lanes were blocked from Jennings to Welch. Despite the situation, authorities say the public handled the detours in an orderly manner. The first involved Nitric acid. Nitric acid is a poisonous, highly corrosive chemical, with a choking odor. It has many uses, but it is most often used in making fertilizers, explosives, rocket fuel and nitroglycerin. Nitric acid can burn your skin on contact. It's also very dangerous if it is inhaled, causing damage to your throat and nasal passages, shortness of breath, chest pain and even death. Some of the symptoms from breathing in nitric acid may include: bluish-colored lips and fingernails, chest tightness, choking, and coughing up blood, dizziness or weakness, low blood pressure, a rapid pulse or shortness of breath. If exposed to this dangerous chemical, it's very important to get to fresh air, immediately and seek medical help. For more information on nitric acid poisoning, call the national poison control center at 1-800-222-12-22.

Related Links

- [I-10 Now Open After Thursday Spill](#)
- [Chemical Effects from Tanker Crash](#)
- [Crash Closes Interstate 10 in Both Directions](#)
- [Update: New I-10 detour routes](#)

<http://www.klfy.com/story/15582886/chemicals-explained>

CANADA, VANCOUVER, BURNABY, OCTOBER 1 2011. WHY WAS CHEMICAL SPILL INVESTIGATION DROPPED? >> LOCAL STREAMKEEPER STILL WANTS ANSWERS ABOUT SPILL THAT KILLED FISH IN BURNABY CREEK IN 2007

jennifer moreau



Watchful eyes: Paul Cipywnyk and Abby Schwarz at Byrne Creek in a file photo. Cipywnyk is questioning why Environment Canada dropped an investigation into a chemical spill that killed fish at John Matthews Creek in 2007.

A local volunteer streamkeeper is questioning why Environment Canada dropped an investigation into a 2007 chemical spill that killed fish in John Matthews Creek and turned the water yellow. "Our conclusion was that there was no conclusion. There was no reason Environment Canada didn't follow up," said Paul Cipywnyk, of the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers. On Oct. 11, 2007, a cleaning man flushed hazardous waste from a defunct electroplating shop down a drain, which leads to the John Matthews Creek, a tributary to Byrne Creek. Cipywnyk was on the scene that day. "There was kind of this goopy yellow stuff coming down, and it ran yellow for a long

time, like hours," he said. According to documents from a freedom of information request made by the City of Burnaby, Environment Canada investigators knew where the hazardous waste came from, but the agency did not pursue the case.

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According to the file, spills from electroplating shops can be quite serious and pollutants can include strong acids and heavy metals, like cadmium, copper, zinc and chromium. The fish killed in the spill likely suffocated after their gills were burned. Under section 36 (3) of the Fisheries Act, it's illegal to deposit deleterious substances into areas with fish or waterways leading to their habitat. Penalties can include a fine of up to \$100,000 and/or one year in jail, maximum. The documents released don't indicate why Environment Canada dropped the 2007 case. Environment Canada spokesperson Henry Lau said the enforcement branch looked into the matter and decided charges would not be applied. "As this did not result in a prosecution, we are not at liberty to comment further on the matter out of respect for the privacy of those involved," he said. The NOW contacted Randy Polozo, owner of the building where the chemicals came from. Polozo was leasing the space to people running an electroplating shop who left the hazardous chemicals behind. Polozo hired a man to transfer liquids from vats into drums, but he spilled a lot on the floor and washed it down the drain. Polozo was stuck with a clean-up bill of about \$80,000. When asked if Environment Canada ever explained to him that the spill was a violation of federal law, Polozo said no. "We didn't do it on purpose. It was an accident," he said. There has been a number of spills in Byrne Creek over the years; the 2007 spill only killed about two dozen fish, but another one in March 2010 wiped out the entire creek. In that case, Environment Canada did not take any action, as they could not locate the source. Cipywnyk said he's had informal talks with people who work for Environment Canada who usually informally point the finger to lack of budget, or lack of resources or the difficulty in getting prosecutors to accept the cases. "It just gets very frustrating when volunteers put in thousands of hours for free, and then once a year, or once every couple of years, they turn to an agency whose mandate is to protect the environment and have things go nowhere," he said. An occasional prosecution or fine may force people to pay a little attention, he added.

<http://www.burnabynow.com/technology/chemical+spill+investigation+dropped/5481228/story.html>

USA, W.VA, CHARLESTON, OCTOBER 1 2011. DEP CITES GEORGIA COMPANY FOR OIL SPILL NEAR ELKVIEW

State regulators have issued four violation notices against Atlanta-based Black Crow Oil for a spill at the company's well site on Cavender Drive near Elkview, the state Department of Environmental Protection said Friday. As many as 50 barrels of oil leaked from a faulty load-out line on the site's holding tank on Thursday, DEP said. The spilled oil entered a tributary of Indian Creek, traveled into Indian Creek, and then flowed into Elk River. The DEP's Office of Oil and Gas and its Homeland Security and Emergency Response Unit responded to the spill, which has been contained and is being cleaned up by Black Crow, DEP said. The cleanup is expected to take several days. DEP has notified West Virginia American Water, which has intakes along the Elk River about the spill. Two violations were issued to Black Crow for polluting waters. Violations also were issued to the company for failing to report the spill in a timely manner for having an incorrect American Petroleum Institute identification number on its well.

<http://sundaygazetteemail.com/News/201109303148>

USA, PA, RIVERSIDE, OCTOBER 1 2011. MERCK SPILLED 31 TONS OF TOXIC FLUID INTO RIVER

john finnerty & evamarie socha

Human error caused Merck & Co. to spill 20 tons of ethylene glycol, an anti-freeze, into the Susquehanna River on Aug. 2, 2007, and, hours later, another 11 tons, according to a federal lawsuit filed Wednesday against the pharmaceutical maker. The lawsuit brought a \$1.5 million fine against Merck for environmental violations at plants in Northumberland and Montgomery counties. The 93-page lawsuit filed Wednesday alleges a variety of missteps at the Riverside facility, including repeated accidental discharges of hazardous waste such as ammonia and anti-freeze, failure to notify appropriate authorities when waste was discharged, poor maintenance practices and inadequate equipment testing practices. While Merck did not return a request for comment by deadline Thursday, spokesman Steven Campanini told The Daily Item Wednesday that the alleged violations were procedural and had no environmental impact. All of the spills were caused by human error, and "had a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting health or the environment and could have been prevented," according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA investigation of both the Riverside and West Point facilities was part of a chemical compliance initiative in 2006, said Bonnie Smith, spokesperson for EPA's Region III, to review both facilities' adherence to federal air, water, hazardous waste, spill prevention and community right-to-know regulations. "This matter is important because it focused on communication with regulators and ensuring that all preventative measures were taken," Smith said. "Merck did many things well at these two facilities. However, there were some areas that were important to follow up on,"

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including daily management, reporting and labeling. The lawsuit alleges that the spills were caused by workers who did not turn off valves or otherwise failed to properly use equipment. among allegations in the lawsuit:

- For two months in 2004 and eight months in 2005, Merck staff turned off an air emissions control device intended to remove air pollution from tanks storing hazardous waste.
- At one point, the professional engineer for the site was working with a license from North Carolina that had been expired for seven years.
- On Nov. 30, 2004, there was a spill involving 300 pounds of ammonia, three times the level that requires notification.
- Northumberland County was not notified about the spill until more than two hours later. The company did not notify Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency about the spill and did not submit written follow-up to the county or PEMA until three years later.
- On Aug. 2, 2007, there was a spill of somewhere between 20,000 and 40,000 pounds of ethylene glycol, an anti-freeze. The 20-ton spill would have been eight times the level that requires reporting to regulatory authorities.
- Merck notified Northumberland County and PEMA two hours after the spill.
- The same day, Merck had another anti-freeze spill that released between 13,667 and 23,000 pounds of ethylene glycol. The company notified the county or PEMA about the second spill, according to the allegations in the lawsuit.
- There were six other chemical spills at the Riverside site: Sept. 27, 2005; May 15, 2006; March 16, 2007; March 18, 2007; May 19, 2007; and July 29, 2007. The lawsuit does not explain what chemicals were involved.

The EPA said all of the spills were caused by human error, "had a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting health or the environment and could have been prevented." Elsewhere, the EPA investigators document nine spills, some on the same dates mentioned elsewhere in the lawsuit — Nov. 4, 2005; Dec. 16, 2006; March 16, 2007; March 18, 2007; April 14, 2007; May 19, 2007; May 31, 2007; July 29, 2007; and Aug. 2, 2007. EPA said Merck has corrected the alleged violations and implemented practices for compliance.

http://dailyitem.com/0100_news/x1190853275/Merck-spilled-31-tons-of-toxic-fluid-into-river

CANADA, N.S, SABLE ISLAND, OCTOBER 2 2011. SABLE ISLAND STATUS RAISES GAS QUESTIONS >>CONSERVATIONISTS, ENERGY INDUSTRY AWAIT RELEASE OF PARK REGULATIONS

john mcphree



Ponies stand on the edge of a sand dune on Sable Island in this 1997 photo.

Synthetic-based mud. Mono-ethylene glycol. Diesel. These are some of the substances that have spilled into the sea as the result of natural gas drilling near Sable Island. In one of the most serious incidents, 4,000 litres of diesel spilled into the Atlantic Ocean in 2004. As a result, ExxonMobil Canada was fined \$10,000 and had to pay \$50,000 into an environmental damage fund administered by Environment Canada. While these kinds of incidents aren't uncommon in gas exploration, the tiny island about 225 kilometres southeast of Nova Scotia likely will end up as a national park. That's a game-changer, conservationists say. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Ecology Action Centre want

offshore legislation changed to explicitly ban drilling on or beneath the island. "The big concern for us is around the potential precedence of this, of oil and gas drilling inside the boundaries of a national park being allowed by law," said Chris Miller, a conservation biologist with the society. The offshore regulatory body, the Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board, hasn't allowed drilling on the island itself since 1973. Drilling can't be done within one nautical mile of the island. The rules also allow companies to drill horizontally and tap gas reserves directly under the island. It's not known whether that will continue when the island becomes a national park. There are six drilling platforms as part of the \$3-billion Sable Offshore Energy Project, operated by ExxonMobil and partners such as Shell Canada and Imperial Oil. The Venture, North Triumph and Thebaud platforms started production in 1999. The company's Alma and South Venture started producing in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Drilling is done between 10 and 40 kilometres from the island. A spokeswoman for an energy industry organization calls the gas wells just off of Sable Island environmentally safe. "There is a very expensive environmental assessment done before drilling," said Barbara Pike, executive director for the Offshore/Onshore Technologies Association of Nova Scotia. Any changes that may occur in the current regulations because of the new national park designation will not be known until the governments make their official announcement in a few weeks but Pike expects the wells already operating

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near Sable Island to stay in place. "I would suggest that anything that is existing would . . . be grandfathered, like in all national parks," she said. The association will wait until the regulations are released by the government before commenting further, Pike said. Besides the 2004 diesel spill, incidents over the years have included a natural gas leak under a well in 1984. Mobil Oil Canada and its partners spent more than \$140 million to cap the blown well. The offshore petroleum board provides details on all incidents since 1999 on its website. These have included:

- Dec. 17, 2002: 7,290 litres of chemicals leaked from a hydraulic supply line on the Erik Raude platform operated by EnCana.
- Aug. 26, 2004: 354,000 litres of synthetic mud (used for drilling lubrication) spilled from a riser on the Deepwater Pathfinder rig, operated by Marathon.
- Jan. 6, 2006: Between 130,000 and 158,000 litres of mono-ethylene glycol (MEG) leaked from a flowline on the

ExxonMobil's Thebaud platform. MEG is used as an anti-freeze and anti-corrosion agent in natural gas pipelines. While no incidents have had a serious environmental impact, the national park designation process offers the opportunity to reduce that risk, said Mark Butler, policy director for the Ecology Action Centre. "There is the potential here for the provincial and federal governments to get together with the oil companies and come up with an agreement where everybody looks good," Butler said. "I would hate to see the province, because they're concerned about their jurisdiction, push for an outcome that sets a bad precedent for other parts of the country."

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/NovaScotia/1266038.html>

USA, CA, MERCED, OCTOBER 2 2011. MERCED WATER CONTAMINATION LAWSUIT BEING HEARD IN COURT

ameera butt

The city and its Redevelopment Agency have filed two lawsuits in state and federal courts against oil industry defendants they claim contaminated groundwater at several sites with MTBE, a fuel additive that is a possible carcinogen. The city's case against Chevron USA Inc. and other oil companies went to trial earlier this week at Merced County Superior Court. The city and the defendants are involved in pretrial motions, in which both sides decide whether certain evidence should be admitted or excluded, according to city officials. Jury selection will begin Oct. 6, according to Sean Comey, spokesman for Chevron Corp. The law firm representing the city -- Miller, Axline and Sawyer -- didn't return phone calls Friday from the Sun-Star. In court documents, the city alleges that the defendants -- Chevron USA Inc., Shell Oil Co., ExxonMobil Corp. and others -- sold gasoline containing MTBE or TBA to Merced gasoline stations. The documents allege that, in turn, the gas stations released the two chemicals into the environment. The chemicals allegedly contaminated the groundwater, Merced's public water supply, underneath the city in some places. "All had duties to warn and advise the seriousness of the chemical and what procedures to take to protect the public. They failed to do so and proper precautions weren't taken by the retailers," Greg Diaz, city attorney, said. MTBE is an additive to gasoline, according to the documents, while TBA is present in some gasoline. Jeanne Schechter, chief deputy city attorney, said the contamination came from leaking underground storage tanks or from sloppy practices on the part of the gas stations. MTBE is soluble in water, so it can sink into groundwater, she said. The court documents allege the defendants promoted the use of gasoline containing MTBE or TBA by claiming that it was environmentally beneficial and would improve air quality. MTBE is designed to help make air quality better, said Diaz. "It did that part, apparently, but it has the side effect of when it gets into the air or the gasoline itself, it's a hazardous substance. It cleaned the air but it contaminates the water." The documents allege the defendants concealed or failed to disclose that MTBE would contaminate groundwater and render it not fit to drink. MTBE can make water supplies undrinkable by changing water into a foul-smelling liquid with a turpentine odor and chemical taste, the court documents charged. In an email Friday, Chevron's Comey wrote that the city's "drinking water has always been and continues to be of excellent quality." Comey said the city has told its residents that the water is of excellent quality. "MTBE does not pose any issues for the city's ability to continue to provide and deliver safe potable water to its residents," he wrote in the email. Moreover, he said, Chevron "diligently works with state regulators to address any environmental risks caused by our operations." According to court documents, the alleged contamination and pollution began when the defendants began supplying their branded gasoline containing the possible carcinogens to Merced gas stations from 1992 to at least 2002, such that, releases of gasoline to the subsurface contaminated the city's water system. Documents also say that the oil companies were negligent, careless, reckless or intentionally failed to prevent leaks of MTBE or TBA through the use of appropriate technology, installation and maintenance of gasoline delivery systems that could prevent leaks or monitor and discover them as soon as possible. Diaz

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said the leaked gasoline containing MTBE or TBA continues to contaminate and pollute the city's water system by migrating through groundwater. The RDA's case is pending in federal court in New York, he said.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2011/10/01/2064781/merced-water-contamination-lawsuit.html>

SINGAPORE, PULAU BUKOM, OCTOBER 2 2011. TRACES OF FUEL VAPOUR REMAIN IN AFFECTED AREA AFTER SHELL BUKOM FIRE

dylan loh

Watch the Video <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/video/index.php>

 Photo's [Pulau Bukom Aerial Overview Photo \(JPG, 173 KB\)](#)

 On The Web [Update @1830hrs: Fire at Pulau Bukom Manufacturing Site \(1 Oct 2011\)](#)



Foam used by firefighters in the vicinity of the pump house.

The Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) says traces of fuel vapour remain in the affected area, two days after the blaze at Shell's Pulau Bukom oil refinery was extinguished on Thursday after a 32-hour battle. The oil giant and authorities are monitoring the situation, and a fresh batch of firefighters was sent to the island on Saturday morning. Giving an update, Shell said foaming operations are continuing at parts of the incident site, with damage confined to the vicinity of the pump house. It added other facilities and units are not affected and only essential operating personnel are on the island. Shell said it's too early to assess how much the fire will cost the company. It said efforts are ongoing to bring the situation back to normal at the refinery, the company's biggest. The company does not expect any shutdown units to be restarted until a thorough investigation has been conducted and safety is assured. The Ministry of Manpower has stepped in to investigate the cause of the fire. Shell said it deeply regrets the incident and is talking to customers to address

product supply and minimise any potential impact on them.

Related Links

- [Shell refinery to shut for a month?](#)
- [DPM Teo visits Bukom refinery](#)
- [Shell refinery fire in S'pore to affect Asian supply](#)
- [Shell may shut entire refinery at Pulau Bukom](#)
- [Explosions heard at Pulau Bukom refinery](#)
- [Fire fighting efforts continue on Pulau Bukom](#)
- [Haze not caused by Pulau Bukom fire: NEA](#)
- [TRACES OF FUEL VAPOUR IN PULAU BUKOM: SCDF](#)
- [Shell refinery may be closed for month after fire](#)

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/1156697/1/.html>

USA, N.Y, MIDDLEBOROUGH, OCTOBER 2 2011. TOXIC SITE BRINGS FINES >> PHARMACEUTICAL TESTING COMPANY IS PENALIZED BY DEC FOR POLLUTION

A pharmaceutical testing company must pay \$600,000 to cover cleanup, fines and other penalties from chemical pollution found as it was trying to sell its plant. APR LLC, formerly Applied Pharmaceutical Research, reached a settlement with the state [Department of Environmental Conservation](#) last month to provide \$500,000 to ensure its former plant site on state Route 145 is properly cleaned up. Chemicals found in groundwater there included methyl tertiary butyl ether, or MTBE, a toxic gasoline additive that has poisoned hundreds of wells across the state. MTBE is considered a "potential carcinogen," based on research on mice and rats. The plant is on the banks of Little Schoharie Creek, a tributary of the Schoharie, but it does not appear that pollution spread from the plant into the creek, said DEC spokesman [Rick Georgeson](#) on Friday. The company also agreed to a \$55,000 fine and to provide \$50,000 to support a future, as-yet unspecified environmental project, according to a DEC consent order signed by company Vice President [John Lomans](#) and managing partner [Cameron Reid](#), of Saddle River, N.J. DEC Regional Director [Gene Kelly](#) said, "After consultation with local officials, the \$50,000 environmental benefit project

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will be used to help address impacts from the recent devastating storms." This summer, chemicals were found in groundwater at the plant by environmental consultants working for Dr. Reddy's Laboratories New York, which was investigating the site as a possible buyer, according to DEC. Dr. Reddy's later bought the property. Levels of MTBE were found up to 14,900 parts per billion, well beyond the state safety standard of 10 ppb. MTBE was added to gasoline beginning in the late 1970s. Evidence grew in the 1990s that the additive was moving swiftly from leaking underground gas tanks and contaminating thousands of water supply wells across the country. New York banned MTBE in 2004, and the additive was phased out of nearly all gasoline in 2006. Georgeson said there was no evidence that MTBE from the plant had spread to neighboring water supplies. High levels of toluene were also found in groundwater at the plant, a chemical linked to tumor growth in laboratory animals, and 4-methylphenol, a possible human carcinogen, according to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](http://www.epa.gov). Georgeson said the chemicals seemed have come from plumbing, used to rinse laboratory equipment, that led to a septic field. He said it isn't known how long the chemicals had been accumulating in the ground. The company had operated there since at least 2004, he said. "There still is an ongoing remedial investigation at this site to delineate the full extent of the contamination plume. A proposed work plan has been submitted that includes 10 additional monitoring wells," he said. "The work completed to date shows that most of the contamination is in and around the old septic system leach field. There is no evidence at this point to suggest off site groundwater impacts."

<http://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Toxic-site-brings-fines-2197464.php>

USA, LA, JEFFERSON PARISH, OCTOBER 2 2011. TOW VESSEL PARTIALLY SUBMERGED AT HUEY P. LONG BRIDGE

 **Watch the Video**

<http://www.fox8live.com/news/local/story/Tow-vessel-partially-submerged-at-Huey-P-Long/hOzRD4Is0C7qkz-3QSbZg.csp>

Coast Guard and parish officials are responding to a tow boat's partial submerging on the Mississippi River, about a mile from the Huey P. Long Bridge. The boat, a tow vessel named the Elwood Jones, began taking on water around 3:30 PM Friday. It's now located at mile marker 106, roughly half a mile upriver from the bridge. A spokesman with the 8th Coast Guard District says the boat has 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel onboard, but only about two gallons has leaked into the river at this point. The spokesman says a commercial oil response firm has been called to the scene, as a precaution, to join military and civil emergency responders already there. Jefferson Parish President John Young says the parish is aware of the incident and is cooperating with the Coast Guard. The semi-submerged vessel is not posing a navigational hazard at this time, according to the Coast Guard, and river traffic has not been halted. A Coast Guard spokesperson says it could be Monday before they can even begin to salvage the vessel and remove it from the river.

 **Related Links**

- [Boom continues to contain fuel spill near Huey P. Long Bridge](#)
- [Coast Guard monitoring partially sunken tugboat upriver of Huey P. Long Bridge](#)

<http://www.fox8live.com/news/local/story/Tow-vessel-partially-submerged-at-Huey-P-Long/hOzRD4Is0C7qkz-3QSbZg.csp>

KUWAIT, MINA AL AHMADI, OCTOBER 2 2011. FOUR KILLED IN BLAST AT AHMADI REFINERY

Four workers were killed and two employees injured in a gas pipe explosion yesterday at Kuwait's largest refinery of Mina Al-Ahmadi, the national refiner said. The explosion took place at the Gas Liquefaction Plant at the refinery during maintenance works, Kuwait National Petroleum Co (KNPC) said in a statement cited by the official KUNA news agency. The four people killed work for a private contractor, KNPC said. Two company workers were also injured but discharged from hospital after treatment. M P Waleed Al-Tabtabaei condoled the families of the victims and demanded the resignation of the oil minister "to bear his political responsibility". An industry source earlier told AFP the dead workers were Asians and that the explosion was caused by a gas leak, adding that the blast also wounded three firemen. The source said the refinery continued operations as usual and that the blast would have no impact on Kuwait's oil output and exports. Mina Al-Ahmadi is the largest of three refineries in OPEC member Kuwait, with a refining capacity of over 460,000 barrels per day. The other two at Shuaiba and Mina Abdullah have a combined capacity of around 450 ,000 bpd.

 **Related Links**

- [Four killed at Kuwait's Al Ahmadi refinery](#)
- [Four dead at KNPC's Ahmadi refinery](#)

http://www.kuwaittimes.net/read_news.php?newsid=MzY3OTM1MjE5

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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

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October 10 2011



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BELIZE, BELMOPAN CITY, OCTOBER 2 2011. SECRET OIL REFINERY BUSTED IN BELMOPAN

janine i. crawford



A search for firearms and ammunition in an area near the Belize Christian Academy about a mile off the Western Highway and situated north on the Banana Bank road, just west of the George Price Boulevard in Belmopan City led authorities to the discovery of a secret oil field with a functioning oil refinery. Present at the time of the search was a Cuban, Roberto Igarza Velasquez, 56, a mechanic of Calle Las Americas, Salvapan area, Belmopan City, who is living in the country illegally. We were told this morning that Velasquez had been detained and has since been charged by Belmopan police for embarking on a project without applying to the Environmental Department, and also, for carelessly causing a disaster. It was not explained what the "disaster" was. Currently, Velasquez is in prison and is due back in court next week, Wednesday, October 5, when it is expected the additional charges will be levied against him depending on the results of a hydro-carbonic lab analysis from samples collected from the distillery's collecting drums. When police visited the private property,

Mount Pleasant River Estate, on September 18, they went looking for firearms, but instead found what appeared to be a secret oil refinery for the purpose of producing products such as kerosene and diesel. It was also observed that the distillery consisted of metallic busser storage, protoplast tanks, pipes and hoses. Following Velasquez's arrest, the police searched his home in Salvapan, and it was there that they learned that Velasquez had been living in Belize illegally. Police also found his two Cuban passports and United States residency card; these were seized. This morning, Thursday, Amandala visited the area, where we met two Hispanic men who said that they had been sent there by a "lady" (they could not tell us who the woman was). She had sent them to cover two oil wells that had been drilled for the extraction of petroleum (crude oil), because it was going to rain. The wells appeared filled with black, tar-looking, thick crude oil. The men said they were unaware of the illegality of the situation, and told us that the "man" who usually makes checks at the place had not come in for about three days (Velasquez was remanded on Friday). Also, the men told us that the property is not owned by the "man", but is a rented property. Other sources in the area told us that the oil refinery has existed for about three years. One source also told us that there was always heavy vehicular traffic in the area, as if though profitable business was conducted in the area. According to police, the kerosene and diesel were found in industrial quantities, but this morning, the tanks at the oil refinery distillery were empty. We also observed a bulldozer on the property, which appeared to be well-kept. Our source told us that the owner of the private property will be located and charged. As for Velasquez, we understand that his case has been handed over to the Department of Environment, Immigration and the Interpol. The first discovery of crude oil in Belize was made in 2005 in Spanish Lookout, Cayo District, by Belize Natural Energy. Reportedly; the wells produce about 5,000 barrels per day.

<http://www.amandala.com.bz/index.php?id=11730>

INDIA, KOLKATA, OCTOBER 2 2011. PANCHAMI BLAST ROCKS CITY, 1 DEAD

A stockpile of crackers and gunpowder meant to light up Diwali went up in flames prematurely and plunged a Shyambazar neighbourhood into mourning on Puja eve. One person was killed and at least three were seriously injured in the fire that triggered a powerful blast on Saturday evening. The injured have been admitted to RG Kar Medical College & Hospital. Such was the intensity of the blast at 86-A [Shyambazar Street](#) that it not only ripped off a section of the house in which the fireworks were stored but also caused extensive damage to houses across the 15-foot alley. Even houses situated 50-60 metres away from the blast site sustained damages with louvred wooden windows coming off the hinge and glass shards from shattered panes littering the alley. Police suspect an accidental fire lit fireworks and gunpowder stored in the ground floor of the building may have ignited LPG cylinders, leading to the incident that completely ripped the ground floor extension apart. The identity of the person killed is yet to be ascertained. Gautam Ghosh alias Shantoo, the owner of the house, was injured. A fireworks expert, Shantoo manufactured different ferent types of fireworks on the ground floor of his residence. The high quality fireworks sold for a premium before Diwali and other festive occasions. Since last year, he has also been dealing in expensive [Chinese fireworks](#). Shyambazar Street, a sleepy alley located behind Shyambazar AV School off Central Avenue, was literally rocked when the explosion occurred around 4.45pm. Shankar Shaw, the driver of ward 6 councillor Suman Singh had just bought rosogollas from the famous shop Chittaranjan a few yards down the road when he heard the ear-splitting bang. To his right, a cloud of dust and smoke had engulfed the narrow lane. "Peering through the haze, I saw a man up in flames stagger

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out, stumble and drop on the road. By the time I reached the spot, the man seemed dead. There were others badly burnt but still alive. I took one of them to the hospital in the councillor's car," he said, pointing to the rear seat where bits of charred flesh clung to the seat cover.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata-/Panchami-blast-rocks-city-1-dead/articleshow/10202415.cms>

CANADA, WINNIPEG, OCTOBER 2 2011. 'WE HAVE COWBOY DEVELOPMENT' >> FIRE SHOWS INDUSTRIAL PARK IS A 'TICKING TIME BOMB': WYATT



Onlookers watch huge billows of smoke erupt from warehouses north of Gunn Road Saturday.

Wyatt's criticism comes after a series of fires burned for hours near Gunn Road and Redonda Street starting about 12:30 p.m., damaging XPotential Products Inc., a plastics recycling facility, and forcing several businesses to evacuate. The fire is similar to one in 2006 when more than 100 tonnes of waste plastics burned for days at the same recycling facility. Because the area isn't equipped with fire hydrants, Springfield fire chief Chris Litkowich said crews had to bring in water tanks and compressed air foam to douse the flames. Wyatt said he has been urging the province since 2006 to freeze development in the park until a review determines

what level of protective services are necessary for the type of industries located in the area. He again raised the issue at a community committee meeting last June. Springfield still lacks the necessary firefighting equipment to handle such large and dangerous fires, he said. "What's happened is an indictment of the provincial government's inaction," said Wyatt. "We have cowboy development out here. There has to be proper services." Saturday afternoon, strong winds blew thick plumes of black smoke northward that could be seen as far away as Brookside Boulevard. One resident said he saw flames shoot seven to 10 metres into the air. Traffic was diverted on nearby streets as firefighters battled the blaze. Residents of 15 nearby homes who had been evacuated were allowed back into their homes Saturday night, although a spokesman for the Office of the Fire Commissioner said it would likely take crews until this morning to put out the remaining blazes in piles of recycling material. The Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service, as well as crews from Selkirk, East St. Paul and the RM of St. Clement, helped battle the fires. The cause is under investigation, Litkowich said. There were no injuries. Some residents who gathered to watch the blaze along rail lines in the area were asked by police to leave due to concerns over the smoke's potential toxicity. A Manitoba Conservation spokesman said there was no threat to air quality in Winnipeg. Had the wind been blowing from the north, much of Transcona would have had to be evacuated, Wyatt said, adding if another fire were to ever break out, weather conditions might not be as favourable. In 2006, then-fire chief Mike Purtil told the Free Press an emergency plan for the industrial park estimated an emergency of this type could prompt the evacuation of 13,000 people in Transcona and the surrounding area. Springfield Reeve Jim McCarthy said the RM has equipped its three volunteer-run fire halls with foam equipment to handle industrial fires. He said council will review whether to add more services to the area. "I don't know if it's necessary but it's definitely something we're going to review," he said. "We want to make sure the businesses and the people that live in the vicinity are safe." Wyatt said he would like to see Springfield operate a full-time fire department with hazmat capabilities. McCarthy said he believes the area does not yet need one. "I think with any municipality that's experiencing growth, there's a point in time where you have to make that decision," he said. "I don't think that we're there yet."

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/we-have-cowboy-development-130931228.html>

USA, GA, SAVANNAH, OCTOBER 2 2011. COAST GUARD RESPONDS TO SMALL FUEL SPILL

Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Savannah responded to a fuel spill in between the [Houlihan Bridge](#) and the [Talmadge Memorial Bridge](#) in the Savannah River Saturday. The motor vessel Ever Diadem, a 965-foot container ship, overfilled a fuel tank at approximately 6:10 a.m. Saturday morning during refueling operations. Approximately 2,000-gallons of No. 6 fuel oil spilled onto the vessel and into the waterway. The source of the spill was secured and approximately 6,000-feet of boom was placed in the river to minimize the spread of fuel. 2,080-feet of absorbent boom and a skimmer have also been deployed to recover fuel. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah conducted over flights to assess the environmental impact and Coast Guard MSU Savannah personnel are on scene coordinating the cleanup efforts, conducting shoreline assessments as well as investigating the cause of the incident. [The Coast Guard](#) urges mariners to use caution around the area.

<http://www2.wsav.com/news/2011/oct/01/coast-guard-responds-small-fuel-spill-ar-2493972/>

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