



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 749 Newsy Stuff

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

September 3 29 2011



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USA, TX, JASPER CO, AUGUST 27 2011. WORKERS UNCLEAR ABOUT SOURCE OF EXPLOSION AT LATCH OIL IN JASPER

jodie warne

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ktre.com/story/15342237/fire-erupts-at-jasper-county-oil-plant>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kfdm.com/news/fire-44466-storage-tank.html>

 **Photo's:**

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/Update-Workers-unclear-about-source-of-explosion-2143199.php>



A large fire broke out at [Latch Oil](#), Inc. located on TX 63 West in Jasper shortly after 4 pm on Friday. Reports are still unclear on how the blaze began, but a worker spotted the hazard and evacuated the office right before the building was soon surrendered to a huge shore of flames as the source exploded. So far the reports have stated that workers were transferring one of the substances from one place to another and that possibly a fan could have caused a spark which ignited the substance. The fumes were strong, they were detectable from miles down starting at Jasper Junior High in a matter of minutes. Currently the only loss is the corporate "lube office" and warehouse as well as the employee break room and locker rooms. The "lube office" is mainly responsible for the product portion of Latch Oil Inc, meaning every other product gasoline such as motor oil, tractor fluid, and even product such as "Run Flat" that are distributed to individuals as well as companies

within the area and Louisiana.

Previous Reporting

An explosion has occurred at Latch Oil in Jasper County, according to the Jasper County Sheriff's Office. Police officers and firefighters have arrived on the scene, but there is no more information available at this time. TX 63 West is closed from FM 777 to FM 2799 due to smoke and traffic control. The closed road is about two miles long.

Related Links

 [Fire, explosions at Jasper County oil company warehouse, storage tank](#)

 [Fire erupts at Jasper County oil plant](#)

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/Update-Workers-unclear-about-source-of-explosion-2143199.php>

USA, W.VA, MARSHALL CO, AUGUST 27 2011. FAMILY OF MAN KILLED IN AEP EXPLOSION AWARDED \$6.9 MILLION



A Marshall County jury awarded nearly \$7 million to a Tyler County man killed as a result of an explosion at an American Electric Power plant in Ohio. Lewis Timmons was killed at an AEP plant in Beverly, Ohio, on January 8, 2007. A jury found that the negligence of AEP Service Corp. and its subsidiary, Ohio Power Co., resulted in Timmons' death and awarded Timmons' family \$6,998,940. The two-week trial included testimony from numerous experts, including compressed-gas experts. According to the news release from the Wheeling law firm of Bordas & Bordas, PLLC, the explosion was caused by the dangerous conditions on a hydrogen storage tank at the Muskingum River facility. Evidence during the trial showed that AEP had experienced a similar explosion at its Kammer Plant in Marshall County about 15 months earlier, but had not taken steps to correct the problem at the Muskingum River facility following the Kammer explosion. According to the news release from Bordas & Bordas, the family's attorney Geoffrey Brown, said, "When large corporations don't do things responsibly, they run the risk that someone is going to be seriously hurt or killed. Tragically, in this case, that person was Mr. Timmons. Hopefully, this jury's verdict will cause other companies to think twice in the future before choosing to ignore safety issues at their facilities." Brown and Chris Regan, both of Bordas & Bordas, along with Rod Windom and Scott Windom of Harrisville, W.Va., represented the Timmons family. Circuit Court

Judge David Hummel presided over the case. This case followed the June verdict returned by a Washington County, Ohio,

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jury in the amount of nearly \$5.7 million to Drumand McLaughlin of Caldwell, Ohio, who suffered injuries in the same explosion. McLaughlin was also represented by Bordas & Bordas and the Windom law firm. Regan stated, "Two juries have now found that AEP acted with conscious disregard for human life in this case. Nonetheless, AEP continues to try to evade responsibility and claim that no matter how bad its behavior, it owes nothing to the victims and should face no punishment. We disagree."

<http://www.wtov9.com/news/28990364/detail.html>

USA, N.C, NEW RIVER AIR STATION, AUGUST 27 2011. INVESTIGATION CONTINUES IN AIR STATION FUEL SPILL

hope hodge

Officials with the [New River Air Station](#) said Wednesday that an investigation into a mid-August fuel leak is still pending, though plans for restoration of the affected region are underway. The Aug. 9 spill, caused by a leak in a fuel pipeline at the air station, deposited more than 8,000 gallons of fuel in surface water and dirt before the problem was discovered. Using oil-absorbing booms and vacuum trucks, air station officials recovered much of the fuel, dredging up more than half the spilled amount within 24 hours of the incident. On Aug. 16, the air station announced it had recovered 8,040 gallons of fuel and was transitioning from recovery efforts to restoration of the affected area. Air station spokesman Staff Sgt. Robert Fisher said two companies, Osage Environmental and O&D Environmental, had been contracted complete the restoration. "We contracted them to excavate and remove contaminated soils and vegetation from the ditches and then restore those areas with clean soils," he said. Fisher said it was unclear when the work would be complete, as timelines were tentative pending the arrival of Hurricane Irene. Meanwhile, he said, an investigation into the cause of the leak has yet to return any answers. Fisher said information would be released when the investigation was complete. The fuel line was inspected and restored to full operation within a week of the spill, following containment of the leaked fuel. Officials said there was no risk of the spill affecting air station drinking water, because of the distance of the spill location from active wells.

<http://www.enctoday.com/articles/air-94326-jdn-fuel-station.html>

USA, FLA, SATELLITE BEACH, AUGUST 27 2011. PATRICK FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE TANKER BLAZE

eric brian



Firefighting personnel from Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., aided community firefighting agencies to battle a blaze to a burning fuel truck tanker Aug. 15 here. An 8,500-gallon gasoline tanker truck was southbound on Florida State Route A1A when it crashed into a pole on the west side of the highway near Shearwater Drive and the trailer caught fire. The Patrick AFB Fire Department dispatched a P-19 Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Vehicle, a P-26 5,000-gallon water tanker and a safety officer, for a total of four personnel, to aid in fighting the fire, said Fire Chief Mark Palm, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron. "The department responded as part of its mutual aid agreement at the request of Brevard County Fire Rescue," said Chief Palm. The P-19 sprayed Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) onto the burning fuel tanker truck. AFFF is used primarily for fighting aircraft fires. The accident and fire forced police to close the road for eight hours. No injuries were reported.

<http://www.patrick.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123269719>

USA, KY, OWENSBORO, AUGUST 27 2011. CONSTRUCTION WORKER INJURED IN OWENSBORO FIREWORKS EXPLOSION

A contractor working on a project in downtown Owensboro, Ky. was injured this morning in a fireworks explosion. The Owensboro Police Department received a call about 7 a.m. today reporting a possible explosion at Allen Street and East Veterans Boulevard. According to a news release from the police department, James W. Huff, 38, of Fordsville, Ky., either found a firework or brought it to the construction work site and lit it, causing an explosion that severely injured his hand. Huff was taken to Owensboro Medical Health System. A spokeswoman for the Owensboro Police Department said Huff may be transported to a Louisville hospital for more extensive treatment.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/aug/26/construction-worker-injured-owensboro-fireworks-ex/>

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CYPRUS, PAPHOS, AUGUST 27 2011. SMALL OIL SLICKS RUIN BEACH TRIP FOR VISITORS TO PAPHOS

Visitors to Baniyas beach, near the Annabel hotel were up in arms yesterday after a foul smelling oil slick swept into the bay and forced them out of the water. According to one local witness, George Ioannou, the slick arrived in the morning smelling strongly of petrol, and was still present late last night. This is not the first time that oil spills have occurred in the bay, but this slick was reportedly the largest, and follows the recent arrival of jet skis in the area. "A couple of days ago we experienced a small leakage - but this is a big oil leakage, with many patches. The authorities do not care." Ioannou said, adding: "We think this is oil from jet skis." The Cyprus Mail was unable to reach Paphos municipality for a comment yesterday.

<http://www.cyprus-mail.com/cyprus/small-oil-slicks-ruin-beach-trip-visitors-paphos/20110826>

USA, TX, HOUSTON, AUGUST 27 2011. 10 KOCH PLANTS THAT PUT THE MOST AMERICANS AT RISK >>

john aloysius farrell & evan bush

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.iwatchnews.org/2011/08/24/5925/behind-story-why-koch-fighting-chemical-security>

 **Document** [Full list of all 56 Koch plants](#)



Since 9/11, Koch Industries has fought against tougher government rules on chemical plants.

Koch Industries is spending millions to influence every facet of government that could affect its global empire, including efforts to limit regulation of toxic substances. Koch Industries is lobbying to prevent tougher counter-terrorism standards for its facilities that use hazardous toxic chemicals. A terrorist attack or accident at Koch's oil, chemical, paper and fertilizer plants, [an iWatch News investigation revealed](#), could put tens of thousands of people and their homes, schools, hospitals, day care centers, factories and offices at risk. Koch maintains

that existing federal and state regulations are adequate to protect nearby residents. Here is a list of the 10 Koch facilities, and the toxic chemicals they use, that put the most Americans in potential danger in the event of an accident or attack:

- The **INVISTA plant in La Porte, Texas**, is one of several facilities in Texas where Koch manufactures some 4 billion pounds of nylon intermediate chemicals a year, for use in the production of INVISTA products like Stainmaster carpet, Antron carpet fiber, Cordura fabric and Lycra spandex. Formaldehyde is stored at the site, in the Houston suburbs, and a spill and vaporization could threaten almost 1.9 million people who live nearby.
- Koch's **Georgia-Pacific paper plant in Camas, Wash.**, stands across the Columbia River from the Portland, Ore., airport. Because of its proximity to Portland, the plant puts 840,648 people in potential danger from a spill of chlorine dioxide, which is used at the facility to bleach pulp for paper towels and office paper.
- The aging **Flint Hills Resources oil refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas**, lies on the road to nearby Calallen, and exposes 349,862 people to a potential spill and vapor cloud of highly toxic hydrofluoric acid, which can damage skin, lungs and eyes and cause pain and vomiting.
- The Koch **Nitrogen Wood River terminal in East Alton, Ill.**, lies across the Mississippi River from the metropolitan St. Louis area. In case of a spill and vaporization, the 60 million pounds of anhydrous ammonia stored at the plant could endanger 290,000 people.
- **Georgia-Pacific's Port Hudson facility is located in Zachary, La**, north of Baton Rouge. The chlorine used in the manufacture of paper towels and other Koch products could endanger 230,263 nearby residents.
- To make the Quilted Northern toilet paper and Brawny paper towels manufactured at the aging **Georgia-Pacific facility in Palatka, Fla**, Koch uses chlorine dioxide. A spill and resultant chlorine gas cloud could threaten the safety of 140,000 people.
- Georgia-Pacific's **Leaf River plant in New Augusta, Miss.**, is located southeast of Hattiesburg. The chlorine used in this pulp plant could endanger 123,340 nearby residents.
- The **INVISTA plant in Victoria, Texas**, is located between San Antonio and the Gulf of Mexico, to the north of Corpus Christi. Like its counterpart in La Porte, Texas this facility makes nylon based products, but the threat here is anhydrous ammonia which, in a vapor cloud, could threaten 106,558 people.

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- **Georgia-Pacific's Brunswick, Ga, pulp mill** is at the outskirts of this coastal town, not far from the resorts of Sea Island and Jekyll Island. Chlorine dioxide is used for bleaching pulp, putting 90,000 nearby residents in potential danger.
- Koch Nitrogen's **Taft Terminal is on the Mississippi River, upstream from New Orleans**. It stores anhydrous ammonia used in the manufacture of fertilizer. A spill and vapor cloud could endanger 81,210 nearby residents.

Related Links

- [Since 9/11, Koch Industries has fought against tougher government rules on chemical plants](#)
- [Behind the story: Why Koch is fighting chemical security](#)
- [Koch's web of influence](#)

<http://www.iwatchnews.org/2011/08/26/5980/10-koch-plants-put-most-americans-risk>

USA, CA, BAKERSFIELD, AUGUST 27 2011. CHEMICAL SPILL CREATES LARGE CLOUD OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID >> FOUR PEOPLE EXPOSED TO HYDROCHLORIC ACID, HAZ-MAT CREWS CALLED IN

christine dinh

Environmental health says Reagent workers were distributing hydrochloric acid into containers around six in the morning Friday at the Reagent Chemical Facility, when two spills occurred. County environmental health says it does not know how much hydrochloric acid was released when it vaporized, creating a cloud the size of one to two football fields. Four people at an adjacent business were exposed but declined medical treatment. Environmental health says hydrochloric acid can cause damage to your mucuous membranes lungs and permanent lung damage. It's an incident that has happened before. Two years ago, reagent had another hydrochloric acid spill. The company was given a violation and fined \$15,000. Its unknown if Friday's incident will result in a violation. But it has definitely sparked an investigation by County Environmental Health.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/28992238/detail.html>

USA, PA. PHILAPELPHIA, AUGUST 27 2011. FOURTH FIRE THIS YEAR STRIKES REFINERY THAT RELIES ON TOXIC ACID

chris hamby

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.iwatchnews.org/2011/08/25/5978/fourth-fire-year-strikes-refinery-relies-toxic-acid>



Despite decades-old warnings about the potential for mass casualties, 50 refineries across the nation still rely on a toxic chemical known as hydrofluoric acid, or HF.

Refineries, likely to shut down well before Irene's arrival, take precautions to avoid dangerous chemical releases or spills. In another sign of ongoing risks facing the refining industry and people who live nearby, a fire broke out Wednesday morning at Sunoco Inc.'s Philadelphia oil refinery. It was the fourth known blaze this year at the plant, which uses a [highly toxic acid](#) that threatens more than 1.3 million people in the Philadelphia area. The fire started at about 5 a.m. in a crude unit, was quickly extinguished, and caused no injuries or off-site chemical releases, Sunoco spokesman Thomas Golembeski said. Experts and even oil industry trade groups say that [fires can be key indicators of larger problems](#) with the handling of

hazardous substances at the nation's aging fuel factories. The Philadelphia refinery uses hydrofluoric acid, a substance highlighted in an [iWatch News-ABC News investigation](#) for its ability to travel great distances in a cloud that could cause sickness or death. Nationwide, [50 refineries use the acid](#), despite the availability of a safer alternative. Companies using significant amounts of the chemical have to file worst-case scenarios with the Environmental Protection Agency, and an [iWatch News](#) review of these documents showed that at least 16 million Americans live in the potential path of the acid, known as HF, if it were released in an accident or terrorist attack. In Philadelphia, Sunoco agreed to switch to a modified form of the acid after local organizations pushed for a change. Sunoco completed the switch in 2010, but the company's own worst-case scenario shows that 1.31 million people still could be affected by a release. An alternative, known as solid acid catalyst, would pose virtually no risk to communities and is now commercially viable, proponents say. A company preparing to build a new refinery in South Dakota recently [said it was planning to use an HF alternative](#) based on solid acid technology. In 2009, an HF release from the Sunoco refinery, located near downtown Philadelphia, sent 13 contract workers to the hospital. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has issued more than 35 violations to the refinery during the past five years for

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alleged problems related to the handling of highly hazardous substances such as HF. The company is still contesting some of the violations. In April, a Pennsylvania state legislator [held a hearing](#) on the risks posed to workers and the nearby community by the refinery. The refinery's general manager, Mike Bukowski, defended the use of HF, saying that "there has not been a single, documented incident of off-site impact or injury to a member of the public." Bukowski faced criticism from union officials and State Rep. Maria Donatucci of Philadelphia, who said that Sunoco "must look to safer alternatives." Over the past five years, authorities have cited 32 of the 50 refineries using HF for willful, serious, or repeat violations of [rules](#) designed to prevent fires, explosions, and chemical releases, according to U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration data analyzed. These "process safety management" standards require companies to conduct inspections, analyze hazards, and plan for emergencies.

Related Links

- [Minimizing risk, refineries in Hurricane's path start 'cold shutdown'](#)
- [Communities at risk from oil refineries that use toxic chemical](#)
- [Use of toxic acid puts millions at risk](#)

<http://www.iwatchnews.org/2011/08/25/5978/fourth-fire-year-strikes-refinery-relies-toxic-acid>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEAS, AUGUST 27 2011. OIL SPILL: REVISITING THE WELL FROM HELL

joel achenbach

[BP splashed an ROV last night](#) to take another gander at the Macondo well. Conclusion: Still dead. Has not sprung back to life to torment us all. It's emanating some tiny bubbles of nitrogen, the company said — or what they assume is nitrogen since they saw the same thing last year and tested it and it was nitrogen. But no sign of oil. Lots of no-doubt-nervous government folks were watching that video feed, BP notes in its early morning press release: "Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) video inspection was conducted in the presence of representatives from the Gulf Coast Incident Management Team (GCIMT) (MC252 Unified Command) located in New Orleans. GCIMT members watching the live video feed included representatives of the US Coast Guard, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, and representatives from the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida." BP went back to well drilled by the Deepwater Horizon after the Press-Register in Mobile sent a reporter to the site Tuesday. On a day so calm the gulf was like glass, [he saw patches of oily sheen](#) about a mile from ground zero. BP has been trying to beat down rumors that Macondo is leaking for a couple of weeks now, and the Press-Register report put a lot of folks in high gear at BP headquarters and with the Coast Guard and other federal agencies. But no one in recent days has seen any more sheen. Could be the conditions (easier to see sheen when you've got no wave action). Or maybe it was an ephemeral event, a burp of oil from one of the pipes down there, or even from the rig itself, which is still a mile down and half-buried in muck. We recall that, last summer, the doomsday scenario was that in capping the well they would trigger an underground blowout and sent hydrocarbons into the formation and up into the gulf. That didn't happen. And they stared at this thing a long time. I can't imagine that a year after it was throttled with a mile of cement the well has come back to life in some way. But the bigger picture in the gulf isn't terribly reassuring. The place is littered with abandoned wells, old pipes, old platforms — infrastructure everywhere. Let's see what it says in [A Hole At the Bottom of the Sea](#): "The northern Gulf of Mexico is dotted with oil platforms and lined with pipes that run along the seafloor. The continental shelf has been transformed into a machine—a vast, amazing apparatus—for the extraction and transportation of crude oil and natural gas." [The blog SkyTruth keeps tabs on](#), and curates satellite images of, oil spills in the gulf, some of which come from abandoned wells. The [Associated Press had a great story last year](#) in which it revealed that there are thousands of these old wells, some of which need to be recapped. The gulf also has a lot of natural seeps. Whenever there's oil spotted, the big companies can say it's probably just a natural event (and indeed the Coast Guard said yesterday that a natural seep was the most likely source of the oil seen by the Press-Register). But the bigger truth is that the gulf is a mess, a "minefield" as the AP put it, and messes don't tend to clean themselves up over time. We're going to see a lot more oily blobs, and maybe worse, for years to come.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/achenblog/post/oil-spill-revisiting-the-well-from-hell/2011/08/26/gIQAKYX5fJ_blog.html

USA, W.VA, MOUNDSVILLE, AUGUST 28 2011. AEP MUST PAY \$7M IN EXPLOSION DEATH CASE >> HYDROGEN LEAK RESULTED IN AN EXPLOSION >> FAMILY GETS \$2M IN DECISION

A Marshall County jury found American Electric Power and its subsidiary Ohio Power Co. negligent in the death of a New Martinsville man during a 2007 explosion. As a result, the electricity producers will need to pay the family of the victim, Lewis

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Timmons, about \$7 million worth of punitive and compensatory damages. Wednesday, the jury awarded family members compensatory damages of \$2 million resulting from his death at the AEP plant. The blast took place at the company's Muskingum River Power Plant near Beverly, Ohio. Friday, the jury awarded \$2 million for punitive damages plus attorney fees from Ohio Power Co. and \$3 million for punitive damages plus attorney fees from American Electric Power Service Corp. to the Timmons estate. These amounts combined with the compensatory damages total \$7 million. Timmons, a truck driver for General Hydrogen, was killed when a hydrogen leak resulted in an explosion at the plant. He was delivering hydrogen to the plant at the time. Attorneys for the Timmons family contended that Ohio Power Co. and AEP officials knew of unsafe conditions in the hydrogen storage area of the plant and failed to correct such conditions. As a result, Timmons was killed in the explosion. Attorney Geoffrey Brown of Bordas & Bordas said of the verdict, "When large corporations don't do things responsibly, they run the risk that someone is going to be seriously hurt or killed. Tragically, in this case, that person was Mr. Timmons. Hopefully, this jury's verdict will cause other companies to think twice in the future before choosing to ignore safety issues at their facilities." Defense attorneys argued while officials knew of the safety issues, plant officials were relying on General Hydrogen to maintain the hydrogen storage area at the facility. The jury found General Hydrogen was not liable in the case.

<http://www.newsandsentinel.com/page/content.detail/id/551369/AEP-must-pay--7M-in-explosion-death-case.html?nav=5061>

USA, N.D, MINOT, AUGUST 28 2011. BEAR DEN OIL SPILL



This photo taken by Nina Fox this past week is of an oil spill in a creek in the Bear Den area northwest of Mandaree. Cliff Whitman, director of emergency services and Homeland Security for the Three Affiliated Tribes, said booms were placed in the creek to stop the spill from going into Lake Sakakawea. The spill occurred in late July at a well site when a seal went out on a pump, failed and several barrels of oil ran into the creek. The Fort Berthold Reservation is in the heart of the Bakken, a lucrative oil-producing formation. Whitman said sometimes there are one or two spills a week.

<http://www.minotdailynews.com/page/content.detail/id/558048/Bear-Den-oil-spill.html?nav=5010>

UK, PETERBOROUGH, AUGUST 28 2011. STAFF FLEE PETERBOROUGH FACTORY CHEMICAL SPILLAGE

ben truslove



A decontamination area was set up by hazmat teams attending the chemical spill in Orton Southgate.

A potentially lethal chemical spill injured two workers at a factory yesterday prompting an evacuation and a massive response from emergency services. Staff at Omega Foundry Machinery Ltd, in Stapledon Road, Orton Southgate, were forced to flee their building when a chemical, originally thought to be ammonia, oozed out of a broken pipe at about 11.30am yesterday. Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue mobilized its specialist hazardous materials (hazmat) crews from St Neots as well as two other engines and a heavy rescue vehicle, with about 20 firefighters on the scene. Two workers, who have not been named, were treated at the scene by paramedics for minor inhalation of fumes. The hazmat team initially believed

they were dealing with 50 litres of ammonia, but it was later confirmed to be about 10 litres and thought to be triethylamine. The chemical is similar to ammonia and has a strong fishy odour which could be smelled on the industrial estate. Ricky and Melanie Gibbons, who run the Wooden Spoon snack bar on the estate, said: "We didn't hear anything but just after 11.30am there were suddenly loads of people who had been evacuated. "They told us someone on a forklift fell off and knocked off a bottle of chemicals. Next thing they knew they were all evacuated. "There were at least 20 people here. They said one person had to take off his clothes and be hosed down but he was ok, he came here for a cup of tea afterwards." The fire service immediately evacuated the factory and a neighbouring building, throwing up a cordon about 100 metres from the incident site.

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Police closed off the road at the junction with Newcombe Way, while paramedics from the East of England Ambulance Services' hazardous area response team (Hart) were also on the scene. The hazmat team set up a decontamination area immediately outside the factory which could be used to clean off anyone who went inside. Firefighters in full protective clothing were seen entering the building and then used sand to soak up the liquid to make the scene safe. They treated it as if it was triethylamine, which is said to be highly flammable and harmful if inhaled, in contact with the skin or swallowed. Omega Foundry Machinery refused to comment on the incident but said it was back to business as usual. Staff at A&E at Peterborough City Hospital were put on standby in case the incident escalated, but they were not needed. A spokesman for the ambulance service said: "Two casualties were assessed for inhaling a substance and both were deemed well enough to not go to hospital." Firefighters and paramedics were stood down from the scene at about 2pm when workers were allowed back into the factory. The Health and Safety Executive said it had not yet been informed of the incident.

http://www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk/news/local/staff_flee_peterborough_factory_chemical_spillage_1_3004990

SOUTH KOREA, NORTH GYEONGSANG PROVINCE, GUMI, AUGUST 28 2011. BLAST AT SOUTH KOREAN TEXTILE FACTORY KILLS 5



Five people were killed on early Saturday afternoon when a large explosion ripped through a textile factory in southeastern South Korea, local media reported. The blast happened at around 1.35 p.m. local time in Gumi, the second largest city in Gyeongsangbuk-do province, located some 200 kilometers (124 miles) southeast of Seoul. It happened at a three-story laboratory building which is part of textile firm TK Chemical. The Yonhap news agency reported that seven people were inside the building when the explosion happened, killing all but two of them. The two injured were taken to an area hospital with serious burns, according to the report. It was not immediately known what caused the explosion, but police are looking into the possibility that experiments involving chemical substances may have ignited the blast. Ten fire trucks and dozens of firefighters worked two hours to bring a resulting blaze under control.

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=113678

USA, CO, CLEAR CREEK COUNTY, AUGUST 28 2011. TANKER ROLLS OVER, SPILLS DIESEL FUEL INTO CLEAR CREEK

christina dickinson & jessica zartler

Watch the Video <http://www.9news.com/news/article/215891/339/Tanker-rolls-over-spills-diesel-fuel-into-Clear-Creek->



Hazmat crews spent most of Saturday cleaning up a large fuel spill on Highway 6 near the Loveland Basin Ski area. State Troopers say just before 9 a.m. Saturday, a semi truck was turning too fast on a highway curve. It tipped over and spilled an estimated 4,000 gallons of diesel fuel, much of it going right into Clear Creek. It's a popular area for fishing and recreation. "It's a great place to get away. It's a little hidden treasure. And to see it coated in oil is just heartbreaking," James Wallach said. The semi was hauling a tanker trailer filled with 7,000 gallons of dyed diesel fuel designated for agriculture. "It's disappointing to see this amount spilled in such a beautiful area," Trooper Greg Manning said. James was fishing just two miles

downstream from the spill. "I started to smell something weird but the smell just got stronger and stronger and I realized it was diesel. Then the water turned to a milky color," Wallach said. Wallach says the fuel almost immediately affected the wildlife. "You shouldn't be able to just walk up and grab a wild fish. On any normal day a fish would be flopping all over my hand. They're skittish. But he's barely able to breathe. He's suffocating in his own water," Wallach said, as he held a fish in his hand. And it's not just the fish. James put his hand in the water and brought up half a dozen bugs either already dead or dying. "It's a tough thing to see. I think with a little more care it could have been prevented," Manning said. Manning says the damage has been done. He just hopes the damage isn't permanent. "We'll find out next year what happens, hopefully some will survive," he said. 9NEWS contacted the EPA Saturday but representatives would not comment. A biologist with [Colorado Parks and](http://www.coloradoparks.com)

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Wildlife says diesel is more forgiving than oil and much of the fuel had burned off by late Saturday afternoon. The truck driver was the only person in the vehicle. Troopers say he sustained minor injuries and was not transported to the hospital.

<http://www.9news.com/news/article/215891/339/Tanker-rolls-over-spills-diesel-fuel-into-Clear-Creek->

INDIA, HAZARIBAG, AUGUST 28 2011. ROAD BLOCKED FOR TWO DAYS DUE TO LPG LEAKAGE

Traffic on the Patna-Ranchi road blocked for nearly 48 hours following leak of LPG from an 18-tonne oil tanker of [Indian Oil Corporation](#) (IOC) at Debour Ghati section between Koderma and Nawada (NH-31) was restored on Thursday night. Although the leak was repaired after sealing the viper gauge of the tanker, which was severely damaged by the impact of a collision, the expert team of the IOC who came from Haldia (West Bengal) and another team from Bokaro, the Koderma police and Nawada police had to make hectic efforts to clear the traffic. At least 10,000 trucks, buses and cars were stranded in the jam.


The stationary oil tanker was hit by a truck carrying iron rods and damaged its viper gauge from where the LPG leak started due to which police suspended movement of all kinds of vehicles along the 5km stretch between Debour and Bagitand.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-08-26/ranchi/29935538_1_lpg-leakage-gas-leak-ioc-team

USA, UT, OGDEN, AUGUST 28 2011. RAILROAD TANKER LEAKING BUTANE PROMPTS EVACUATIONS IN OGDEN

 **Watch the Video:**

<http://www.fox13now.com/news/kstu-gas-leak-petroleum-leak-prompts-evacuations-in-ogden-20110826.0.6175117.story>

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.standard.net/stories/2011/08/26/butane-leak-triggers-evacuations-ogden>



Several buildings in Ogden were evacuated because of a gas leak Friday morning. At around 8 a.m., Rocky Mountain Power employees smelled odor and heard gas coming from a tank car on a train near their building at 1438 West 2550 South in Ogden. An investigation discovered that the release valve for a tank of liquid butane was stuck open. While it is normal for the release valve to open to relieve pressure in the tanker, the release valve had stuck open and crews immediately tried to repair the valve. As of 5 p.m. Friday the leak was still being worked on, nearly 10 hours after the incident occurred. Crews unloaded the gas into a semi tankers while looking for way to cap the release valve. They finished at about 8

p.m. emptying the leaking tanker. The Rocky Mountain Power and Century Link buildings were evacuated and the area around the leak was blocked off while crews try to stop the leak. The train is owned by [Utah](#) Central Railroad and Questar assisted with air monitoring and to make sure the gas doesn't ignite.

<http://www.fox13now.com/news/kstu-gas-leak-petroleum-leak-prompts-evacuations-in-ogden-20110826.0.6175117.story>

UK, HAMPSHIRE, LASHAM, AUGUST 28 2011. BLAZE AT LASHAM NEAR BASINGSTOKE INVOLVED GAS CANISTERS

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-14688735>



There was thick black smoke over the site and people heard explosions.

The blaze at Lasham threatened explosive gas canisters and set vehicles on fire at its height yesterday evening. The officer in charge of the operation to fight the fire at Loddon Recycling, said in a statement it was thanks to his team of 75 firefighters that the blaze had not spread to other buildings on the industrial site near Lasham airfield. Group Manager Steve Trevethick, said : "The fire developed extremely fast with huge intensity, ripping through the building and setting nearby vehicles alight.

Upon arrival at the premises crews assisted in the swift evacuation of employees. A

dozen local private residences were also evacuated as a precaution and other occupants were advised to stay indoors with their doors and windows closed." He said crews realised there were propane cylinders and a big diesel tank "affected by fire" which initially had involved a 300metre by 100metre building for the recycling of batteries, and which contained refrigeration products. He added: "Firefighters worked extremely hard to contain the fire to the original building and a secondary building containing commercial horse vehicles. Their efforts ensured that the fire did not spread further to other factories on the site and a neighbouring house. Due to the nature of this type of incident it will be protracted even though the fire has now been contained and the operation scaled down." He said relief crews will continue firefighting overnight and it is expected that crews

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will remain at the scene today Saturday. Together with traditional firefighting methods two ground monitors and two aerial ladder platforms monitors were used to bring the fire under control and water supplies were supplemented by three water carriers and the high volume pump. Both the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service helicopter and Hampshire Constabulary helicopter were used for aerial surveillance. There were no reported casualties and a fire investigation is underway to determine the cause of the fire.

Related Links

- [Tonnes of batteries "involved" in fire](#)
- [Battery recycling plant fire](#)
- [Battery recycling plant fire](#)

http://www.basingstokegazette.co.uk/news/9220041.Fire_ripped_through_factory/

INDIA, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28 2011. PROBE INTO KEROSENE BLASTS DEMANDED

Calling on the Centre to take the incidence of explosion of kerosene lamps and stoves seriously, the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) has demanded an inquiry into the matter, and to despatch a high-level expert group to assess the situation. Making a mention in the Rajya Sabha on Saturday, Kumar Deepak Das urged the Central Government to sanction adequate compensation to those families which are affected by the explosions. The incidence of kerosene lamp and stove explosions has taken place in Dhubri, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Karimganj, Karbi Anglong and Kamrup districts and is spreading to other districts. Till now, more than 20 persons died and more than 100 persons injured. Most of the people belong to BPL and minority community. Out of that, most of them are women. Those families which are affected have no electricity facility, he said. "Most of them can't afford the electricity facility. Various district authorities have passed a ban on the use of kerosene. But the authorities did not make any alternative arrangement for the benefit of the BPL people," the AGP MP said. The local authorities of the Petroleum Ministry or the PSUs, who are looking after the production and distribution of kerosene, are not taking this issue seriously, Das alleged.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=aug2811/at098>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, AUGUST 28 2011. MAN CAUGHT IN PETROL FIRE

A dentist has told how he suffered burns to his face and hands after he tried to start a fire with what he thought was diesel. Phil Martin was lighting a rubbish fire at Pakiri north of Auckland last Saturday when he was engulfed by flames. He did not know petrol had been added to the waste diesel. "It engulfed me entirely. My reaction was to spring back and dive into the wet grass. I could hear a sizzle as it put fires out on my body." Martin was taken to Middlemore Hospital by the Westpac Rescue Helicopter but was discharged on Monday and is expected to make a full recovery.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10747922

LIBYA, BENGHAZI, AUGUST 28 2011. LIBYA'S REBEL OIL FIRM AGOCO SAYS ALL REFINERIES SHUT

emma farge



All five of Libya's refineries are offline due to a lack of crude oil production and damage to facilities, the rebel oil firm AGOCO said on Saturday, leaving rebel forces wholly reliant on fuel imports. "No refineries are working. They can't get crude oil. Some are in bad shape," AGOCO spokesman Abdeljalil Mayouf told Reuters. AGOCO, a former subsidiary of the Libyan National Oil Company, sends crude oil to three of the country's five refineries at the ports of Tobruk, Ras Lanuf and a unit at the Sarir oilfield. Mayouf said the 20,000 barrel per day (bpd) Tobruk refinery was closed for temporary maintenance while the other two refineries it is directly involved with were intact but not yet receiving crude oil feedstock. It was not clear if the Brega and Zawiyah refineries were shut due to damage or a lack of crude oil. The country's total refining capacity is about 378,000 bpd. Fuel tankers from Turkey and Lebanon's BB Energy have helped to top up supplies to Benghazi

this month, with a further shipment from Russia's Gunvor due next week. There are often long queues at petrol stations even in rebel-held parts of the country where no fighting has occurred in months. Power outages are also common.

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Field Restarts

Refinery restarts will depend on how quickly Libya can recommence crude production. AGOCO says it can start pumping crude oil within weeks at the Mesla and Sarir fields which have a combined capacity of 425,000 bpd, or about a quarter of the OPEC member's total production. Repair work at these fields has been completed and a security force of 1,000-2,000 men was in place working on sending helicopters to monitor the area, according to Mayouf. Analysts expect it to take time to restore the country's pre-war output level but say it could reach 1 million bpd within months if order was restored quickly. Even during the most intense fighting, some refineries were able to process small amounts of crude oil from storage caverns. An industry source with knowledge of the country's largest refinery, the 220,000 bpd Ras Lanuf complex near the current front line, said the refinery had briefly been restarted earlier in August while still in Gaddafi-held territory but has since halted again, probably due to a lack of oil supply. "The former regime restarted it for a few days a couple of weeks ago. So hopefully damage is not that bad," he said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJOE77R01G20110828>

USA, MA, DEER ISLAND, AUGUST 29 2011 SULFURIC ACID SPILLS AT DEER ISLAND

I. finch

Hazmat crews were cleaning up tonight after 150 to 200 gallons of sulfuric acid spilled at a sewage treatment facility on Deer Island, Boston fire officials said. Firefighters received a report of the spilled sulfuric acid, which is used to break down sewage, at the Deer Island Treatment Plant at 7:45 p.m., Boston Fire spokesman Steve MacDonald said. The acid overflowed out of an outdoor holding tank, with some leaking onto the surrounding pavement, but workers were able to shut off a valve before more of it spilled, MacDonald said. No one was injured, he said. The spill was not related to the storm that blew through the area earlier today, said MacDonald.

<http://www.boston.com/Boston/metrosdesk/2011/08/sulfuric-acid-spills-deer-island/yrbnY9HFhd5DFa1sJKNbfM/index.html>

NIGERIA, BENUE STATE, MAKURDI, AUGUST 29 2011. FOUR BURNT TO DEATH WHILE SCOOPING FUEL FROM PETROL TANKER

peter duru

Four persons were burnt to death while about 40 others were in critical condition at Okpoga, Okpokwu local government of Benue State while trying to scoop petrol from a crashed tanker in the area. The tanker which was fully loaded with petrol had skidded off the road and emptied its content few metres from Ugwu Okpoga. An eyewitness told Vanguard that the ill-fated tanker was conveying petroleum product from the eastern part of the country to a service station outside Makurdi. It was learnt while trying to avoid a pothole at Okpoga, the driver lost control of the vehicle. He explained that some youths in the community who discovered that the tanker was carrying petrol had rushed to scoop the content when a spark caused the fire that caused the havoc on them. He said: "During that confusion that there was a spark and a combustion that claimed three lives on the spot with many others sustaining various degrees of burns". Vanguard gathered that three of the victims died at the accident spot while the fourth victim died at the General hospital Okpoga, where the victims were rushed to for treatment. Our source further explained that it took the intervention of the Council Chairman, Mr. Robert Idoko, his Deputy, Sonny Ebute and the State House of Assembly member representing Okpokwu, Mr. Olofu Oguche who mobilized youths to avert what could have amounted to a major disaster in the area.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/08/four-burnt-to-death-while-scooping-fuel-from-petrol-tanker/>

INDIA, BANGALORE, AUGUST 29 2011. THESE RESIDENTS LIVE ON A FUEL BOMB

sunitha rao r

Residents of Jayanagar 9th block are living in fear: 24,000 litres of motor fuel lies buried in their neighbourhood for the past three months. The petrol and diesel lie in underground storage tanks after BBMP razed a petrol pump adjacent to Akkamahadevi Park on 46th main as the lease had expired. Neither the oil company nor the owner of the bunk is able to retrieve the fuel. According to Hindustan Petroleum (HP), which had approached the city civil court, BBMP razed the bunk despite the court ordering the status quo. With so much fuel lying underground, the BBMP, HP and the bunk's owner, Farhad Moienuddin, are mortally scared. HP officials say they cannot retrieve the fuel because BBMP has disconnected electricity. "Such a huge volume of fuel cannot just be pumped through the usual pipes. It requires flame-proof hoses, for which we need power. We want permission from BBMP. We have moved court in this regard," the officials say. "We are governed by

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Explosives Act. But while demolishing our structure, BBMP violated all rules. They used gas cutters and domestic cylinders without knowing how dangerous it was." Moienuddin says: "HP is fighting the case on my behalf. I have paid the amount to the company for the fuel I bought. Though BBMP claims they have sent a notice, I have not received any. I have faced a loss of more than Rs 80 lakh since the day the bunk was demolished." Speaking to STOI, Jayanagar legislator BN Vijayakumar says the property belongs to BBMP and must be used for public benefit. "The BMTC bus stand in Jayanagar 9th block is too small. Thus, we want to establish a BMTC bus stop in this vacant space, as per public demand. BBMP has sent many notices to the petrol bunk owner on this regard, but the fuel is still there. It is dangerous and must be taken away at the earliest." Mukund N of the Jayanagar Residents' Welfare Association says BBMP and dealer must come to an agreement and remove the fuel. "What if there is an explosion one day?" After taking over the Rs 22-crore property from the lessee, BBMP barricaded the land but provided no security. BBMP says there was nothing illegal in taking over the property. "We have asked HP to extract fuel from there and sent reminders too. They have not approached us so far. We have not got any directive from the court," says AB Hemachandra, joint commissioner, BBMP, south zone.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-08-28/bangalore/29938268_1_bbmp-hp-bmtc-bus

USA, IA, BLAKESBURG, AUGUST 29 2011. BLAKESBURG TANKER EXPLOSION TO BE REVIEWED >> EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR TO PRESENT RESPONSE; GOAL TO LEARN LESSONS

matt milner



Emergency personnel respond after explosions rocked Blakesburg July 8 after the driver of a tanker truck started offloading fuel at Blakesburg Oil. The dark cloud of smoke could be seen for miles.

When a tanker blew up in Blakesburg last month, it produced stunning photographs and forced the evacuation of the town. Wapello County Supervisors will review the explosion next week with the county's emergency management coordinator. A presentation from Wapello County Emergency Management Director Josh Stevens is part of the board's Tuesday agenda. The explosion on July 8 took place as a tanker truck was transferring fuel. A fire like that is bad enough news, but this one was close to anhydrous ammonia tanks. An explosion from those tanks would have posed a lethal threat to people in the area. The ammonia tanks stayed intact and damage was far less than it could have been. Fire departments from throughout the area helped keep things under control. Supervisor Greg Kenning said everyone at

the time realized the value of reviewing what happened and how emergency responders handled such a potentially catastrophic event. This was different from the flooding Wapello County has experienced over the past several years. County officials feel they're familiar with flood procedures and, because floods unfold over multiple days and weeks, there is time to check how responses work as the emergency is ongoing. In Blakesburg, the event was finished in a matter of hours. Kenning said the risk is not so much that problems get swept under the rug in such a situation as that there isn't a review to analyze them in the first place. "What could happen in something like this is something that didn't work could get swept away," he said. That's not happening in this case. Stevens said the most recent of several large debriefing meetings was held last week. The process of making sure the lessons are learned is still taking place. A final analysis isn't going to be available by next week's meeting, but Stevens said Supervisor Jerry Parker expressed an interest in having a presentation on the explosion for the supervisors based on Stevens' photos and a video clip. "It's more of, 'This is what happened, this is what could have happened,'" Stevens said.

<http://ottumwacourier.com/local/x975853040/Blakesburg-tanker-explosion-to-be-reviewed>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST 29 201 CONOCO SHUTS 16-INCH OIL LINE DELIVERING TO CALIFORNIA REFINERY

ConocoPhillips shut a 16-inch crude- oil pipeline that delivers feedstock to its Rodeo refinery in northern California after a leak. The pipeline, traveling to the 128,000-barrel-a-day Rodeo refinery, was struck by a third party yesterday, Romelia Hinojosa, a spokeswoman for the Houston-based company, said in an e-mailed statement. "The line is still shut and maintenance crews are on the scene," Hinojosa said. "I do not have any information on the impact to the refinery at this time." A third party was excavating in Contra Costa County, California, when it hit the pipeline, according to a notice filed with state regulators. The line

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leaked an estimated 10 to 20 barrels of crude oil, the notice showed. The incident occurred at 9 a.m. local time downstream from a pump station in Byron, California, the company said in its filing.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2011/08/27/bloomberg1376-LQNCTS1A74E901-0GAO2K405Q4QDS7FOGMRP6V7TK.DTL>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, RAS AL KHAIMAH, AUGUST 29 2011. HUGE CACHE OF FIREWORKS SEIZED FROM EMIRATI HOUSES IN RAK

saed al khalidy

The Inspection and Criminal Investigations team at the Police Operations Department of Ras Al Khaimah seized huge quantities of very dangerous fireworks from houses belonging to families of citizens located in different cities of the Emirate. Colonel Salim Sultan Al Darmaki, head of Inspection and Criminal Investigations at the Police Operations Department, stated that the operations room had received confirmed information reporting that some Emirati families were promoting high explosive fireworks at exorbitant prices. A team from the inspection and criminal investigations department as also from the weapons and explosives department was formed to investigate the case and to collect information to conduct further investigations. The team monitored one of the suspicious houses and broke into it, leading to the seizure of a huge quantity of fireworks. The case was referred to the concerned authorities for further legal procedures against the people who owned the fireworks. Darmaki expressed his condemnation of families who were trafficking in such very risky and extremely dangerous fireworks which have been found to be life-threatening for adults and children alike among both sellers and buyers. He revealed that the sustained campaign to search stores and houses, which were being used as warehouses to store fireworks had resulted in seizures of various kinds of fireworks that were then confiscated. The campaigns proved successful in contributing to the prevention of distribution of fireworks in the local markets as the different departments of inspection and criminal investigations across in the Emirates co-operated in the exchange of information. "The campaigns will continue during Eid Al Fitr and thereafter in order to protect the lives of our children from the risk fireworks pose to them," Darmaki added.

Dubai Warning

The Dubai Police, according to reporter Matovu Abdallah Twaha, have urged parents to be vigilant about their children misusing firecrackers and electric appliances "because they have resulted in many fire accidents." The warning was issued by the head of Fire Impact Testing in the General Department of Criminology, Expert Ahmad Mohammed Ahmad. "Parents are naturally anxious," he said, adding "It is more apparent during festivities like Eid days." He said both easily flammable and inflammable gadgets are "left by parents unattended and switched on after use, like washing machines." He asked parents to keep such gadgets switched off.

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/faca6b83-25be-479f-ba8a-0d0bca98832e.aspx>

USA, ILL, DETROIT, AUGUST 29 2011. HEATING OIL CUSTOMER AWARDED \$100K IN SPILL DAMAGES

lane nichols



A botched home heating oil delivery flooded a woman's basement with 400 gallons of fuel. The home later had to be demolished.

A Detroit woman whose home had to be demolished after an [accidental heating oil spill](#) has been awarded \$100,000 for mental distress, [chicagotribune.com](#) reported. The payment order was upheld by the Michigan Appeals Court last week after the heating oil company, High Pointe Oil, argued the plaintiff was not entitled to sue for non-economic damages. She had already been awarded a \$175,000 insurance payout. Beckie Price of DeWitt was forced to temporarily move in with her parents after a heating oil delivery-man accidentally flooded her basement with 400 gallons of oil in November 2007. The contractor mistakenly pumped heat fuel into a pipe that was no longer attached to a tank in Price's basement, the court heard. She had switched to a propane furnace a year earlier and told the company to take her off its

customer database. Oil leaked into soil below Price's home – where she had lived since 1975 – and the house had to be demolished. Price was forced to sleep on her parents' couch and had no permanent home for two years. Though relatively rare, [home heating oil spills](#) can have serious environmental consequences and dangerous health effects. The oil is considered a hazardous substance and must be cleaned up by licensed professionals according to stringent state and federal

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regulations. A leaking home oil tank can be costly to remedy, as the oil often seeps into the soil and may require large areas of earth to be excavated as part of the clean-up at the homeowner's expense. It's important to check old tanks for signs of deterioration and have them regularly inspected. Though High Pointe Oil had appealed the \$100,000 emotional distress order, the Appeals Court ruled the payment was appropriate because a house was more than just a home. The impact of losing real estate could be different than simply losing personal possessions, the judges said. Price's attorney, James Graves, said the saga had been a long ordeal for her and "very difficult to say the least."

Related Links [Court backs verdict in home lost due to oil mess](#)

<http://www.heatingoil.com/blog/heating-oil-customer-awarded-100k-in-spill-damages-0829/>

CHINA, DALIAN, AUGUST 29 2011. PETROCHINA SAYS REFINERY IN DALIAN HIT BY FIRE



A fire broke out early Monday at a PetroChina refinery in the north-eastern Chinese city of Dalian that had been due to restart operations following a blaze in July. No injuries were reported, the company said in a statement. State-owned PetroChina, China's biggest oil and gas producer, said the fire occurred in a diesel tank containing 800 tons of fuel, but any that escaped had been channeled into an emergency storage pool. Work is underway to completely extinguish the fire and prevent it from spreading to nearby tanks, the company said. The cause of the accident is under investigation, it said. Dalian was the site of China's biggest known oil spill, when a pipeline explosion put at least 1,500 tons of oil into the sea in July 2010.

http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_707183.html

INDIA, NAGALAND, WOKHA, AUGUST 29 2011. PIL FILED AGAINST ONGC IN GUWAHATI HC

al ngullie



An oil well rig surrounded by spilt crude oil seen here in one of the many abandoned oil fields of Champang village. The Media say crude oil has been spilling from the oil rigs for about 16 years now and has turned the villages of Champang and Tssori in Wokha district of Nagaland, into 'cluster of little combustible neighborhoods' since the ONGC stopped oil extraction activities in 1994.

The long and exceptionally tumultuous history of oil and natural gas exploration in Nagaland since March 1981 marked yet another significant twist today with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) having been filed against the Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the Guwahati High Court. A copy of the PIL, obtained by The Morung Express, held primarily the ONGC and the Nagaland state government for the wide-ranging damage the oil enterprise has inflicted on the economic lives of villagers living in the crude oil-rich swathes. In the PIL representing Champang village and Tssori village – Nagaland's only two areas rich in crude petroleum – the petitioners have sought at least Rs. 1, 000 Crore as consolidated compensation to the villagers for the damage the now about-16 years of unabated oil spillage the ONGC left behind, has caused to the two areas. The Media has been highlighting regularly the condition of the contaminated soil and water the oil spill has caused on the area. The two villages have been referred by newspapers as 'cluster of little combustible neighborhoods'. The catastrophe did not look imminent when ONGC began a survey in the oil fields in 1963. Likewise, the petition to the Court has sought payment for the loss of oil from the oil spill and that the High Court order the ONGC and the state government of Nagaland to clean up the waste that has reduced the two areas in a virtual economic and environmental nightmare. Further, the petition has appealed to the court to prosecute and initiate criminal proceedings against the officials of the ONGC as well as the state government and Central government, accused as being 'responsible for such damages.' The Petitioners are Mmhonlumo Kikon & Others Versus the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd, the Basin Manager of ONGC, Cinnamara in Jorhat, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, the State of Nagaland, the Nagaland Geology and Mining Department, Nagaland Forest Department, the Nagaland State Pollution Control Board and the Union of India

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represented by the Ministry of Petroleum and another, the Natural Gas and the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The PIL has alleged large-scale oil spillage in Champang and Tssori villages in Wokha district 'due to willful negligence of the authorities to take appropriate steps to stop the oil spilling from oil rigs/oil wells situated in the oil fields. The oil spill began after the ONGC halted production in May 1994 following opposition Naga organizations. The petitioners accused the respondents for failing to take action and prevent and protect the environment and ecological system in the two villages. The petitioners have appealed to the court to enforce the legal and fundamental rights of the people of Champang and Tssori by declaring the actions/inaction of the respondents as illegal and unconstitutional. The petitioners appealed to the court for about Rs. 1, 000 crore as consolidated compensation to the villagers for damage to their health, economy, agricultural land and activities due to the oil spill. According to media reports earlier, ONGC has paid a royalty of Rs 33.83 crore to the Nagaland government, but of that only Rs 67 lakh 'reached the village.' The PIL requested the High Court to direct particularly the ONGC and the Government of Nagaland to immediately clean up the oil spill within a stipulated time. Along with this action, the High Court is requested to direct the Government of Nagaland not to enter into any negotiation, understanding or permission with the ONGC or other companies (Indian and foreign) working on oil exploration, extraction or production to explore, extract oil in the state of Nagaland till the impact of oil spill affected area is redressed. Stating the circumstances, the petitioners have appealed to the Court to initiate criminal proceedings and prosecution of the officials of the ONGC as well as the state government and central government.

<http://www.morungexpress.com/frontpage/70019.html>

USA, AZ, MESA, AUGUST 29 2011. CLEANUP ONGOING AT FORMER AIR FORCE BASE GAS STATION >> POLLUTANTS AT FORMER AIR BASE BEING REMOVED

art thomason

It's labeled Site ST035 on an environmental-cleanup map. But more people know it as the location of the former Williams [Air Force](#) Base gas station, where leaking fuel contaminated the soil and groundwater with benzene and other pollutants for decades. Today even more people know the site as [Arizona State University](#) Polytechnic's new Academic Complex, which stands as a symbol of how far the massive environmental-recovery effort has come and how far it still has to go. The private contractors hired to conduct the recovery estimate that all of the sites will be ready for removal from the EPA list by the end of the decade. "In environmental years that's a huge success story," said Len Fuchs, community co-chairman of the Former Williams Air Force Base Restoration Advisory Board, which has monitored the project for the past 18 years. "It took 50 years to create the mess, and now it will take 10 more years to clean it up." "It's a good thing that the government is guaranteeing that it will be cleaned up," he said. "It's not like a situation in which an oil company moved out and went bankrupt. And if we find new things the government will clean that up, too." The restoration is part of an Air Force initiative that began in 1983 to restore 13 potentially contaminated sites, a total of 180 acres, and remove them from the Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List. The cleanup progressed through the base's closure in 1993 and continued as most of the 4,034-acre military installation eventually became Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and campuses for ASU Poly and Chandler-Gilbert Community College. Over the years, millions of pounds of contaminants from aviation fuel, munitions, explosives and household waste have been removed, along with more than 200 pieces of Native American artifacts that will be turned over to Arizona museums. Since the base closed, the federal government has funded \$112 million in environmental-cleanup efforts as the military installation transitioned into a reliever airport and education and jobs center. Recovery costs prior to base closure in 1993 were not immediately available. The 16-member advisory board is made up of private citizens, stakeholders, regulators and Air Force representatives. Last week, it awarded a new nine-year contract to Georgia-based AMEC consulting and engineering company to continue the cleanup. Company officials vowed to take a more aggressive approach to finish the cleanup and use new technologies to extract contaminants from the soil and groundwater, said Amber Cargile, a Valley-based communications consultant who assists the Air Force with public outreach for the project. For example, the company will employ a thermal-enhanced extraction process never used in Arizona to remove petroleum hydrocarbons and benzene from the soil and groundwater. "It's one of the most challenging sites," said Donald Smallbeck, AMEC's senior program manager for the project. Scientists estimate that the 1 million to 2 million gallons of aviation fuel leaked into the soil and groundwater from the underground tanks between 1942, about a year after construction of the base began to train pilots for World War II, and 1990. The site has undergone a series of restoration attempts over the years, and between 1997 and 2003 a soil-vapor extraction system removed more than 2 million pounds of petroleum hydrocarbons, the equivalent of 343,000 gallons, according to advisory-board records. In 2008, the Air Force allocated additional funding for the site's cleanup and intensified

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checks on the rising groundwater beneath the surface. The site poses no danger to a deepwater aquifer that provides drinking water in the area, and it is a mile from the nearest well, said Jay Harbin, a geologist and project manager for URS Corp., a San Francisco-based engineering- and technical-services organization that has conducted testing and cleanup of the former Air Force base for several years. Smallbeck said the site is expected to be restored by 2018 and ready to be taken off the EPA list. There is no estimate of the amount of fuel that leaked from the former gas-station tanks into the soil and groundwater that are now beneath part of the ASU Poly complex, Cargile said. The leak occurred in one of five 10,000-gallon tanks and its connector piping, she said. The tanks were removed in 1993, and the piping was removed a year later. The site has been deemed safe for school, work and living conditions. Three years ago the Air Force and contractors worked out a strategy with university officials to install 15 soil-vapor extraction wells on the site and surround them with a noise dampening, Cargile said. "When we do groundwater cleanups, in particular, it takes a lot of time to get that last bit out of water out," said Linda Geissinger, public-affairs officer for the Western Region of the Air Force Real Property Agency. Philip Mook, the agency's senior representative, said the Air Force wants to get the sites off the EPA's National Priorities List as quickly as possible. "It can be a stigma for the property owners or users," he said. "We need to restore the property to a condition where it's productive to human health and the environment in perpetuity. We're addressing it in a systematic way that applies to the best available technologies, engineering and expertise." Cargile said the cleanup has moved forward quickly because of the cooperation from the airport authority and the university. "In a time when we hear about government not working well together, the Williams project is a real success story," she said. "It's a great example of federal government, state and local governments, regulators, stakeholders and private citizens coming together to lead a project that not only significantly improves the environment but Valley economic growth as well."

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2011/08/28/20110828air-force-base-gas-station-cleanup.html>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRIBANE, AUGUST 29 2011. CARCINOGENS FOUND IN WATER AT COAL SEAM GAS SITE

The Queensland government is investigating a gas field west of Brisbane after the discovery of traces of cancer-causing chemicals at five bores. Benzene, toluene and xylene were discovered during routine tests of 14 bores used to monitor the company's coal seam gas dams at the Tipton West and Daandine gas fields near Dalby, Arrow Energy said in a statement yesterday. Benzene, toluene, ethylene and xylene (commonly known as BTEX) were outlawed last October in Queensland for use in fracking, a process used in the CSG industry to split rock seams and extract methane. BTEX can be naturally occurring but are also found in a range of oil-based products. The level of the chemicals found at Arrow's operations ranged between two parts per billion (ppb) and 16ppb. The Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management will now study the bores to determine if the level of chemicals is naturally occurring or introduced by the company. Arrow Energy said the shallow monitoring bores have no connection to gas production and the aquifer is not used for stock or domestic water. The find is the latest of a string of contaminations in Queensland's CSG industry. In November last year, the chemicals were found in three of Arrow Energy's CSG wells at Moranbah in central Queensland. Also last year, Cougar Energy's pilot underground coal gasification plant near Kingaroy was shut down by the state government after benzene and toluene were found at just two parts per billion in nearby bores. Drew Hutton from Friends of the Earth said the level of chemicals at Arrow's operations was considerably higher than the level at which Cougar was shut down. Mr Hutton said the probable source of the chemicals was the coal seam itself and it was likely the chemicals were mobilised by the CSG extraction process. "(It) is another example of alarm bells going off about the coal seam gas industry," he said. A Senate inquiry is examining the impact of CSG on the economy, society and environment. On Saturday, billionaire miner Clive Palmer, who intends to oversee a multi-billion-dollar expansion in the state's Galilee thermal coal basin, lashed out at the industry. Mr Palmer said overseas companies were concerned that Australian CSG miners were not as skilled or trained, nor had the same technological background, as their overseas counterparts. "The risk if they don't get that right is the contamination of the water table with things like arsenic and other carcinogens," he said. "We don't want that to happen because that affects stock and it could affect human life when we're eating the stock and drinking the water." Meanwhile, Katter's Australian Party announced in Friday it would put a 12-month moratorium on the industry, give landholders the right to refuse entry to mining companies and make the Great Artesian Basin a no-go zone.

Related Links

- [Gas miner announces discovery of toxic chemicals at Australian coal seam sites](http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/carcinogens-found-in-water-at-coal-seam-gas-site-20110829-1jgxb.html)

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