



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2011 – 752 Newsy Stuff

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

**September 12 2011**



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### USA, PA, LOWER SALFORD TWP, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. NORTHEAST EXTENSION NB REOPENS AFTER FATAL CRASH

 **Photo Gallery [26]** <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8339535>



One person has died after a gas tanker collided with a car on the Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike on Friday morning. The northbound lanes of the Northeast Extension (I-476) are open again after being closed for about nine hours following a fatal crash. Police say that around 2:45 on Friday morning a gas tanker and two other vehicles collided in the Northbound lanes of the highway in Lower Salford Township, Montgomery County. Police say one of the vehicles was stopped on the side of the road. The driver of another car stopped to help and that's when the truck plowed into both of them. One person was thrown from a car and another person was trapped in a vehicle. Medical helicopters flew both victims to

local hospitals. One was later pronounced dead. The names of those involved have not been released. As terrible as the crash is, it could have been worse, if the tanker had leaked gas. Fortunately, that did not happen. The northbound lanes were reopened from Lansdale to Quakertown around 11:15 a.m.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8339535>

### USA, MD, GALENA, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. PROPANE TRUCK ACCIDENT



*Firefighters from the Galena Volunteer Fire Company spray foam on a LP gas hauler Monday about 4:30 p.m. on Route 301 near the intersection of Route 290.*

The crash of a tanker truck thought to have been hauling liquid propane snarled traffic on Route 301 Monday afternoon. According to a Maryland State Police press release, a 2004 Peterbilt truck was being driven by Michael P. Brancu, 40, of Clementon, N.J., about 4:38 p.m. when it struck a bridge guardrail and ran off the road into an embankment, coming to rest on the side of the road. A logo on the side of the truck indicated that it was owned by Papco, a Virginia-based fuel company. Several local volunteer fire companies responded along with the MSP and Maryland Department of the Environment, over concerns about the cargo. It was determined that the tank was empty. Brancu sustained minor injuries and declined treatment. He told police that he swerved into the bridge when he was reaching for a bottle of ice

tea that was on the floor. Traffic along both directions of Route 301 was interrupted for approximately five hours. MSP Tpr. G. Dillon investigated.

[http://www.stardem.com/news/local\\_news/article\\_b135571b-708e-59ec-ad28-0547736134d3.html](http://www.stardem.com/news/local_news/article_b135571b-708e-59ec-ad28-0547736134d3.html)

### USA, CA, MENLO PARK, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. WORKER DIES IN METHANE BLAST AT CALIF. RESEARCH FACILITY



One person died and another was injured in a violent explosion Friday afternoon at a research and development company in east [Menlo Park](#), Calif. Employees at Membrane Technology and Research were transferring methane from one cylinder to another shortly after 4 p.m. PDT when the explosion occurred, Menlo Park Fire Protection District Chief Harold Schapelhouman said. "Something went very wrong," he said. "We do not know the cause yet." The first firefighters on the scene pulled two victims from the blast area, Schapelhouman said. CPR was performed on one man, but he died of his injuries. The other victim, a woman, was placed in a hazmat suit and rushed to Stanford Medical Center, said Schapelhouman, adding that the pressure of the blast injured her eardrums. Twenty-three people were evacuated from the building while emergency crews assessed whether any hazardous materials had been released. Schapelhouman said research and development

companies in the light industrial park use hazardous materials but do not store them in large quantities. Officials quickly determined there was no threat to surrounding homes and businesses in Menlo Park and [East Palo Alto](#). "At this point, it is contained within the building," Schapelhouman said. A hazmat team was to enter the building Friday night to assess the

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condition of additional cylinders of methane, Schapelhouman said. Helium is also stored inside the building. Membrane Technology and Research develops and produces membrane-based separation systems for the petrochemical, natural gas and refining industries, according to its website.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/09/02/3881640/worker-dies-in-methane-blast-at.html>

### USA, NE, WEST LINCOLN, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. 90,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL SPILLS IN WEST LINCOLN

Health officials say a diesel spill estimated at 90,000 gallons late Wednesday was contained within the Hobson rail yard in west Lincoln and will not affect any waterways. "It's one of the largest (spills) that we can remember," said Nancy Clark, an environmental quality supervisor with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department. An expansion joint failed on a fuel line at the rail yard's pump house on West O Street at about 11 p.m. Wednesday, causing the leak, said Andy Williams, a spokesman for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, which owns the yard. "Once it was detected, the fuel pumps were shut off and the leak stopped," Williams said. Crews have estimated about 40,000 gallons of fuel were caught by a containment system and another 50,000 gallons leaked into a retention pond on the site. Vacuum trucks are able to remove the fuel from the containment system, but cleanup of the pond is expected to take several days. Clark said soil in the area already was saturated from rains, so it didn't absorb much of the leaked fuel. However, she said, some of the soil will need to be removed. "It's not likely to be a large quantity."

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/article\\_97066a52-3833-557a-a23b-4bb345bc5986.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/article_97066a52-3833-557a-a23b-4bb345bc5986.html)

### PORTUGAL, LISBON, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. HUNDREDS OF PETROL STATIONS CLOSE ACROSS PORTUGAL



*An estimated 400 fuel stations have closed across Portugal since the start of the year, making more than 2,000 people unemployed.*

This figure was revealed to Lusa last week by João Vieira Lopes, President of the Confederation of Commerce and Services of Portugal (CCP), who considers that the current economic crisis has led to the closure of many commercial establishments. As another example, the CCP said that 600 car repair shops have also closed since the beginning of 2011, while the situation is more dramatic in the catering industry, 3,000 establishments closed during the first quarter of the year. According to CCP, 2011 is turning out to be a black year for the commercial sector, which sees daily closures of businesses, at a rate of around 100 per day, leading to around 500

people becoming unemployed. The average number of staff losing their jobs is five per business, according to the CCP, which highlights the fact that many of these people are not part of the unemployment statistics. "Many of these people are also the owners of the establishments and have no right to subsidies," said Mr. Lopes, adding that the number of unemployed in the sector is 100,000. In relation to the 400 petrol stations that have closed, the majority of them are located near the border with Spain, where fuel is significantly cheaper. The same has occurred in commerce, which has been penalised by the cheaper VAT in neighbouring Spain.

<http://www.theportugalnews.com/cgi-bin/article.pl?id=1128-55>

### INDIA, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. 6 DU PROFESSORS CHARGED FOR MAYAPURI RADIATION LEAK

smriti singh



More than a year after radioactive Cobalt 60 from a [Delhi University lab](#) found its way to the Mayapuri scrap yard, killing one person and exposing seven others to radiation, the Delhi Police has held six [DU professors](#) responsible for auctioning a "25-year-old gamma cell without following government guidelines". In the chargesheet filed before a metropolitan magistrate on Friday, police booked professors Rita Kakkar, V B Parmar, Ramesh Chandra Rastogi, Ashok Kumar Prasad, Roop Lal and Rakesh Kumar under sections 337 and 338 (causing hurt and grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 304A (death due to rash and negligent act) of the Indian penal code. The court will consider the charges on September 21, 2011. The police have alleged that the accused, who were part of a committee that decided on junk disposal, did not follow government

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guidelines in disposing of the chemistry department's gamma irradiator that contained the radioactive Cobalt. It was sold to a scrap dealer in Mayapuri. The accused also did not inform anyone in the university about the sale, says the chargesheet. The police have listed 60 witnesses, including scientists who worked on the case, to support its allegations. The chargesheet says that the disposal and write-off committees, of which the six were members, were formed by the vice-chancellor for disposing scrap to create more space for additional student strength. According to guidelines, there should have been a gap of at least 15 days between the meetings of the write-off and disposal committees. The chargesheet says the professors took the decision on disposing of the irradiator in just half an hour. The police have listed the minutes of the meetings and documents of the auction and disposal seized during investigations, as part of its evidence. The chargesheet says that irradiator was purchased in 1970 from the Atomic Energy Canada Limited and had been lying in disuse inside a room since 1985. The radioactive substance was unknowingly bought by some scrap dealers which led to the radiation exposure in Mayapuri. The police had registered an FIR on April 8 last year after radiation exposure had injured eight people. The FIR was later updated after the death of Rajender (35), a worker in the Mayapuri scrap market who was exposed to radiation. A team comprising Inspector Sudhir Kumar, Sub-Inspector Amit Kumar and ASI Jagdish Kumar investigated the case. Delhi Police, Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) and National Radiation Emergency Response teams later recovered all 112 'flugs' of 16 Cobalt pencils from Mayapuri and Rewari in Haryana, which were housed in a round metal shield inside the gamma irradiator. AERB officials had sent the radioactive material to the Narora atomic power station "for storage and inspection". The irradiator, which was sold to Harcharan Singh Bhola of Mayapuri, weighed around 3,000kg. Following the incident, AERB had banned the use of the radioactive isotope of Cobalt in the university.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Six-DU-profs-charged-for-Mayapuri-radiation-leak/articleshow/9842621.cms>

### USA, LOUISIANA, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. BP CAN DENY IT ALL THEY WANT BUT THAT LOOKS LIKE OIL AGAIN AT DEEPWATER

robert johnson

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.businessinsider.com/deepwater-horizon-leaking-2011-9>



The following picture and video was taken at the Deepwater Horizon site early last week. [BP denies](#) there is any leak, saying they have ships in the area testing for silt. The oil is currently about 70 miles off the coast of Louisiana. Check out video taken over the Deepwater site by [On Wings of Care](#) below. Check out their website for lat/longs of the fresh spill or download their exact route [here](#).

<http://www.businessinsider.com/deepwater-horizon-leaking-2011-9>

### USA, LOUISIANA, SEPTEMBER 3 2011. OIL SLICKS OBSERVED NEAR DEEPWATER HORIZON WELL SITE



On Wings of Care (OWC), an ocean conservation and animal rescue organization, were conducting a series of flyovers near the infamous Deepwater Horizon /Macondo (MC252) Well site in the Gulf of Mexico, spotting whale sharks for a scientific research team. Starting on August 19th the air crew began observing rainbow-tinted slicks and thick globs of oil. Al Jazeera reports that during an Aug 30th flyover OWC Pilot Bonny Schumaker, said: "we saw the slick cover roughly 10 miles [16km] in one direction and four miles [6km] in another." OWC said it had not seen such an "expansive surface sheen" since last summer during the catastrophic oil discharge at the Macondo well, 4.9 million barrels (206 million gallons) of oil gushed into the ocean. That oil spill became the worst environmental

disaster in US history. Samples of the oil were collected by the Alabama Press-Register Newspaper and delivered to Louisiana State University for chemical analysis, scientists have confirmed that the samples were sweet Louisiana crude. Ed Overton, one of the chemists, said: "After examining the data, I think it's a dead ringer for the MC252 oil, as good a match as I've seen," in an email to the Press-Register. "My guess is that it is probably coming from the broken riser pipe or sunken

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platform. ... However, it should be confirmed, just to make sure there is no leak from the plugged well." BP is denying the oil originated from its wellhead or the two relief wells, which were permanently sealed with cement in September 2010.

<http://www.salient-news.com/2011/09/oil-slicks-observed-near-deepwater-horizon-well-site/>

### USA, NE, NEWPORT, SEPTEMBER 4 2-011. UNDERGROUND DIESEL TANK EXPLODES >> AN UNDERGROUND DIESEL TANK IN NEWPORT, NEBRASKA EXPLODED, DESTROYING PART OF A CONVENIENCE STORE PARKING LOT.

owen Jensen

 **Watch the Video** [http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Underground\\_Diesel\\_Tank\\_Explodes\\_129167023.html](http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Underground_Diesel_Tank_Explodes_129167023.html)

Pretty Amazing.

That's about the only way to describe what happened at Sunny's convenience store and [gas station](#) in Newport, Nebraska. Around 3 in the morning Friday, an underground diesel tank exploded, blowing apart a section of the concrete parking lot, leaving a gaping hole. Big chunks of concrete were thrown for several feet. No one was hurt. In fact, no one was even around when it happened. But [Newport](#) Fire Chief Kurt Micheel lives close by and heard the blast. Describing the crater caused by the explosion, Micheel told 1011 News, "It blew approximately a 20' by 20' hole probably 8 to 10 feet deep." The explosion happened during a fierce lightning storm. One theory is that a bolt of lightning may have set off the spark that caused the explosion. "It's just a possibility that the lightning followed a ground wire that would be all tied together and could've possibly ignited the spark in the tank." The store was not damaged and remains open. Cleanup crews were called in to soak up some leaking fuel. Apparently the tank was near empty when it exploded. Some nearby tanks may have been damaged as well. As for the blast, "Oh yes, it shook the windows, rattled the dishes in the cupboards...it was a pretty intense explosion," said Micheel.

[http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Underground\\_Diesel\\_Tank\\_Explodes\\_129167023.html](http://www.1011now.com/home/headlines/Underground_Diesel_Tank_Explodes_129167023.html)

### USA, WYO, GLENROCK, SEPTEMBER 4 2011. CONVERSE COUNTY EXPLOSION KILLS 3 OIL STORAGE SITE WORKERS

daniel Sandoval



**Click-2-Listen**



A Monday morning explosion at an oil storage site near Glenrock has killed three people. Deadly explosion in Converse County: According to a Samson Resources Company release from the Converse County Sheriff's office, the explosion and subsequent fire happened about 10 am and the three people who died were contract workers. The names have not been released. Emergency responders arrived on the scene and the fire was brought under control. The Converse County Sheriff's Office has secured the site for safety and an emergency response team from Samson is going to the site to help investigate the accident. According to the media release from Samson, Phil Schmucker, senior vice president of operations, said they will assist local, state and federal officials in the investigation of the accident. Mr. Schmucker also expressed condolences saying, "Our thoughts and prayers are with

the family and friends of those who died in this accident."

<http://k2radio.com/explosion-kills-3-contract-workers-audio/>

### CÔTE D'IVOIRE, ABIDJAN, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. TOXIC WASTE VICTIMS WAIT YEARS FOR COMPENSATION

inaki borda

Thousands of victims affected by toxic waste dumping in 2006 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire's commercial capital, still have not received the economic compensation they were promised. "There is a complete lack of transparency as to what happened to the millions of dollars which should have been paid out by the government compensation scheme," Benedetta Lacey, special advisor on corporate accountability at Amnesty International, told IPS. According to a United Nations report published in 2009, toxic waste from a tanker chartered by the international commodities trading firm Trafigura Beheer BV affected more than 100,000 people, who sought medical attention for a range of health problems. The incident has been linked to the deaths of 15

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people. Since 2007, Trafigura has paid 260 million dollars in several payouts, but much of the money remains unaccounted for and thousands of victims still have not received any economic compensation that would, if paid, be equal in some cases to a year's worth of wages. "It is unacceptable that so many people who were affected by the dumping have not received the compensation money they are entitled to," Amnesty International said in a press release. "President Ouattara's government must act decisively to show that corruption and misappropriation of funds will not be tolerated." In February 2007, Trafigura entered into a settlement agreement with the government of Côte d'Ivoire under which the company paid 195 million dollars. By the Ivorian government's own figures, 95,000 victims should have received compensation, Lacey told IPS. "However, the government compensation process was never completed and an enquiry into the compensation process which was opened under the previous government was never concluded," Lacey said. In April 2008, Trafigura made a full and final payment of 20 million dollars to the Ivorian government to pay for additional cleanup costs. A year after that, 30,000 Ivorians filed a lawsuit in Britain seeking damages for personal injury. An out-of-court settlement was reached and Trafigura made a payment of 45 million dollars. However, six thousand people never received any of that money. A local group claiming to represent the victims and calling itself the National Coordination of Toxic Waste Victims of Côte d'Ivoire (CNVDT-CI) was in charge of distributing the money. The head of CNVDT-CI is now reported to have disappeared and there is no further indication as to when the remaining compensation will be paid out. "We have been informed that a criminal complaint has just been lodged in the Ivorian courts against CNVDT-CI and we hope that this will deliver justice for the victims," Lacey said. Amnesty International is now calling on the new government to ensure that "the missing millions are located as a matter of priority and the distribution process gets up and running to pay out to the remaining 6,000 who are still waiting for the money," Lacey told IPS, calling for the money to be accounted for and paid out. Geneviève Diallo, representative of a group of victims living next to the Akouedo dumpsite, said that five years after the incident, 300 people in the area still had not received their compensation. "Those who have misappropriated the money must be brought to justice," Diallo said. "Justice must be done." In July 2010, a Dutch court found Trafigura guilty of illegally exporting toxic waste from Amsterdam and concealing the nature of the cargo, the BBC reported. The firm was fined one million euros for transporting its waste cargo from Amsterdam to the Ivory Coast in its ship, the Probo Koala. Trafigura insists the waste was not toxic.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105004>

### USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. SALT LAKE CITY, STATE, CHEVRON REACH OIL SPILL SETTLEMENT

jeremiah stettler

 [Photo's Before-and-after photos of the Liberty Park oil spill](#)

 [Watch the Video:](#)

<http://www.abc4.com/content/news/slc/story/Chevron-paying-4-5M-to-settle-Salt-Lake-oil-spills/FI-EghHMa0K-J8rp08iNlw.csp>



*Oil flows into the pond at Salt Lake City's Liberty Park in June 2010 after a pipe broke and sent oil down Red Butte Creek.*

More than a year after crude oil coursed into Red Butte Creek and Liberty Park pond, Chevron has brokered a deal with Salt Lake City and the state to pay for the damage. The oil company has agreed to a \$4.5 million payout to cover two separate spills — one in June 2010, the other in December — that spewed tens of thousands of gallons of petrol onto the ground and into waterways. Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker declared Tuesday that the deal will do what his administration has promised: "Hold Chevron accountable for damage to the health of our city's residents and natural environment." "I am hopeful," Becker said, "that as the requirements of the settlement and agencies are met and the assessment of the affected areas is

complete, the concerns of our residents will be satisfied, and the repair and restoration of the damaged riparian corridors will be accomplished." The settlement, released Tuesday, requires Chevron to make the following two payouts to Salt Lake City:

- \$3 million for the continued cleanup and protection of waterways affected by the oil spills.
- A \$1 million payment to compensate the city for any claims that arise from environmental and social impacts.

The settlement also imposes a \$500,000 civil fine on Chevron, payable to the state. "We have accepted responsibility for the cleanup and restoration activities associated with both events, and are working with the state and city on those efforts," Chevron President Randy Curry said. "This agreement further demonstrates our commitment to the Salt Lake community to

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complete restoration activities and comply with all applicable regulatory requirements." The payout comes after a series of oil spills released 54,600 gallons of crude into the ground and water near Red Butte Garden in the capital's foothills. The leaks left an indelible mark on Red Butte Creek that has been felt in the chemical spill that wafts from the east-side streambed and in the stains that remain on rocks along the channel. Chevron already has put tens of millions of dollars toward cleanup. And the work isn't done. The settlement agreement released by the city identifies \$42.6 million in spill-related expenses, ranging from a \$100,000 waterfowl mitigation project to a \$36.6 million price tag for remediation efforts in Red Butte Creek. Becker characterized the latest \$4.5 million settlement between the state, Chevron and the city as "very fair." Harvard-Yale neighborhood resident Peter Hayes has another word for it: "inadequate." Hayes, whose son was hospitalized and whose home was evacuated during the spill, said the sum provides no deterrent for an oil company the size of Chevron to guard against future problems. "The object of having fines and punishments is to alter behavior," he said. "This fine will do nothing to change their behavior. It is insufficient."

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/news/52527234-78/spill-lake-salt-chevron.html.csp>

### USA, TX, EL PASO, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. EXEC PLAYED TOXIC SHELL GAME WITH MERCURY-LACED SOIL

*john mcardle*

Of all the alleged crimes committed by members of U.S. EPA's [list](#) of wanted fugitives, Raul Chavez-Beltran's misdeeds rank among the most brazen. Chavez-Beltran, who has been on the run for more than eight years, was president of a hazardous waste disposal service in El Paso, Texas, that failed to dispose of the hazardous waste it was paid to collect. Instead, Chavez-Beltran and a group of business partners spent the better part of four years playing a haz-mat shell game, getting paid to gather waste from several companies across the border and then locking it away in leased and rented properties in and around El Paso. The group realized that mislabeling the haz-mat material and putting it in storage was a cheaper alternative to properly disposing of it. And when authorities came asking questions, Chavez-Beltran either found new places to hide his toxic inventory or burned the evidence. Nov. 24, 1997, was a particularly busy day for Chavez-Beltran's dirty scheme, according to an indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Texas in 2003. On that day, one of his business partners met with state environmental inspectors to lie about the toxic contents found leaking from a storage drum at a company facility near downtown El Paso, and Chavez-Beltran was busy negotiating another \$26,000 deal to "dispose" of some 34,000 pounds of mercury-contaminated soil that he intended to hide at another storage site across town. The mercury contract began as just another money-making scheme by Chavez Beltran's fraudulent Encon Environmental Services Inc., but, in the end, it proved to be one dirty deal too many.

#### False Lab Reports, Manifests

Established by Chavez-Beltran and business partner Jesus Audelio Uribe-Franco, Encon Environmental Services Inc. built its business model on a particular requirement of the 1983 La Paz Agreement between the United States and Mexico. Article 11 of the agreement, which was designed to protect and conserve the environment of the border region of both countries, requires that all hazardous waste generated in Mexico related to products manufactured in Mexico but consumed by the United States must be disposed of in the United States. Chavez-Beltran, a Mexican national, used his connections in Juarez, Chihuahua, to target companies that hired environmental service contractors to meet that requirement. According to EPA, he drummed up business from Mexican "maquiladoras," or manufacturers that typically assemble parts that have been shipped in from the United States and export the final product back across the border. To help facilitate their fraud, Chavez-Beltran and Uribe-Franco brought on a local hazardous waste importation expert, Roberto "Bobby" Loya, who eventually became a key partner in the organization. Despite lacking the proper permits under the U.S. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act to store or dispose of hazardous waste, Encon was able to use false lab reports and shipping manifests to fool U.S. inspectors while they kept Mexico clients in the dark about what happened to their waste. The scheme worked well, even as the success of the business created an ever-increasing hazard to the El Paso community as the company began stockpiling dangerous substances in properties around the city. But the scam wasn't completely without incident. According to the indictment, in early June 1996 a waste container collected from a Juarez-based transformer manufacturing company spontaneously ignited "causing substantial property damage and creating an endangerment of imminent serious bodily injury or death to others." Still, by the time the mercury spill occurred at the Harper-Mex manufacturing facility in 1997, Chavez-Beltran and his business partners were overseeing a growing business. And even though Encon had by that time caught the eye of state regulators after a 55-gallon drum was found to be leaking at one of the company's storage sites about a mile from downtown El Paso, Chavez-Beltran took on the Harper-Mex contract. As did other Mexican businesses who fell for Chavez-Beltran's scheme, EPA

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noted in a recent statement about the case that Harper-Mex believed its waste was being handled properly. "Harper-Mex de S.A. had to show documentation that the waste was imported into the United States for disposal," EPA said in response to questions about the case. "Their documents were in proper order. However, when the waste crossed over into the United States, it was alleged that Beltran and the other defendants removed the hazardous waste labels and created a falsified nonhazardous waste manifest so that they could dispose of the mercury contaminated soil illegally, i.e., more cheaply." The 34,000 pounds of mercury-contaminated soil was eventually stored in a semi-truck trailer 8 miles from the site that state officials were already focusing on. The drums sat for about a month when Chavez-Beltran and Uribe-Franco decided to get rid of the evidence by transferring it into 52 drums labeled "non-hazardous petroleum" and shipping it to a New Mexico-based dirt burning service. The deception put the lives of unsuspecting employees at the dirt-burning plant at risk, the indictment noted, as they set about burning the toxic mercury-soaked soil rather than a simple oil and dirt mixture.

### Informant

The scheme might have worked, except the conscious of one unnamed Encon employee got in the way. According to EPA, an anonymous letter was sent to authorities by someone inside the company alleging that Chavez-Beltran and others were illegally storing hazardous waste in locations throughout El Paso. By that fall EPA and state authorities were coming down on Encon and the entire scheme began to unravel. By the beginning of 2000, Encon Environmental Services Inc. was out of business and three years later a federal grand jury issued its indictments. Of the five men charged in the case, Chavez-Beltran was the only one that fled rather than face justice. Uribe-Franco eventually pleaded guilty to unlawful storage of hazardous waste related to the mercury-contaminated soil. He was sentenced to 12 months in jail and was subsequently deported to Mexico. Loya pleaded guilty to making a false statement to an EPA special agent and was sentenced to six months in prison, 36 months of probation and a \$1,000 fine. Encon's warehouse manager earned a 15-month prison sentence in relation to the mercury incident. An environmental manager of Harper-Mex was eventually acquitted after a trial. Several attempts to reach Loya were unsuccessful and his lawyer on the case said last week that he was unsure how to get in touch with him. Uribe-Franco's lawyer in the case also did not return calls. Chavez-Beltran's last known address was in Juarez. EPA still believes he is living and working in Mexico.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/09/06/06greenwire-exec-played-toxic-shell-game-with-mercury-lace-31018.html>

### UK, WALES, ABERYSTWYTH, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. DIESEL SPILL INQUIRY CONTINUES AT ABERYSTWYTH HARBOUR



An investigation is continuing into how red diesel got into the water at Aberystwyth harbour over the weekend. The oil is causing an odour problem in the area but public health officials say it is not harmful. The Environment Agency say the oil spill entered the water via the town's surface water drains. Ceredigion council is advising people not to swim or surf in the area whilst the oil disperses. Ged Davies, who is co-ordinating the Environment Agency's response to the spill, said the agency were notified of a problem by the Aberystwyth harbour master on Saturday morning. He said that since then the agency had been assessing the impact of the pollution.

"Public Health Wales advised us that whilst the odour is unpleasant it isn't harmful to health, but Ceredigion Council has posted signs advising people not to bathe or surf while the oil disperses," he told BBC Wales. Mr Davies added that it was "proving difficult" to minimise the pollution because while there was enough to cause a smell, there was not enough to mechanically or physically remove it. "We can't stop-up the town's drains but we have specialist contractors on site to see if we can, in effect, filter the oil out from the rain water as it drains from the town," he added. He added the agency was still trying to find the source of the pollution. "You don't lose this amount of oil and not know about it, and if anyone is aware of some mishap occurring in the town we'd like to hear from them," he added. The agency will also be contacting Customs and Excise later on to see whether it was possible to use an ultraviolet method to trace the oil through the drains, he said. When the source is found anyone responsible may get a bill for the investigation and clean-up, he added. No wildlife casualties have yet been reported, but Mr Davies urged anyone who came across any oiled bird to contact the agency. "We can implement a plan we've got... to take the necessary measures," he added.

### Related Links

- [Harbour oil spill sparks inquiry](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-mid-wales-14786111>

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#### **SOUTH AFRICA, BLOUBERGSTRAND, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. OIL SPILL SLICKS CAPE TOWN BEACH >> THICK OIL FROM THE STRICKEN BULK CARRIER SELI 1 IS WASHING UP ON CAPE TOWN'S BLOUBERG BEACH.**

*andre jurgens & shanaaz eggington*

**Photo Gallery** <http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Cape-Town-oil-spill-clean-up-complete-20110905>



Oil washing up on shore in Cape Town.

The vessel ran aground two years ago, forcing maritime authorities to pump out hundreds of tons of fuel and remove a cargo of coal to prevent an environmental disaster. But residents woke up to a heavily soiled beach today and the crude oil has already killed seals and birds. Disaster Risk Management spokesman Wilfred Solomons-Johannes said that the bow of the ship disintegrated because of rough sea conditions and strong winds that have battered the city over the past few days. "The city was informed at about 11pm last night that oil was leaking from the ship. A 1km strip of beach has so far been affected," he said. "We've set up a command centre on the beach and the cleansing department is busy with clean up operations."

"Two seals and two sea gulls have died as result of the oil. Another seal that got caught up in the oil is still alive, but struggling to recover. "At this stage we cannot say how long it will take to clean up. We are waiting for high tide to sweep the oil onto the beach." The city asked the public to stay away from the area. No swimming or recreational activities would be allowed there. Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) said earlier this year that the wreck of the Seli 1 bulk carrier stranded off the coast of Blouberg, should be completely dismantled. Samsa's Dave Colly said, tug-boats had spent the past year hauling pieces off the wreck. City spokesman Kylie Hatton said that the nearby Koeberg Nuclear Power Station had been alerted and was on high alert for any possible threat to the seawater in-take basin at the plant. The SPCA and SANCCOB were on hand to help wildlife affected by the spill. "No recreational activities such as swimming, boating, kite surfing, canoeing/paddle skiing will be permitted in the affected area. As a further precaution the public are advised not to consume any shellfish or to collect bait along the coastline," she said. An initial assessment determined that 1km of coastline had been affected. The movement of the oil slick would be monitored while clean-up operations were underway.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/09/03/oil-spill-slicks-cape-town-beach>

#### **TAIWAN, YUNLIN COUNTY, MAILIAO, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. ANOTHER FIRE BREAKS OUT AT FPG PLANT**



Another fire broke out yesterday at petrochemical complex run by the Formosa Plastics Group (FPG) in Mailiao, Yunlin County, the eighth in the past year at the same industrial zone. The group made an open apology but stressed the brief blaze was caused by alkylmer leakage and was quickly put out, inflicting no harm to anyone and posing no other threats. FPG executives reported the small fire at the No. 3 refinery plant at 4:31 p.m. Firefighters put out the blaze by 4:50 p.m. FPG management said that the blaze started during the process of transporting alkylmer, which is an element of gasoline and is used to make petroleum products. Certain amount of alkylmer ended up in a ditch at the plant because of the leak. Water and chemical foams were immediately used to contain and snuff out the fire, said FPG executives. Only a small section of the ditch was affected by the small blaze. The executives said that staff members of all plants at the complex have maintained

maximum security to prevent any possible industrial hazards, including fires. This was the reason why the fire was put out so soon without affecting any manufacturing equipment. Residents in the Mailiao area were alarmed by the new fire, expressing shock and concern over new industrial hazards and environmental contamination. But FPG executives said residents should not panic, since alkylmer is a part of gasoline but not toxic. The chemical will not release any toxic substance after burning, they explained. They said the incident took place when the manufacturing and processing operations at the petrochemical complex were temporarily closed for inspection and equipment maintenance. They said the FPG will cooperate with firefighters to determine the cause of the fire. FPG and its petrochemical complex in Yunlin have been placed under unprecedented public scrutiny after seven other fires were reported at the petrochemical complex over the past year. Protests from residents and the Yunlin Provincial Government in southwestern Taiwan prompted the Ministry of Economic Affairs to temporarily shut down the facilities on safety concerns. The government has also asked FPG to carry out a phased suspension of operations at its

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production facilities in the compound over a one-year period. Manufacturing operations cannot resume before FPG completes a safety overhaul and passes examination by a panel organized the ministry.

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/business/company-focus/2011/09/07/315864/Another-fire.htm>

### USA, CA, SACRAMENTO, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. CHEVRON LEGAL SETTLEMENT HELPS SAVE SACRAMENTO COUNTY DA JOBS

*kim minugh*

Years of complicated environmental litigation against one of the world's largest [oil companies](#) wrapped up just in time to save more than two dozen jobs in the [Sacramento County](#) District Attorney's Office, authorities said Tuesday. The \$6.5 million windfall comes at the expense of Chevron Inc., which recently settled two lawsuits involving the oil giant's unsafe underground storage practices at gas stations across the state, District Attorney Jan Scully said at an afternoon news conference. Both lawsuits – one filed by Scully's office, the other by the state attorney general's office – involve gas stations in Sacramento County where underground [storage tanks](#) were found to be faulty. The settlement money going to Scully's coffers from the state lawsuit will save 18 prosecutors and seven clerical staff members, whose jobs were to be axed as part of a county budget undergoing final revisions today. Last month, she announced to her staff in an email that her office had identified funding to save the 25 jobs, but she did not disclose the source of that funding. On Tuesday, Scully said she was not at liberty to discuss the settlement at the time because it had not been signed off on by all of Chevron's involved attorneys. The settlement finally was filed Friday. Scully called the settlements "fortuitous" and applauded them as "a major achievement in the enforcement of environmental laws." But she and her staff members cautioned that the money is a one-time solution to a longer-term crisis, and resumed their campaign against future [budget cuts](#). "The timing here, obviously it's great," Chief Deputy District Attorney Cindy Besemer said in an interview. "But we shouldn't have to depend upon settlements of big lawsuits to keep our office functioning." Scully's battle with Chevron began in 2003, when her office filed a lawsuit in [Sacramento Superior Court](#) against several major oil companies to force them to pay for the cleanup of MTBE-polluted groundwater at 580 sites across the county. That lawsuit was crafted in the image of successful cases in [South Lake Tahoe](#) and Orange County, Besemer said. Shell, one of the defendants, settled with Scully's office in December 2009 and later paid \$3 million. In the latest settlement, Chevron agreed to pay \$750,000 to the county's Environmental Management Division for cleanup efforts at its sites; no money will go to the District Attorney's Office. A trial date has been set for November for the remaining defendants, Scully said. The district attorney's payout comes from a later lawsuit filed against Chevron by the attorney general's office, with Scully and district attorneys from Humboldt, Merced and Nevada counties as parties. That suit involved 650 Chevron-owned gas stations across the state, 31 of which are in Sacramento County, and alleged violations of anti-pollution laws regarding, among other issues, underground storage of gasoline. In that settlement, Chevron admitted no wrongdoing, but agreed to pay \$24.5 million in penalties, restitution and investigation costs, according to the district attorney. To Scully's office, Chevron will pay \$3.5 million in civil penalties that, according to the state Business and Professions Code, must be used by the local district attorney for consumer and environmental litigation. Besemer said the unit that handles such litigation in Sacramento County costs about \$3.5 million annually, so the penalties will free up general fund money to help pay for other divisions, such as homicides and gangs. Chevron also will reimburse \$3 million of Scully's costs for investigating and prosecuting the case. "This area of litigation is a very unique, complicated area of litigation," Scully said. "It's not your run-of-the-mill case, and you're up against the big leagues of attorneys. ... It was a long-term investment." Of the \$3 million in reimbursements, \$1.6 million will go into Scully's general fund, and \$1.4 million will go into a trust fund for environmental and consumer prosecutions, Besemer said. All told, settlement funds will cover \$5.1 million of the office's \$6.9 million budget shortfall. Scully said the rest will be covered by five positions lost through attrition; the elimination of officer-involved shooting and in-custody death investigations; and the dialing back of some prosecutions. However, most other crimes Scully said earlier this summer she wouldn't be able to tackle – even misdemeanors – will continue to be prosecuted, Scully said.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/09/07/3889399/chevron-legal-settlement-helps.html>

### USA, TX, HARRIS COUNTY, DEER PARK, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. SHELL TO PAY \$500,000 FOR POLLUTION

*matthew tresaugue*

Shell Chemical LP has agreed to pay \$500,000 to Harris County after failing to promptly report high levels of harmful chemicals released into the air from its Deer Park plant. Harris County Attorney [Vince Ryan](#) announced the agreement Tuesday as part of a campaign to ensure that industrial polluters notify local authorities of excess emissions within 24 hours,

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as required by law. Ryan threatened to sue Shell after the chemical maker apparently did not notify the [Harris County Pollution Control Services Department](#) of elevated levels of harmful emissions five times between 2008 and 2010. The chemical plant shares a 1,500-acre complex with the nation's sixth-largest refinery, which is located about 20 miles east of downtown Houston. The company did notify the [Texas Commission of Environmental Quality](#) of the chemical releases, as required by law. But that was not enough, said [Rock Owens](#), managing attorney of [Ryan's](#) environment and infrastructure division. "We're trying to get companies to report to the local air-pollution control departments because that's where residents go to get information," Owens said. "If they don't report to us, then we can't respond and tell people what to do when there's something in the air." A Shell spokeswoman said the company disputes Harris County's allegations but reached an agreement for a "timely and effective resolution" to the dispute. "Shell shares the goal with Harris County to improve air quality, and our top priority is to protect the health and safety of our workers, community residents and the environment," spokeswoman [Jill Davis](#) said in a statement. "We strive to operate in compliance with all permits and regulations."

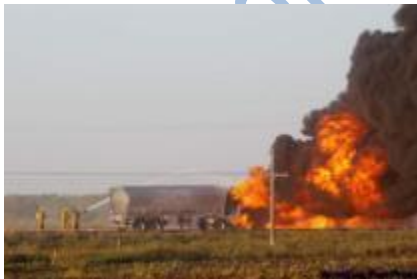
<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Shell-to-pay-500-000-for-pollution-2158132.php>

### USA, ME, AUGUSTA, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. MAINE DEP LAUNCHES HOME HEATING OIL TANK HEALTH AWARENESS

The [Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#) is warning Mainers of the dangers of deteriorating oil tanks in a television awareness campaign airing this week. The spot features Lee Thomas, an emergency spill responder in Maine DEP's Presque Isle office, telling viewers to have their tank's thickness tested annually by their oil company or to replace it with a double-bottom tank. Thomas is part of the Maine DEP Division of Response Services that is dispatched to an average of one spill a day from residential tanks, with the annual clean-up cost adding up to much as \$2 million coming from the state's Groundwater Oil Clean-Up Fund. About three-quarters of Maine's households — the highest share in the [nation](#) — rely on fuel oil for home heating, accounting for more than 400,000 home heating oil residential tanks in use, according to DEP. Internal corrosion as a result of water and sludge build-up is the leading cause of leaks, and because corrosion destroys a tank from the inside out, the deterioration isn't often visible to homeowners until a catastrophic tank failure occurs. Many Maine oil dealers have licensed technicians on their staff who can perform ultrasonic thickness tests on tanks to determine if they are deteriorating and if so, recommend a replacement before the tank fails. Other leading causes of residential home heating oil spills are external tank damage — usually from falling ice and snow snapping off filters and leading to leaks — and overfills. Both can be prevented by a licensed oil technician installing a filter protector and a vent whistle, which sounds until a tank is full. "The purpose of this campaign is to bring people's awareness to their tanks and what may be happening inside of them before it's too late," said David McCaskill, a senior environmental engineer with DEP. "By taking care of your tank, you're protecting our environment, your family's health and your pocketbook." The 30-second spot will be televised throughout September and October in the [Portland](#), [Bangor](#) and Presque Isle markets with nearly every paid buy being matched by a complimentary public service announcement spot donated by Maine's television stations and cable outlets. To report a spill or threat of one, call the Maine DEP's 24-hour oil spill emergency spill response hot line at 800-482-0777. To see the television spot or for more information, visit [www.maine.gov/dep](http://www.maine.gov/dep) and click on "Residential Tank Safety" under the featured links.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/09/06/news/state/maine-dep-launches-home-heating-oil-tank-health-awareness-campaign/?ref=latest>

### CANADA, MAN, ELKHORN, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. DOUBLE-TANKER ABLAZE ON HIGHWAY NEAR ELKHORN



*Firefighters from several area departments battle a tanker truck fire in the eastbound lanes of the Trans-Canada Highway east of Elkhorn Tuesday.*

Crews are battling a vehicle fire on the Trans-Canada Highway in western Manitoba late Tuesday. RCMP say they received a call around 4:30 p.m. about a double-tanker vehicle — filled with diesel fuel — that was on fire on the highway's eastbound lanes, about four kilometres east of Elkhorn, Man. According to police, the driver of the double-tanker pulled the vehicle to the shoulder of the road and escaped before the blaze engulfed the truck and trailers. Both of the highway's eastbound and westbound lanes near Elkhorn remain closed to traffic as of 7 p.m. Motorists are being encouraged to find alternate routes. It wasn't the only Trans-

Canada Highway closure in Manitoba on Tuesday. The eastbound lane near Portage la Prairie was closed twice earlier in the

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day after a car struck a hydro tower, sending wires onto the ground. That section of the highway has since reopened.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/story/2011/09/06/mb-elkhorn-highway-fire.html>

### USA, TN, CLARKSVILLE, SEPTEMBER 7 2011. CRASH WITH FUEL TANKER SENDS ONE TO THE HOSPITAL.

 [Slideshow http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/2011/09/05/crash-with-fuel-tanker-sends-one-to-the-hospital/](http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/2011/09/05/crash-with-fuel-tanker-sends-one-to-the-hospital/)



*F-150 picked turned in front of Fuel Tanker causing an accident on Wilma Rudolph Boulevard.*

On September 5th, 2011, around 10:30am, a Ford F-150 pickup driven by Hermelindo Pascual, 45, of Clarksville, was southbound on Wilma Rudolph Boulevard, was making a left turn onto [Dunbar Cave Road](#), and failed to yield to a fuel tanker (it was empty), driven by Robert Hurt, 41, of Elkton, Ky traveling north on Wilma Rudolph Boulevard. Hurt could not stop the fuel tanker in time and collided with the F-150. After the collision, the F-150 was spun around and came to rest in the southbound lane of Wilma Rudolph Boulevard. According to witnesses, both vehicles had green lights, but Pascual turned in front of the tanker.

There was a Nissan Sentra not directly involved in the collision, traveling southbound, that was hit by the bumper from the F-150 after the crash. Robert Hurt and the 17 year old driver of the Nissan were uninjured. Pascual was taken by Lifeflight to Vanderbilt with possible chest injuries. He was in critical, but stable condition. Pascual was wearing a seatbelt. Pascual will be charged with Driving on a Revoked License, Failure to Yield, and No Insurance.

<http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/2011/09/05/crash-with-fuel-tanker-sends-one-to-the-hospital/>

### USA, TX, GASTON, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. HOMES EVACUATED AFTER GAS SPILL IN GASTON CO.

tyler morton

 [Watch the Video http://www.wbtv.com/story/15407547/homes-evacuated-after-gas-spill](http://www.wbtv.com/story/15407547/homes-evacuated-after-gas-spill)



Three homes in Gaston County were evacuated due to a gas spill early Wednesday morning. According to firefighters, part of Trade Street was closed because of the spill. Officials said a tanker overflowed while re-fueling gas pumps at the Mini-Mart. More than 100 gallons of gasoline covered the pavement around the gas station. Foam trucks and Haz-mat crews were called to the scene to prevent the gasoline from spreading. We're told two of the families stayed at a local hotel, and another stayed at a relative's home.

<http://www.wbtv.com/story/15407547/homes-evacuated-after-gas-spill>

### USA, PA, NEWTOWN, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. DEP FINES BUS COMPANY

danny adler

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection fined a bus company used by the Council Rock School District and its parent company \$121,520 for a November 2010 fuel spill into the Newtown Creek, the department announced Wednesday. The penalty is assessed against Cincinnati, Ohio-based First Student Inc., with a lot on South State Street in Newtown, and its parent company, FirstGroup America Inc. "This incident at First Student required the emergency response of five government agencies and disrupted a water utility's operations for six days," said Joseph A. Feola, DEP's southeast regional director. "With proper operation and maintenance of its above-ground storage tank, the company could have prevented this incident." A First Student employee on Nov. 8, 2010, opened a valve to drain rainwater from a containment tank that housed a 10,000-gallon leaking fuel tank, the DEP said. That valve was open overnight. As a result, a mixture of water and diesel fuel ran from the terminal into the Newtown Creek and, eventually, the Neshaminy Creek, upstream from a public water system operated by Aqua Pennsylvania Inc. Thousands of gallons of fuel contaminated the waterways, the DEP has said. First Student used absorbent booms, vacuuming and the excavation of contaminated soil and gravel, but the water company had to shut down its Neshaminy water treatment plant intake on Nov. 9. "This required the utility to maintain a drinking water supply for more than

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100,000 people through interconnection, increased production and the purchase of additional water,” the DEP said in a news release. Because of the incident, there were violations to Pennsylvania’s Storage Tank Act, Clean Streams Law, Safe Drinking Water Act and Fish and Boat Code. “Inspections of the facility after the Nov. 8 release revealed an ongoing lack of required tank maintenance and leak detection equipment that allowed for pollution,” the DEP said. First Student has paid civil penalties of \$41,550 to the state’s Storage Tank Fund, \$13,619 to the Clean Water Fund and \$56,250 to the Safe Drinking Water Account. The company also reimbursed the DEP for \$7,600 of expenses incurred and paid \$2,500 in civil damages to the state’s Fish and Boat Commission. After the spill, the company removed the tank and hired Lewis Environmental of Royersford and Strata Environmental of Tennessee to conduct the cleanup.

[http://www.phillyburbs.com/my\\_town/newtown/dep-fines-bus-company/article\\_9e2eaae1-3b6f-5105-9f0d-ee37f2f45fe4.html](http://www.phillyburbs.com/my_town/newtown/dep-fines-bus-company/article_9e2eaae1-3b6f-5105-9f0d-ee37f2f45fe4.html)

### USA, N.J, MAHWAH, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. MAN CHARGED WITH RECKLESS DIESEL FUEL SPILL >> WILLINGBORO MAN ALLEGEDLY LET FUEL SEEP INTO MAHWAH’S MASONICUS BROOK

*jessica mazzola*

A Willingboro man was charged with recklessly discharging a pollutant after allegedly letting diesel fuel seep into Mahwah’s Mamoncus Brook, Police Chief James Batelli said. Derek Phillips, 42, was delivering gas to underground gas station tanks on August 21 when the alleged spill took place, police said. “Apparently the connection came loose and [diesel fuel] spewed into the parking lot, then onto Route 17, into the storm drain and then the Mamoncus Brook,” Batelli said. Police said Phillips did not stay at the scene of the spill, or report the crime, both of which are legally required. The spill was also considered a crime, he said, because he did not have NJPDES permit from the NJDEP. A private environmental company cleaned up the fuel, which took three days, Batelli said. Phillips’ first appearance in court is scheduled for September 20.

<http://mahwah.patch.com/articles/man-charged-with-reckless-diesel-fuel-spill>

### USA, CA, BEALE, SEPTEMBER, 8 2011. JET FUEL CLEAN-UP SET FOR BEALE AFB

*trina kleist*

 **Document** [Summary of clean-up plans for Beale Air Force Base, September 2011](#)

Full project documents are available at the Yuba County Library on 2nd Street; and through the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, [tescarda@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:tescarda@dtsc.ca.gov) or (916) 255-3714.

Jet fuel and other pollutants that have leaked into groundwater at Beale Air Force Base, west of Grass Valley, will be cleaned up or monitored for further action, according to proposals released by the base. A meeting will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 8, in Marysville to discuss clean-up methods being considered for the projects. Sources of the contamination include an above-ground jet fuel storage tank, a bulk fuel storage facility, underground storage tanks throughout the base, a photowaste emergency holding basin, a burn pit and the Ninth Mission Support Group transportation refueling vehicle maintenance shop, according to base documents. Pollutants of concern include diesel, gasoline, trichloroethylene, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, carbon tetrachloride and vinyl chloride, according to base documents. Different treatments are recommended for each area, including methods to reduce the concentration of volatile compounds in petroleum products, venting the fumes under pressure and treating the hydrocarbon-laden air that comes out. At the meeting, participants will review the Air Force’s recommended treatments and discuss alternatives. Oral and written comments will be accepted. The polluted sites are grouped into three projects. The public comment period for project documents continues — two through Sept. 20 and one through Sept. 24. The meeting will be at the One-Stop Center for Business and Workforce Development, 1114 Yuba St., Marysville (near Highway 20 and 12 Street).

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20110907/BREAKINGNEWS/110909844/1053&parentprofile=1053>

### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. SHELL CONFIRMS SYDNEY REFINERY CLOSURE

*gabriela zabala-notaras & ismet redzovic*

Assisted by a cynical three-month “consultation” with the trade unions, Royal Dutch Shell will go ahead with the closure of its refinery at Clyde in Sydney’s western suburbs. By transforming the 85-year-old complex into a storage and distribution facility, the global giant will eliminate almost 500 jobs—those of 330 permanent workers and 200 maintenance contractors. Shell first announced the closure in April, while offering to look at submissions from “employees and unions” as a means to help union officials head off anger among workers and line up redundancy deals to ensure another “orderly closure.” The Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU), which represents the majority of Clyde workers, assured its members that the

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"consultation process was not a sham." According to Shell, the refinery's output of 79,000 barrels a day is simply too small to compete with the large new Asian refineries that produce more than one million barrels of refined products on a daily basis. In reality, the closure is part of a global restructuring of the oil industry, intensified by the post-2008 financial crisis. Weak refining margins and falling demand for fuel in Europe have led Shell to sell its European refineries. Shell's decision adds to the avalanche of job cuts throughout Australian manufacturing, coming on top of the thousands of retrenchments unveiled in recent weeks by Qantas, BlueScope Steel, OneSteel, Westpac bank and other companies. It is further proof that, far from being immune from the impact of the global crisis, much of Australian industry is being devastated by the high dollar and interests associated with the mining boom. The Future of Clyde Refinery, a report by economists and oil industry experts commissioned by the CFMEU and the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) estimates that in addition to the 500 jobs directly at stake at Clyde, approximately 1,700 jobs will be lost in associated industries. The CFMEU feigned surprise and indignation at Shell's confirmation of the closure on July 27. Union official Lorraine Usher said: "Today's announcement has made it clear that Shell had no intention of moving from its initial position of closure." The truth is that the review process was always a sham, perpetrated with the complicity of the unions. From the outset, the perspective of the unions was not to fight the destruction of jobs but to ensure the ongoing involvement of the unions in any restructuring. The Future of Clyde Refinery report tables an "Action Plan." Recommendation 1 proposes "a joint Efficiency and Innovation Improvement and Working Group with a mandate to identify initiatives at Clyde." These initiatives included achieving cost reductions by "best in class contractor management systems," technological innovation and reductions in unit processing costs. Recommendation 2 calls for an agreement that the unions would be pivotal in any "future development and restructuring options for the refinery." Recommendation 3 proposes negotiations with the New South Wales state government to use the site and assets to develop a refinery that is "competitive." In the event that the refinery closes, recommendation 4 appeals to the state government to "prepare an expert summary proposal for a competitive oil-industry infrastructure." The recommendations demonstrate that the unions function, not in the interests of their members but those of big business. In effect, the unions pleaded with the company to be the enforcement mechanism for imposing the cuts to jobs and conditions necessary for Clyde to "compete" globally. AMWU secretary Tim Ayres declared that Shell should be "engaging with the unions on an alternative plan." He also appealed to the Liberals to intervene. "We really think it's a big test for the NSW government... They should be rolling up their sleeves, getting engaged with Shell and with industry, and making sure we've got a viable future for that site." The oil industry unions have already been complicit in the destruction of jobs and conditions at Clyde and other refineries. In 1968, Clyde's workforce exceeded 1,000. Repeatedly, union members were told that sacrifices of jobs and conditions were necessary to keep the refinery open. Although Shell has stated that its larger refinery at Geelong, near Melbourne, will not close, the writing is on the wall for it and other refineries. Company spokesman Andrew Smith told the Sydney Morning Herald on July 28: "Asian refining capacity is increasing and it will have an impact on the Australian refining industry." Australia's biggest petrol retailer, Caltex, which owns two of Australia's six refineries—at Kurnell in Sydney and Lytton in Brisbane—said in April that Australian refineries were competing against those "in Asia that have refineries that are five and 10 times the size of our refineries—very efficient, very modern." In appealing to Shell for collaboration, the unions have pushed a nationalist line, seeking to blame foreign workers. The CFMEU's Usher stated on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's radio program "PM" in April: "It's 280 Australian jobs that are going to be lost to foreign imports." This is a diversion from the real source of the attack—which lies in the private profit system itself and the role of the unions in enforcing its dictates. For the past 30 years, the CFMEU, AMWU and every other union has refused to defend a single job. Instead, they have imposed cuts in working conditions and productivity speed-ups, as demanded by employers. This process was institutionalised through the Australian Council of Trade Unions accords with the 1983-1996 Labor governments of Hawke and Keating. Today the destruction of manufacturing jobs and conditions is being accelerated under the federal Labor government.

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2011/sep2011/clyd-s08.shtml>

### AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, GLENELG, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. SA HOMES WARNED NOT TO USE BORE WATER

Almost 300 homes and businesses at beachside Glenelg East in Adelaide have been told not to use bore water because of contamination from dry cleaning chemicals. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) said the warning applied to homes, businesses and property owners within a 300 metre radius of the contaminated site on Cliff Street. Checks on bore water in the area had revealed petroleum hydrocarbons and chlorinated solvents - tetrachlorethene, trichloroethene and dichloroethene - at levels above those safe for drinking water. EPA director of science and assessment Peter Dolan said the chemicals were associated with dry cleaning activities on the site dating back to the 1950s. "The site was historically used as dry cleaning

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premises, however on-site dry cleaning operations ceased in 2005," Mr Dolan said. "The current land use is commercial but the site is adjacent to residential dwellings." Mr Dolan said the chemicals could enter the soil through leaking equipment or from poor disposal and would then migrate down to the watertable and contaminate groundwater. He said the warning on water use did not include mains water or rainwater tanks.

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/national/8295532/sa-homes-warned-not-to-use-bore-water>

#### IRAN, ABADAN, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. 4 INJURED IN ABADAN REFINERY FIRE



At least four people have been wounded in a fire in the oil refinery facility in the southern Iranian port city of Abadan, Iranian lawmaker Abdullah Kabi says. "The cause of the fire in Abadan refinery must be investigated and determined as soon as possible," the member of Iran's Majlis (parliament) Energy Committee said on Wednesday. Kabi added that firefighters have quickly brought the flames under control, Fars News Agency reported. The Iranian lawmaker said Iran's Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi will arrive in the southern province of Khuzestan to visit the refinery later on Wednesday. In May, at least two people were killed and 12 others injured in an explosion in Abadan refinery and a number of the employees suffered gas intoxication. A gas leakage in one of the refinery units was blamed as the cause of the explosion and ensuing fire. The Abadan refinery development plan is aimed at

producing premium 94 octane gasoline.

#### Related Links

- [Iran's Abadan refinery catches fire, four injured](#)
- [News agency: Small fire hits Iran oil refinery](#)
- [Iran's biggest refinery goes up in flames](#)

<http://presstv.com/detail/197941.html>

#### USA, MA, WORCESTER, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. CHEMICAL SPILL SENDS 12 TO HOSPITAL >> NO SERIOUS INJURIES REPORTED AT COMPANY

*craig s. semon*

• **Watch the Video** <http://www.firehouse.com/news/top-headlines/9-mass-firefighters-treated-after-chemical-spill>

• **Watch the Video:**

[http://www.necn.com/09/06/11/Hazmat-situation-with-chemical-spill-in-landing\\_newengland.html?blockID=560128&feedID=4206](http://www.necn.com/09/06/11/Hazmat-situation-with-chemical-spill-in-landing_newengland.html?blockID=560128&feedID=4206)

A dozen people, mostly rescue workers, were taken to the hospital after a hazardous chemical spill yesterday at Barrday Composite Solutions, 86 Providence Road (Route 122A). Nobody was seriously hurt, and the spill was contained with only a small amount getting into the ground, officials said. They said the public was never at risk. "The situation is very much under control. The leak has stopped. There were very minor injuries," Millbury Fire Chief Matthew R. Belsito said around 6 last night. "It is my understanding at this time that everyone was transported as precautionary and they will probably be treated and released." About 1:35 p.m. yesterday, the town's 911 dispatcher received a call saying a Barrday worker had been doused with the chemical phenol, Chief Belsito said. Michael E. Buck, president of the company, said a company engineer was working on an outside storage tank containing about 10,000 gallons of phenol when the accident occurred. When the worker removed a wire, the tank sprung a leak and liquid phenolic resin sprayed onto the worker's arm, he said. Mr. Buck said the engineer and a second employee who was having trouble breathing were taken to a hospital for treatment. When he arrived at the scene shortly after the initial call, Chief Belsito said, he immediately called Worcester Special Operations and summoned the state's hazardous materials teams. He said the source of the leak was an approximately three-fourths-inch hole in the piping connected to the tank. Andrew Delisio, the hazmat technician team leader on the site, estimated 5,000 to 6,000 gallons of phenol escaped. "At no time was the public in any danger," Chief Belsito said. David Ladd, director of hazardous materials/emergency response systems for the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, said phenol was steadily flowing from the tank, and a pneumatic plugging device was inserted to stop the leak. He said most of the product that was released was contained by a berm. He said a small quantity got into the ground soil, and that was being dealt with. "We monitored the situation very intently since arrival. We did air monitoring ... We had a small vapor area contained just at the immediate site of

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the release so there was no need for any public protection action," Mr. Ladd said. "It's contained to a very small footprint." In addition to the two Barrday employees, Chief Belsito said, nine firefighters and a police sergeant were taken to UMass Memorial Medical Center — University Campus in Worcester. As of last night, there were no updates available from the hospital. Phenol is a raw material used to make phenolic resin, or plastic, Mr. Buck said. The material is used in army helmets, aerospace products and other fiber-reinforced plastics and composite materials, he added. Mr. Buck called the phenol "a dangerous chemical and something we take very seriously." At the time the spill was reported, firefighters from several communities and the regional hazardous material crew converged on that section of Providence Road. Police closed the road. Acting Police Chief Donald P. Desorcy said the neighborhood was not evacuated and there was no danger to the community because phenol dissipates when exposed to air. The Millbury plant employs more than 60 people.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20110907/NEWS/109079812/-1/NEWS05>

### USA, ALA, ARAB, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. HUNDREDS OF GALLONS OF GAS LEAK INTO ARAB CREEK



Emergency crews from Arab Fire and Rescue, Marshall County Emergency Management Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management worked throughout the afternoon on Tuesday to contain a kerosene leak from an underground storage tank at the Eastside Texaco on Guntersville Road. Arab Fire and Rescue responded to the area of Colonial Drive and Arad Thompson Road to check out a call of a strong fuel odor. Crews found a large amount of kerosene in Clemons Creek from Fairview Drive to Colonial Drive. The leak stretched under Arad Thompson Road through the neighborhood on 12th Street and 12th Way Northeast to Victory Lane. Responders placed absorbent booms across the creek at several points to collect the fuel and stop it from flowing

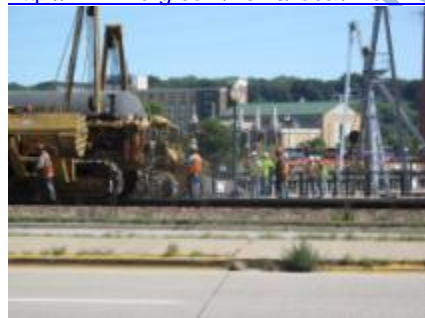
further downstream. Emergency Officials and representatives from ADEM met with personnel from Campbell & Son's Oil Company from Huntsville, who are the owners of the fuel tanks at the Texaco, late Tuesday afternoon to make arrangements for the clean-up and disposal of the fuel. A contract disposal company has been hired by the oil company and began efforts to clean up the spill on Wednesday. Representatives from ADEM are monitoring the area and overseeing the cleanup efforts. Once the water table drops, efforts to make repairs to the leaking tank will be attempted. As of Wednesday morning, all the fuel had been removed from the tank, eliminating the fuel source. Crews are now focusing on cleaning up the area and restoring the impacted property to its original state. About 600 gallons of kerosene were in the tank at the beginning of the business day on Tuesday.

<http://www.waff.com/story/15411733/hundreds-of-gallons-of-gas-leak-into-arab-creek>

### USA, IA, DUBUQUE, SEPTEMBER 8 2011. TRAIN DERAILS IN DOWNTOWN DUBUQUE; HIGHWAY DETOUR IN PLACE >> ETHANOL CARS INVOLVED, BUT NONE LEAKING, OFFICIALS SAY

 **Watch the Video**

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/Train-Derailment-in-Dubuque-Forces-Several-Road-Closures-129358118.html>



*Nine railroad cars, traveling from Dubuque to Illinois, derailed at around midnight Wednesday in Dubuque.*

Several roads are closed this midday following a train derailment in downtown Dubuque. Railroad officials say nine cars, traveling from Dubuque to Illinois, derailed at around midnight Wednesday. The cars were carrying ethanol, which is highly flammable. However, no leaks have been found. Patrick Waldron of Canadian National says no one was injured, and no one was evacuated. Highways 151, 61, and 52 northbound are closed because of the derailment. The southbound lanes of traffic have reopened. The detour of 151/61 begins just north of Dodge Street/Highway 20 at the Julien Dubuque Bridge at takes motorists to 5th Street. Northbound traffic on 151/61 North of the South Grandview exit is being diverted to the Locust Street exit and diverted to 5th Street before returning to the highway.

Locust Jones Street and Ice Harbor Road are also closed at this time but Jones Street is open to local businesses. The precautionary road closure and detour will remain in place while officials monitor the incident and all hazards are mitigated.

<http://thegazette.com/2011/09/07/train-derails-in-downtown-dubuque-highway-detour-in-place/>

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