



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 798 Newsy Stuff

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

January 14 2012



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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JANUARY 5 2012. HUNDREDS OF PETROL STATIONS LEAKING FUEL

nicole hasham



Sick ... Samantha Henwood with son Chris.

More than 900 NSW petrol stations and depots could be leaking fuel into soil and groundwater and petrol-related land makes up the bulk of the state's 300 most contaminated sites, official data shows. Figures contained in a NSW Auditor-General report released late last year show 770 service stations and 176 other petroleum sites were actually or potentially contaminated, with many leaking fuel from underground tanks. In two of the worst confirmed cases, high levels of the cancer-causing agent benzene leaked from a Brighton-le-Sands petrol station and were detected beneath a waterfront park, and elevated concentrations of a toxic chemical mix were recorded inside a home near a service station at Rosebery. More than 300 NSW sites were found to be significantly contaminated, the largest number of which were petrol stations. About two-thirds were yet to be remediated. The data shows

serious contamination by Sydney petrol stations at Randwick, Forestville, Lane Cove, Sutherland, Chatswood and Canterbury. In several cases, contamination had travelled to nearby homes. A leak from a Sutherland service station was migrating to an adjacent Sydney Water reservoir site. Some fuel companies, including BP, Caltex and Mobil, class all petrol station sites as potentially contaminated and refer them to authorities as a matter of precaution. The Environment Protection Authority is yet to fully assess many of the 1070 suspect sites in NSW, most of which are petrol stations, but says many have only minor issues and do not require regulation. Major petrol chains contacted by the Herald reported a range of measures to prevent contamination including stock loss systems to detect fuel leaks, regular monitoring and infrastructure upgrades. But the director of Total Environment Centre, Jeff Angel, said the effects of previously lax approaches to fuel storage were now being felt. "They built underground tanks, stuck a petrol station on top and that was it. There was no real monitoring or high quality standard of storage," he said. Engadine resident Samantha Henwood, 39, claims petrol contaminants have severely impacted her health and that of her son Chris, 16. According to an Environment Protection Authority notice issued in April 2010, toxic chemicals from a nearby BP station were found in the stormwater drain at the rear of Ms Henwood's Housing NSW complex. The contaminants included benzene, which is "toxic to humans and aquatic ecosystems", the notice stated. Ms Henwood blames her chronic fatigue syndrome on the petrol. A smell of fuel had permeated her home intermittently since 2008, but improved since remediation began, she said. "There was a very slow leak for a long time until ... we could smell it constantly," Ms Henwood said. "It was horrible. I felt like I was getting gassed. My son was feeling sick all the time and had chest pain, and we both had sore throats." An Environment Protection Authority spokesman said it had taken action to mitigate potential effects on residents at the complex including air monitoring and the removal of gross contamination.

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/hundreds-of-petrol-stations-leaking-fuel-20120104-1plam.html>

MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, JANUARY 5 2012. PEMEX LOOTED BY CRIMINALS AND EMPLOYEES, WRITER SAYS

julian rodriguez marin



Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, is being plundered by both insiders and criminal organizations that steal fuel and sell it on the black market, Ana Lilia Perez, author of "El Cartel Negro" (The Black Cartel), said in an interview with Efe. "Drug trafficking organizations, mainly, including the Gulf cartel and Los Zetas, steal up to 40 percent of the natural gas condensates produced in the Burgos basin along Mexico's entire northern border and sell it on the black market in the United States," the journalist said. Condensates are hydrocarbons that are in particular demand in the fuel industry in the United States, where private companies freely refine petroleum and use condensates to produce high-quality gasoline, the author, whose book was published recently by Grijalbo-Random House Mondadori, said. "The Burgos basin (in the Gulf of Mexico) became a battleground between criminal organizations, whose members set up checkpoints, seize fields, take over rights of way and control access to Pemex facilities," Perez, who works for Contralinea magazine, said. Pemex, according to official figures, is the world's fourth-largest producer of crude oil, has the 10th-largest reserves, is the 15th-largest gas producer, the 13th-largest refiner and the largest source of revenues for Mexico's



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government, accounting for more than 30 percent of the Treasury's income. Cartels are also stealing gasoline and other derivatives from Pemex pipelines in different states, focusing on Veracruz and Sinaloa, the writer said. "Our business is drug trafficking, but given that it's been slow, we steal hydrocarbons," a Gulf cartel boss, according to a company report cited by the book, told the Pemex security guards who caught him stealing fuel from a pipeline in 2007. The Pemex security guards found six men wearing uniforms from the defunct Federal Investigations Agency, or AFI, stealing fuel. The men, who identified themselves as Gulf cartel members, took the guards' weapons, cell phones and vehicle. The book examines a huge corruption network created by Pemex employees and criminal organizations to engage in a variety of illegal businesses. Official figures show that theft of fuel from Pemex pipelines, known in Mexico as "milking," generated losses of about 3 billion pesos (some \$214 million) during the first four months of 2011, exceeding the losses posted in all of last year. The book notes that theft from pipelines is overshadowed by what happens at some refineries, where workers steal gasoline in tanker trucks and sell it to clandestine distributors and sometimes even to Pemex gas stations. No official reports covering Pemex's total losses exist, but some estimates place the figure at some 16 billion pesos (about \$1.14 billion), Perez said. The writer, who had access to numerous internal Pemex documents, said managers had reported the illegal businesses, but no action was taken because some high-level officials and union leaders may be involved. "In some cases, when the theft by employees is really brazen, union leaders ask them to be more careful because it makes it more difficult to defend them," Perez said. The book contends that the majority of the groups that steal fuel from Pemex launder their profits in the energy industry, investing in gasoline stations, fuel distribution companies and other businesses. "Groups ranging from the old drug cartels to gangs like La Familia and Los Zetas have found gasoline stations to be a way to legalize their incomes," Perez said.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=457053&CategoryId=14091>

BULGARIA, BURGAS, JANUARY 5 2012. PETROL STATIONS WILL NOT GET GRACE FOR INSTALLING FUEL MEASURING DEVICES: PM

katya nikolova

Petrol stations will not get grace for installing fuel measuring devices, as the law obliges them to, Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov said while visiting the southeastern city of Burgas, Burgas Radio reported. On Tuesday small and medium petrol stations in Bulgaria asked for a year's or a year and a half's grace period for installing fuel measuring devices, otherwise 2,000 of 3,000 small and medium petrol stations will be shut down. The deadline is 31 March 2012. They say the devices are very expensive and the installation costs are high. They say also that their profits are small. Borisov reiterated that all petrol stations in Bulgaria have to install the devices by the end of March. He noted that most petrol stations across the country had already satisfied the requirements. Since the beginning of 2011 petrol stations have to report their turnovers electronically to the National Revenue Agency. In June they had to report also the sold and available amounts of fuel. Traders add fuel measuring devices to the already installed electronic systems and in this way tax inspectors can check any time the turnover and sold and available fuel in a petrol station. Thus tax inspectors follow the fuel from its import into Bulgaria to the tax warehouses and retail sales.

<http://www.focus-fen.net/index.php?id=n267858>

USA, CA, PETALUMA, JANUARY 5 2012. THREE TRACTOR RIGS DESTROYED IN FIRE AT FEDEX FACILITY IN PETALUMA >> THE FIRE WAS THREATENING AN ABOVE-GROUND TANK CONTAINING 10,000-TO-20,000 GL OF FUEL

mary callahan



Petaluma fire officials are investigating an early Wednesday fire at a FedEx freight building that destroyed three tractor rigs and threatened a fuel tank containing at least 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel. Leaking fuel from a saddle tank also found its way into the city storm drain system, though the spill was contained before it reached a nearby creek, Petaluma Fire Battalion Chief Russ Rasmussen said. Fire officials were still unsure Wednesday morning what caused the 2:30 a.m. fire at the FedEx facility on North McDowell Boulevard near Corona Road, Rasmussen said. "We're not quite prepared to say it's suspicious yet, but we don't see any obvious accidental causes," he said. FedEx personnel go in and out of the facility all night, so the gates are sometimes open. A worker reported the fire. The fire was a mere 15 feet or so from an above-ground tank



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containing 10,000-to-20,000 gallons of fuel that firefighters kept from catching fire, Rasmussen said. It was unclear how much fuel leaked from a far smaller tank attached to one of the tractors, he said. It holds about 80 gallons and was more than half full before the fire, and may have leaked about 60 gallons, he said. A hazmat crew was working to clean up the spill Wednesday, he said. "It was contained to the storm drain. It didn't make it to the creek," he said.

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20120104/ARTICLES/120109865/1033/news?Title=3-tractor-rigs-destroyed-in-fire-at-Petaluma-FedEx-facility>

NEW ZEALAND, KAPONGA, JANUARY 5 2012. DIESEL TANK CATCHES FIRE

jared smith



Hose down: Fire brigade officers hosing down the diesel tank which caught alight in Kaponga yesterday.

Refilling a truck nearly turned into a nightmare at a Kaponga earth-movers yard yesterday afternoon when a diesel tank caught alight. Fire engines from Kaponga, Okaiawa and Eltham, along with Eltham's water tanker, raced to the scene at 4.30pm as massive flames leapt up and black smoke from the depot was visible from the neighbouring properties. Kaponga chief fire officer Jason Hurley said there was 4,500 litres worth of diesel in the tank. "[The owner] was filling his truck up with diesel, a little bit spilled on to the exhaust of the motor that was pumping the diesel out of the tank and that ignited. "He got the truck out of the way and called us. "It had the potential to be a lot worse but diesel's not so bad. It's manageable [compared to petrol]." Fire crews put foam on the tank to get the flames out, then isolated the fuel tap, before hosing down the tank to cool it off.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/6216458/Diesel-tank-catches-fire>

USA, ID, LEWISTON, JANUARY 5 2012. WORKERS STILL SEARCHING FOR PETROLEUM LEAK SOURCE

Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency say they're still working to determine the cause of a petroleum leak in the Clearwater River near Orofino. EPA coordinator Earl Liverman told the Lewiston Tribune that the source could be a broken gas line, underground storage tank or something from an old landfill. The leak was reported Friday and booms were placed to contain the material. Liverman said the leak is an oil bloom that rises from the bottom of the river and leaves a sheen on the surface. The leak is near an unmanned gas station. Liverman said the lines at the station were tested in early 2011 and no leaks were found, but that was before a small earthquake shook the region on Nov. 11. They are being retested.

Related Links

- [Fuel Spill in Clearwater Remains Mystery](#)
- [Source of petroleum leak in river remains undetermined](#)

<http://www.kxly.com/news/30132563/detail.html>

NEW ZEALAND, NELSON, JANUARY 5 2012. LEAK CAUSES TANKER FIRE

Firefighters and police rushed to the Whangamoa Saddle northeast of Nelson early yesterday afternoon after reports that a fuel tanker was on fire, but the small electrical fire was out by the time they arrived. Driver Rob Thompson, of Nelson, said he was on his way from Havelock to Nelson after delivering fuel and descending the hill when the engine stalled. He pulled over at the first safe opportunity and found oil leaking from the engine, which then burst into flames. A following mobile home stopped and the driver, who by chance he knew, helped Mr Thompson to put the fire out using the truck's extinguishers. "It was a small fire, but with these things, a small fire's a big fire," he said. The tanker was empty, with the consequent dangers associated with petrol fumes. Nelson and Hira firefighters attended. Senior station officer Steve Shackleton said that when they got there the fire was out but still sparking, so they completely isolated the Allied Petroleum tanker's electrical system. They remained at the scene for a while to ensure that there was no further danger. Mr Thompson had pulled over into a lay-by and the the road was not blocked.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/nelson-mail/6213076/Leak-causes-tanker-fire>



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USA – JANUARY 5 2012. HOW DID AMERICA BECOME A NET FUEL EXPORTER? THANK THE EPA! >> FUEL IS NOW THE MOST VALUABLE U.S. EXPORT -- AND WE HAVE REGULATIONS TO THANK FOR THAT.



In the past few weeks, much has been made of the fact that the United States has become a net exporter of petroleum products. Not of oil mind you -- we still import about nine million barrels a day of crude and ship out a tiny fraction -- but of refined products, such as diesel, gasoline, and jet fuel. [According to the AP](#), they've become our most valuable export. This is quite a reversal, and it's the result of a few powerful economic forces. According to [the Wall Street Journal](#), the U.S. has been importing more fuel than it ships for the last six decades. But in 2011, the combination of a slow economy and more efficient vehicles hurt demand from

American motorists, giving refiners the impetus to send their product abroad. It was basic supply and demand at work. We had excess supply. The world demanded it. Within that bigger picture, though, there's a smaller and instructive story. It's about how those meddling government regulators at the Environmental Protection Agency may have helped make U.S. refiners more competitive in the global marketplace. How? By forcing them to create cleaner burning diesel fuel.

Three Cheers for Esoteric Diesel Regulation!

If you look at the [Energy Information Administration's](#) breakdown of the country's petroleum of product exports, one category should jump out at you: distillate fuel oil. That's the technical term for what we all know as diesel. In October of 2011, U.S. refiners shipped out about 2.7 million barrels a day of finished petroleum products. Forty percent of those barrels contained diesel fuel. Gasoline only accounted for 19 percent. It makes sense that diesel should make up such a big chunk of our finished fuel exports. As Tom Kloza, chief analyst with the Oil Price Information Service, told me, in much of the world diesel rules. Europeans use it to power their cars. South Americans use it to power their tractors. Many governments, particularly in Europe, are requiring varieties with lower levels of sulfur, a major air pollutant that causes respiratory problems and contributes to acid rain. In the last several years, Kloza said, U.S. oil refineries in the Gulf of Mexico have invested heavily in the sophisticated technology necessary to create that kind of clean diesel fuel. Two-thirds of U.S. diesel exports in October were the variety known as "ultra low sulfur." The investment that made those exports possible didn't happen by accident. Nor was it purely due to the forces of capitalism. In 2001, the EPA [issued a new rule](#) that reduced the amount of sulfur allowed in highway diesel fuel by 97%, from 500 parts per million to just 15. Part of the regulations, which went into effect in 2006, forced refineries to begin producing more of the cleaner diesel. In response, oil refiners [spent billions](#) updating their plants with the necessary equipment, [adding roughly 37%](#) more desulfurization capacity. As a result, U.S. refiners now make a product that's more ready for the global marketplace. That's a double-edged sword domestically. It's great for the country's trade balance. But as Reuters noted [as far back as 2008](#), it's also made fuel more expensive here at home. "Before the diesel mandate, much of the diesel produce in the United States fell far short of European fuel specifications, which mean the fuel tended to stay in the United States, keeping stockpiles full and prices low," the wire explained. As with any change in the marketplace, there were both winners and losers. But not all "job-killing regulations" actually do.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2012/01/how-did-america-become-a-net-fuel-exporter-thank-the-epa/250857/>

USA, N.Y, PAINTED POST, JANUARY 5 2012. SEVERAL TRAIN CARS DERAIL IN PAINTED POST

sam smink



Several train cars derailed this evening in painted post at the dresser rand facility, blocking traffic at some intersections. Authorities say around 6:30 Wednesday evening around 6-7 train cars ran a few inches off their tracks, none of them overturned. The train cars were traveling through the village and stopped around Hamilton and High streets. Police said there was propane inside. But police did want to stress that no one was in danger. "There were none flipped over. 7 cars derailed, all upright, none leaking any kind of product or anything hazardous," says Painted Post police chief Robert Halm. Police were able to unlink the trains within the hour and traffic was re-routed. Everything has been cleared up. The cause of derailment has not been determined. A railroad contractor has been dispatched to place the tank cars back onto the tracks.

<http://www.wetmtv.com/news/local/story/Several-Train-Cars-Derail-In-Painted-Post/0YUea35W6EqVKWFP7cKIQg.csp>



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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JANUARY 5 2012. UNDERSTANDING THE NEW WORK HEALTH SAFETY ACT - A PRACTICAL GUIDE



This guide outlines the main features of the new Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

Catalogue Number: WC03497

ISBN: 978 1 74218 958 1

[Understanding the new Work Health and Safety Act - A practical guide](#)

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, JANUARY 5 2012. MORE OIL COULD WASH UP ON BEACHES

phillipa yalden

[Watch the Video More Oil Could Wash Up](#)



The crack on the Rena is considerable. See video from the press conference today of MNZ salvage unit manager Kenny Crawford talking about it.

More oil could wash ashore at Papamoa Beach from the Rena as the ship faces its biggest storm yet since grounding on the Astrolabe Reef on October 5.

The ship is in a vulnerable state with a crack in its hull having widened during the last week – notably during the stormy weather. Salvors are working to pump the last remaining oil from the vessel after late last year pausing pumping operations after they had removed over 1000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil. Most of the oil to leak subsequent to this pumping operation was of a lighter nature and not the thick, black oil generally associated with marine spills. The second environmental threat posed by the storm to the Rena wreck is what will occur should the vessel completely separate in two and a piece float off the reef. At a press conference held at the MNZ incident control centre on Cameron Road today, the organisation's salvage unit manager, Kenny Crawford, said his team is ready for this. "We do have a plan in place and are ready to respond. "We have had a number of other bad weather events and we remain ready to respond, but we have to wait and see." The tug Go Canopus remains on standby to tow part of Rena to shallow waters if the ship breaks up. MNZ salvage unit manager Kenny Crawford says the condition of the ship has deteriorated

during the last week and it will depend on where the ship breaks up as to how his unit will be able to respond. "You can see the condition of the vessel is deteriorating – a week ago you could step from one part of the ship to the other, now you can't do that." However, Kenny says both parts of the ship are firmly grounded on the reef. It is now three months to the day since the ship ran aground on Astrolabe Reef on October 5 carrying 1368 containers. So far 372 containers have been lifted off the ship, leaving 898 still onboard and a further 98 lost overboard during storms. The Oiled Wildlife Centre in Te Maunga, which once housed more than 400 oiled birds, has been demobilised and the remaining 25 oiled birds are now being treated at Massey University in Palmerston North. Wildlife responder Helen McConnell says a small team remains working on Motiti Island and in Tauranga to stabilise any new oiled wildlife before they are transported to Palmerston North. Since January 1, Helen says they have received six oiled penguins and two oiled petrels.

<http://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/20443-more-oil-could-wash-up-on-beaches.html#vid>

VIETNAM, HANOI, JANUARY 5 2011. VIETNAM REGISTER TO HANDLE VEHICLE EXPLOSIONS



The SH motorbike with number plate 30X9-9479 suddenly exploded into flames in Hanoi on December 12, 2011.

Minister of Transport Dinh La Thang has assigned the Vietnam Register to handle cases of vehicle explosions that have occurred inexplicably all over the country to fill the "legal gap" in this instance. The minister announced the decision at a press conference yesterday, saying that there was a legal omission in which no agencies could be held responsible for handling these cases. As of 2012, the Vietnam Register under the Ministry of Transport will take charge of fires or explosions of



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vehicles, Thang said. The minister also asked the Vietnam Register to prepare legal frameworks necessary for identifying responsibilities of agencies involved in registration, inspection and control of vehicles. Last year 50 cars and 39 motorbikes caught fire suddenly, killing two people and injuring two others, Trinh Ngoc Giao, head of the Vietnam Register, said. About 72 percent of the fires of vehicles in 2011 have yet to be clarified. Of the remaining cases, 11 percent were caused by short circuits, 4.6 percent by collisions, 6.9 percent by fires at the places where vehicles were kept, and 2.3 percent by intentional burning, he said. Meanwhile, about 50 percent of the fires of cars have yet to be clarified. In order to prevent vehicle fires, Giao requested the police sector to provide the Vietnam Register with sufficient information related to vehicle fires so that the agency could seek solutions. Motorbike manufacturers must strengthen their quality control and report all explosions or fires that occur to their products, he said. The fire-resistant ability of materials used to manufacture vehicle parts should also be improved. Giao also called for improved management of centers that provide automobile and motorbike maintenance and warranty. Users of motorbike should not install any devices that are of poor quality or without origin to their vehicles, he advised. The Vietnam Register is an agency responsible for supervision and certification of vehicle quality and safety.

<http://www.tuoitrenews.vn/cmmlink/tuoitrenews/society/vietnam-register-to-handle-vehicle-explosions-1.57355>

USA, TA, LAREDO, JANUARY 5 2012. EXPERT'S INPUT ON HOW TO WORK WITH PROPANE

carolina Garcia

 **Watch the Video** [How to Work with Propane](#)

New video and information about an explosion that rocked the Heights. Listen closely as you hear not one but two explosions Monday night. This is Youtube video from the night of the explosion. Officials confirm that the initial explosion came from a propane tank on a pick up truck. Fire Captain Eloy Vega said propane is used as alternative fuel by this type of vehicles. the tank that exploded had a leak, and as our Carolina Garcia explains many of these types of leaks can be avoided. Gas distributors tells us that there are families, especially on the outskirts of town that still use propane to cook and warm their homes. But there are some important safety tips that experts recommend you follow when working with propane gas. Safety precautions start from the moment you take your tank home. Experts recommend to transport your propane tank in an open vehicle, and not in a car. We spoke to Eloy Garza, Sales and Service Manager of Amerigas. He says that propane and any tanked gas should be kept outdoors. He said in case gas is escaping from the tank: "Having a tank inside does not allow for the gas to dissipate, in that case the propane will sit and wait for an ignition source to explode." He said: "One vial of liquid propane, can be as powerful as a stick of dynamite." Once the tank is at set in a safe outdoors place, he says the Railroad Commission of Texas which governs the propane industry mandates the tanks to be certified periodically. But he says if you are not sure if yours is, you can simply go exchange it at any of their locations. If you suspect your propane tank is not properly sealed, or have any other questions, their webpage: www.amerigas.com has answers to simple questions. For instance: What should I do if I smell propane gas? Or, How should I dispose of cylinders? Garza says propane explosions are not common, and referring to Monday's explosion on Meadow and Corpus Christi, he said: I have worked with propane for 29 years. This is the worst explosion I have seen." The Railroad Commission of Texas also offers plenty of information on how to work, not only with propane but also with other types of gas tanks. On their web cite you can find all this valuable information and even attend educational workshops for adults and children.

<http://www.pro8news.com/news/local/Experts-Input-on-How-to-Work-with-Propane--136712748.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, NEWCASTLE, KOORAGANG ISLAND, JANUARY 5 2012. INCITEC WARY ON PLANS

andrew marshall

Following a series of widely-publicised leaks at big chemical and explosive maker, Orica's Newcastle plant, Incitec Pivot is pulling out all stops to win community support for its own rival manufacturing plans nearby. The fertiliser and explosives maker has launched a feasibility study into a \$100 million ammonium nitrate and nitric acid plant on Kooragang Island on the 36-hectare site which until 2009 housed a phosphate (MAP and DAP) fertiliser plant. Incitec Pivot's Kooragang Island site currently operates as a bulk and bagged fertiliser storage and distribution centre employing 40 workers, but would grow to accommodate a total workforce of about 100 if the new fertiliser and explosives ingredient plant was built. Kooragang Island is also home to a Hi-Fert (Impact Fertilisers) distribution centre, Cargill's oilseed crushing and refining plant and Orica's ageing chemical plant which makes ammonium nitrate, ammonia and nitric acid for industrial and agricultural use. Orica faces a



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potential \$2 million fine and is under intense scrutiny after a hexavalent chromium leak at its plant in August, followed by an ammonia leak in November which prompted NSW Government environment authorities to temporarily shut the site. An embarrassed Orica, once the majority shareholder in Incitec Pivot and now a major rival in the booming mining services market, also admitted to a sulphuric acid leak at its Port Kembla facility on the NSW South Coast last month. To allay fears about Incitec Pivot Limited's (IPL) potential plans at Kooragang Island the fertiliser company, turned explosives giant, has already held several information meetings in nearby suburban Mayfield and Stockton and built a website to explain its plans and respond to public feedback. More meetings and community consultation sessions are planned prior to an environmental impact statement being released for comment mid year. IPL would use the ammonium nitrate plant to supply its nearby Dyno Nobel explosives market in the Hunter Valley coal sector and Dyno Nobel's liquid urea ammonium nitrate fertiliser plant at Warkworth in the Hunter. Project manager for the feasibility study, Graham Woods, said demand for ammonium nitrate and liquid fertilisers was growing rapidly but no definite plans about whether the new facility would be built could be made until late 2012 after confirming likely demand, production costs and IPL's ability to meet environmental requirements. Mr Woods conceded the project would cop a lot of scrutiny from the regulators and as the residents in the wake of the Orica publicity, but emphasised the plant would be state of the art technology using imported ammonia rather than making the ingredient and thus it would not require the catalyst, hexavalent chromium. IPL is currently 90 per cent through building another 300,000 tonnes a year ammonium nitrate plant in Central Queensland's Bowen Basin, primarily to supply the explosives market. The Moranbah project is set to make a big impact on company profits after 2012 as IPL focuses on expanding explosives markets in Asia, particularly China. The company's Asian focus is also driving its fertiliser business, with longer term plans to expand fertiliser production at its Phosphate Hill site in western Queensland above 1000 tonnes a year and a third \$50m phosphoric acid processing stage being installed. IPL's fertiliser trading businesses, Quantum and Southern Cross International (which once owned Phosphate Hill) now sell more fertiliser internationally than in and out of Australia, chairman John Watson told December's annual general meeting. He said Hong Kong-base Quantum now had overseas offices in India, North America and Europe and was a major provider of ingredients for IPL's fertiliser and explosives plants. Last financial year produced a 34 per cent lift in IPL's fertiliser earnings before interest and tax and record profits from the multinational Dyno Nobel business, bought by Incitec in 2008 (excluding Dyno Nobel divisions in Europe and South America which were absorbed by Orica). Orica's former links with IPL date back to 2003 when the chemical giant was the majority stakeholder supporting the newly merged Pivot Co-operative and Incitec fertiliser businesses listing on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), remaining so until 2006. In the past five years IPL has undergone a big transformation, doubling its size with the Dyno Nobel acquisition and becoming one of the ASX's top 50 companies with fertiliser and explosives plants in North and South America and Asia.

<http://sl.farmonline.com.au/news/nationalrural/agribusiness-and-general/finance/incitec-wary-on-plans/2409630.aspx?storypage=0>

SINGAPORE, JANUARY 5 2012. MINOR OIL SPILL IN STRAITS OF SINGAPORE



A Singapore-registered container ship, Kota Tenaga, and a Malta-registered VLCC, SEEB collided at about 2.7km south of Pulau Sebarok yesterday, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said. The accident occurred at about 9pm and saw about 5 metric tonnes of marine fuel oil spill into the sea. An inter-agency effort coordinated by MPA was immediately activated to contain and clean up the oil spill. MPA said the spillage of oil from Kota Tenaga has been contained, and Kota Tenaga has been moved to Raffles Reserved Anchorage. An oil boom was laid around the vessel as a precaution. There were no reported injuries to crew members. In addition, a total of 12 crafts were sent to monitor and clean up the oil spill. Non-toxic and biodegradable oil spill dispersants were used to break up patches of oil sighted in the vicinity of Pulau Pawai, Pulau Senang and Raffles

Reserved Anchorage. MPA said it is monitoring the situation closely and will respond to any sightings of oil patches. According to the port authority, traffic in the port and the Strait of Singapore remained unaffected. The cause of the collision is currently under investigated.

<http://www.asiaone.com/News/Latest%2BNews/Singapore/Story/A1Story20120105-320137.html>



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USA, ILL, CHICAGO, JANUARY 5 2012. AGAIN, AURORA SAYS FUEL SPILL POSED NO THREAT TO DRINKING WATER

erin meyer



An absorbent boom tied across Fairview Creek northwest of the intersection of South Lincolnway Street and Sullivan Road in Aurora.

As the cleanup of last week's diesel fuel spill in Aurora continues, officials reaffirmed Wednesday that the city's water supply was never at risk. About 1,500 gallons of fuel spewed from underground storage tanks Dec. 27 after an equipment malfunction at the [Federal Aviation Administration](#) facility on Indian Trail Road. The fuel ran through a storm sewer and a creek before some of it made its way into the Fox River, which provides 60 percent of the city's drinking water. But officials said the current kept fuel on the river's west bank, far from the water treatment plant's intake. "The treated water pumped to Aurora's residents was not at risk at any time during the incident," Dave Schumacher, Aurora water production superintendent, said via email Wednesday. An FAA spokeswoman said Wednesday that the cause of the malfunction is unknown and that the matter is under investigation. A company

contracted by the FAA continues to work on the cleanup, and "we hope to finish soon," said Elizabeth Cory, the FAA spokeswoman. She said the FAA has been in daily contact with the Illinois [Environmental Protection Agency](#) and the [Aurora Fire Department](#). Raw river water at the intake structures, as well as processed drinking water, are monitored by an automated system, city officials said. The city of Aurora did not have to take special precautions, because drinking water is continuously monitored, officials said. If the fuel had contaminated the drinking water, the system would have immediately alerted operators at the water treatment plant. "Diesel fuel is composed of organic molecules (that) would have had a substantial effect on the results of the test," Schumacher said. "None of the results produced from this routine test from time periods before, during and after the incident indicated any changes from normal results measured under current weather conditions."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-met-aurora-water-20120105,0,7573468.story>

USA, PA, TIOGA COUNTY, JANUARY 5 2012. DEP FINES TALISMAN \$51,478 FOR JANUARY 2011 FRACKING SPILL

scott detrow

The [Department of Environmental Protection](#) has issued a \$51,478 fine to Talisman Energy, for a 21,000-gallon [fracking](#) fluid spill that occurred a year ago on state-owned property. According to the DEP investigation, "equipment failure during [fracking] on Jan. 17 [2011] caused about 21,000 gallons of hydraulic fracturing fluid and sand to be released for about three hours." The incident occurred at [a cluster of Talisman-owned wells located in Ward Township, Tioga County](#). According to StateImpact's [Shale Play app](#), the company had already incurred 27 violations at the 37 Ward wells, for offenses like discharging "pollutional material" and failure to properly store or discharge drilling waste. [Talisman operates 166 Pennsylvania wells](#), and has racked up more violations (238) than any other driller. Read the full DEP release on the fine after the jump.

WILLIAMSPORT — The Department of Environmental Protection has fined Talisman Energy USA Inc. of Warrendale, Buler County, \$51,478 for a January 2011 gas well control incident at the company's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources 587 #8 well pad in Ward Township, Tioga County. "Equipment failure during fracking on Jan. 17 caused about 21,000 gallons of hydraulic fracturing fluid and sand to be released for about three hours," DEP North-central Regional Director Nels Taber said. "Fortunately, Talisman responded quickly and most of the release did not escape secondary containment." The fluid discharged from the head of the well under high pressure, tearing the well pad's secondary containment liner for several yards. Vacuum trucks recovered the fluid on the well pad. No streams, wetlands or private drinking water wells were impacted by the spill. A department inspection conducted Jan. 25 confirmed that Talisman staff had repaired the damaged liner, replaced the failed equipment and removed contaminated soil beneath the liner. An investigation by DEP's Oil and Gas Program and Talisman staff determined that the cause of the incident was a needle valve that had failed and could not be shut off. To regain control of the well, the hydraulic valve above the master valve was remotely closed and fluid was allowed to flow back through the production test separator. A new pipe connector called a hammer union was also installed and closed.

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2012/01/04/dep-fines-talisman-51000-for-january-2011-fracking-spill/>



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USA, ORE, PORTLAND, JANUARY 6 2012. EMERGENCY CREWS FIX AMMONIA LEAK ON RAILROAD TANKER IN NORTH PORTLAND

kate mather



Courtesy of Dick Harris and Portland Fire & Rescue Hazmat workers from Portland Fire & Rescue and Union Pacific Railroad repaired an anhydrous ammonia leak on a railroad tanker this morning in North Portland. No injuries were reported.

It took crews just more than 90 minutes to repair an ammonia leak at a North Portland industrial yard this morning. [Portland Fire & Rescue](#) was called the scene just after 10:10 a.m. in response to a report of anhydrous ammonia leaking from a railroad tanker near [10627 N. Swift Ct.](#), said Tommy Schroeder, a fire spokesman. Members of the hazmat team measured dangerous levels of the gas — their monitoring equipment maxed out at its 200 parts per million limit, Schroeder said. A concentration of 300 ppm is considered an immediate danger to life. Commanders pulled the team back so they could get additional equipment and put on more protective suits. They returned to the area and discovered a malfunctioning

pressure relief valve had caused the leak, Schroeder said. Two [Union Pacific Railroad](#) hazmat technicians helped make repairs and Portland crews were recalled just after 11:45 a.m. No evacuations occurred and no injuries were reported, Schroeder said.

http://www.oregonlive.com/portland/index.ssf/2012/01/emergency_crews_fix_ammonia_le.html

KENYA, NYERI, JANUARY 6 2012. AT LEAST 2 DIE FROM LPG EXPLOSION IN CENTRAL KENYA

 [Watch the Video 2 Die from Gas Explosion](#)

 [Watch the Video Two killed in gas depot explosion](#)



An LPG depot up in flames at Giakanja near Nyeri January 5, 2012 following an explosion. Eight people have been rushed to hospital with severe burns.

At least two people have been confirmed dead and five others injured, two with severe burns after Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) depot exploded in central Kenyan town of Nyeri early on Thursday. Central Provincial Police Officer John M'mbijiwe said the two were among seven people admitted to Nyeri Provincial General Hospital where they were rushed immediately after the explosion occurred. M'mbijiwe said two others who are in critical condition have been airlifted to Nairobi

for specialized treatment. "The explosion occurred after a lorry delivering gas cylinders at the depot hit an electric post, sparking the fire. There were four workers at the depot at the time of the explosion. The three lorries were also burnt at the scene," the regional police boss said on Thursday. The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear but the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) said the explosion was caused by the gas cylinders which were inside the depot. KRCS spokesman Fredrick Gori also confirmed the death toll, clarifying that there were seven casualties from the incident and five people had been hospitalized, two with severe burns and three with minor injuries. "Out of the seven casualties two people have succumbed to injuries while three have been transported to Nairobi for specialized treatment," Gori told Xinhua by telephone. "Two of them were airlifted while the third was taken by road to Kenyatta National Hospital," he added. Gori said two others who were in the depot are believed to have inhaled the gas. Eye witnesses said property worth millions of shillings was destroyed by the fire that broke out at around 10:00 a.m. (0700 GMT), an incident that saw several people run for their safety after the fire spread to the surrounding farms killing a number of livestock. The scene of the massive fire was cordoned off by police for hours as the explosions, heard several kilometers away continued to disrupt the surroundings late on Thursday. The fire was yet to be extinguished by late Thursday as fire fighters and other emergency teams led by the humanitarian agency could not gain access due to intense heat. According to witnesses, the explosion occurred at around 07:00 GMT when a tanker ferrying LPG hit an electricity pole within the compound as it reversed. M'mbijiwe said the depot has been operating for sometime attracting customers as far as Nanyuki, Meru and Karatina adding that investigations have been launched to establish whether the proprietor was operating legally. The regional police chief said some witnesses and workers in the plant had reported that the fire started when a lorry delivering gas cylinders hit an electricity pole. "There was a truck that was



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delivering gas cylinders and we are receiving reports that it hit an electricity pole. An investigation has been launched," he said, adding that the fire had caused massive damage at the LPG depot. He at the same time urged residents to keep off the fire scene warning that more tanks could explode. At least 120 people were killed and dozens of others injured in a fire tragedy at the Sinai slums in Nairobi in September after the inferno swept through the homesteads after a pipe transporting super petrol started leaking.

<http://english.cri.cn/6966/2012/01/06/2561s674873.htm>

USA, N.M, ESTANCIA, JANUARY 6 2012. SHERIFF EXPLAINS WHY DECEASED SANDIA LABS SCIENTIST HAD CHEMICALS

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2437671.shtml?cat=500>



KOB Eyewitness News 4 has learned why a retired Sandia Labs scientist may have been building bombs in the East Mountains before he died. KOB first reported this weekend [about the makeshift lab discovered near Estancia](#). Now the Sheriff of Torrance County said it could be a long time before these chemicals are cleaned up. Sheriff Heath White said it appears former Sandia Labs scientist, 81-year-old David O'Keefe spent his retirement on the outskirts of Estancia on state road 41, continuing his work up until he died a few months ago. "He was trying to make a new type of explosive so he was experimenting with different chemicals and different compounds to make that explosive," White said. White said O'Keefe's laboratory was elaborate and potentially deadly. "Everybody within about a half a mile radius of this house was at high risk everyday...every night," White explained. Deputies discovered the explosives Saturday when the landlord of the property went to check on the home and

found the chemicals. Now it looks like the owner is going to have to pay for the cleanup, which is an estimated \$50,000. "There's not really any way for her to get back that money so it's placing her in a really bad situation," White said. Sheriff White said the threat of explosion is gone and it does not look like ground water has been affected, but he said the Environmental Protection Agency will have to come and make sure. "It'll probably be a year or further down the road before we completely get it contained and have it safe for someone to come back here and live," White said. The sheriff said there is no evidence O'Keefe was building bombs for terrorists or criminals. It appears he was just trying to continue his life's work.

<http://www.kob.com/article/stories/S2437671.shtml?cat=500>

USA, CA, HUNTINGTON BEACH, JANUARY 6 2012. DIESEL FUEL SPILL IN HUNTINGTON HARBOR REPORTED 7 HOURS AFTER DISCOVERY

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.ktla.com/news/landing/ktla-huntington-fuel-spill,0,5653774.story>



A diesel fuel spill in Huntington Harbor was discovered late on Wednesday night after it had reached the size of a football field. People near the marina smelled a strong odor of fuel and noticed the sheen around 4pm on Wednesday, but the slick wasn't reported to the Huntington Beach Fire Department until around 11pm last night. The Huntington Beach Fire Department, the Orange County Fire Department, the California Department of Fish and Game and the U-S Coast Guard have been working since last night to contain the spill, reports City News Service. Crews on boats were stretching containment booms around the slick to prevent it from spreading. The source of the spill remains a mystery, but it does not appear to be a docked boat. The California Department of Fish and Game planned to confirm at daylight whether or not an investigation into the spill is warranted. U.S. Coast Guard

Petty Officer 2nd Class John Thompson told a news camera crew at the scene that "no boats will be allowed in or out of Peter's Landing Marina until late this afternoon," reports [Contra Costa Times](#). [KPCC](#) reported this morning that the size of the spill was actually half the size of a football field. "There does not appear to be any immediate damage to property or injury to wildlife as a result of the incident," said Huntington Beach Fire Department spokesman Jeff Lopez.

http://laist.com/2012/01/05/diesel_fuel_spill_at_huntington_harbor.php



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USA, PA, BETHLEHEM TWP, JANUARY 6 2012. MAN DIES OF BURNS SUFFERED WHILE WORKING ON VAN >> OFFICIALS: VAN CAUGHT FIRE; GAS TANK EXPLODED



A man, Kenneth Mitchell, 47, died Wednesday after his van caught fire in a garage in Bethlehem Twp.

A man has died of injuries he suffered when his van caught fire on Wednesday, the coroner said. Kenneth Mitchell was working on his van in a garage at 4011 Wilson Ave. in Bethlehem Twp., Northampton Co., when the van caught fire, officials said. Mitchell, 47, of Allentown, suffered burns over 70 percent of his body when the van's gas tank exploded, said Scott Grim, Lehigh Co. coroner. Mitchell died several hours later at Lehigh Valley Hospital near Allentown. Firefighters got the fire, which spread to the six-bay garage, under control in about 15 minutes.

<http://www.wfmz.com/news/news-regional-lehighvalley/Man-dies-of-injuries-from-garage-fire/-/132502/7647822/-/mrla1mz/-/>

INDIA, MUMBAI, JANUARY 6 2012. PARAPET CRASHES, KILLS GUARD AT PETROL PUMP

A 25-year-old watchman died after a parapet came down on him at a petrol pump in Lalbaug on Wednesday. Nilesh Bharmal, a resident of Parel village, was on night duty at an ATM outlet located in the premises of a petrol pump on DBA road in Lalbaug when the incident occurred. "Bharmal was asleep when, at around 2.30am, the overhead parapet at the petrol pump fell on his head, leaving him grievously injured," said inspector Sandeep Bhagdikar of Kalachowki police station. Police said that Bharmal, who is a native of Kolhapur, was immediately rushed to KEM Hospital by the petrol pump employees, but was declared dead at admission. The police said that they are investigating the case and will make arrests in due course for causing death due to negligence. "As of now, we are investigating the case and investigating who is responsible for the annual maintenance of the petrol pump and if it belonged to an individual or was provided on lease by the company. The course of investigation will be decided once these details are available," said Bhagdikar.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Mumbai/Parapet-crashes-kills-guard-at-petrol-pump/Article1-791888.aspx>

USA, WA, GOLDENDALE, JANUARY 6 2012. OVERTURNED TRUCK DUMPS FUEL INTO TRIBUTARY OF COLUMBIA

Eric Florip



An overturned semi truck spilled some 280 gallons of diesel and oil in and around the Little Klickitat River north of Goldendale on Tuesday. The driver of the truck, 51-year-old Visessio Salt of Salt Lake City, was not hurt in the crash, according to Washington State Patrol.

Crews tackled a large cleanup early Tuesday after a semi truck overturned off U.S. Highway 97, spilling diesel and oil into the Little Klickitat River north of Goldendale, state ecology officials said. The truck crashed just after 1 a.m. Tuesday, said Washington State Patrol Trooper Ryan Tanner. Responders estimated the size of the spill at 280 gallons. The driver of the truck, 51-year-old Visessio Salt of Salt Lake City, was unhurt, Tanner said. Crews expected to spend much of the day clearing out the truck itself, which came to rest on the bank of the river. The trailer was pulled back up to the road Tuesday afternoon, said state Department of Ecology

spokeswoman Jani Gilbert. It had been carrying construction materials and insulation, which were also cleared out. It's unclear what caused the crash, or how much fuel spilled directly into the river, Gilbert said. Contaminants can also work their way into waterways by seeping through the ground. The Little Klickitat River flows through Goldendale, then joins the Klickitat River to the west before emptying into the Columbia River near Lyle. The spill happened about 10 miles above the Columbia, Gilbert said. Crews couldn't say what the spill's full impact would be Tuesday, she said. "Any spill is bad, and it affects the ecosystem in some way," Gilbert said. "We don't like to see it happen." New Legend Trucking, which owns the truck, hired contractor National Response Corp. to lead the clean-up effort. Workers used absorbent boom and other pads to soak up as much diesel and oil as they could, Gilbert said, replacing them about every hour. The ecology department operates a Spills Program that helps coordinate responses to hazardous material spills across the state. The department urges people to call two phone numbers in the event of a spill, regardless of size — the Washington Emergency Management Division at 1-800-258-5990 and



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the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. Under Washington state law, all hazardous material and oil spills must be reported by the spiller.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2012/jan/03/overtured-truck-spills-diesel-little-klickitat-ri/>

USA, CT, MILFORD, JANUARY 6 2012. NEW MILFORD MAN FALLS IN OIL TANK

A worker at a transformer-manufacturing plant on Pickett District Road had to be rescued by emergency crews after he fell inside an oil tank Thursday morning. The man, who was not identified, had been working on a transformer inside an oil tank when he fell and injured his hip, according to [Antonio Capanna](#), the president and chief operating officer of [Neeltran Inc.](#), where the fall took place. The incident occurred at about 9 a.m. in the plant at 71 Pickett District Road. "He was in a unit, on a ladder ... which is standard procedure," Capanna said. "We gather he slipped and fell about 6 to 8 feet and hit hip." Police said the man was alert when he was transported to [Danbury Hospital](#) just after 9:30 a.m. Capanna said there was no oil in the tank when the worker fell, and that the man's life was never in danger. The tank is 10 feet by 10 feet, Capanna said. It appears the man's hip injury was the primary reason he needed to be helped out of the tank.

<http://www.newstimes.com/local/article/New-Milford-man-falls-in-oil-tank-2443076.php>

USA, CA, INGLEWOOD, JANUARY 6 2012. 2 MEN COMMIT SUICIDE BY RELEASING CHEMICALS IN CAR

Investigators say two Southern California men committed suicide by releasing household chemicals inside a parked car. Inglewood police Lt. James Madia says officers responding to reports of a suspicious car in a parking structure found the men at about 6 p.m. Monday. Investigators tell City News Service that the deaths were apparently caused by mixing household chemicals. The chemicals used haven't been identified. The parking structure was evacuated and a Los Angeles County hazardous materials squad was called in because of the potential danger. The names of the men haven't been released.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_19679661

USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, JANUARY 6 2012. OFFICIALS CONFISCATE 1,000 PACKAGES OF FIREWORKS

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kristv.com/news/fireworks-ban-enforcement/>

Once again the Corpus Christi Fire Department and Police Department teamed up patrolling the streets of Corpus Christi enforcing the City's Fireworks Ordinance which bans fireworks within the city. Fire officials received 357 citizen reports concerning fireworks in an 8 hour period (4:00PM - 12:00AM). Fire Inspectors responded to many of these calls which allowed emergency crews to remain available and to respond for real emergencies in their districts. Police and Fire Department officials issued approximately 50 citations to violators during the dates of December 28, 2011 through January 1, 2012. The Corpus Christi Police Department destroyed over 1000 packages of confiscated fire works. Both the CCFD and CCPD wants the public to remember that even though the holiday season is over the ban on fireworks remains in effect year round.

<http://www.kiiitv.com/story/16455214/officials-confiscate-1000-packages-of-fireworks>

SCOTLAND, OUTER HEBRIDES, JANUARY 6 2012. HUNT FOR OIL SLICK AFTER SEABIRDS WASH ASHORE ON OUTER HEBRIDES

 **Watch the Video** [Mystery surrounds oil-soaked birds found along coastline](#)

Oil-Covered seabirds which washed up on beaches in the Outer Hebrides have sparked a hunt for an oil slick. RSPB Scotland called in the coastguard and the Scottish Government, who are both investigating. Twelve guillemots and two gulls have been found on Lewis, Harris and Benbecula since December 27. Those found alive were cleaned and treated by RSPB staff and volunteers but only seven have survived. RSPB conservation officer Martin Scott said: "We normally get a couple of birds a year that are oiled but to get a dozen or so in such a short period is surprising and worrying. "It suggests that a ship has dumped the oil at sea illegally. "We just hope that the number of birds affected is kept to as few as possible. It is something we are monitoring." He urged the public to report seabirds they find dead or in distress. Oil destroys waterproofing of feathers and exposes an affected bird's skin to the cold, which risks deadly hypothermia. Preening contaminated feathers poisons the birds as they swallow the oil.

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/2012/01/05/hunt-for-oil-slick-after-seabirds-wash-ashore-on-outer-hebrides-86908-23679880/>



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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, JANUARY 6 2012. BUG BOMB BLOWS OUT PIZZERIA SHOPFRONT

mex cooper

MAP: [Carlton 3053](#)

Watch the Video's

- [Pest control cans blow doors off pizzeria](#)
- [Explosion blows doors off Melbourne restaurant](#)
- [Restaurant Blast 'Sounded Like a Bomb Exploding'](#)

Photo's

- [Lygon St pizza shop blast \[8\]](#)
- [Restaurant Owner Lucky to Escape](#)



were becoming increasingly common and turned off before detonating devices.

A Carlton restaurant owner, who made a lucky escape when his pizzeria exploded in Lygon Street this morning, said the front doors had already been blasted off their hinges as he ran from the shop. Karlos Farah, owner of Mercadante, was fumigating the restaurant's kitchen with 10 pest-bombs when the contents of the aerosol cans ignited, causing the blast about 10am. Mr Farah said he believed the highly flammable fumes had been sparked by a fridge motor. "Any normal person would think keep [pest bombs] away from flames but I didn't know [about] just having the electrical fridge on," he said. Mercadante had been closed for two weeks and was due to reopen next week. Metropolitan Fire Brigade commander Darren McQuade said the fumes had caused the pressure explosion but that it was not yet clear what the ignition source had been. He said accidents involving pest-bombs



The front of the Mercadante restaurant was blown out in the blast.

Firefighters arrived to find the front and back of the pizzeria blown out and about 12 glass windows shattered. "The whole front window frame was pushed out about one-and-a-half metres on to the footpath and the glass was broken and the back section had a roller door with sheets of iron cladding that blew out as well," Mr McQuade said. Mr Farah, who has owned the family-run restaurant on the popular shopping strip for nearly 10 years, said he was standing only about half-a-metre away when he heard the explosion. "I've watched a lot of movies in my life and what you see in the movies with a bomb is you just up and run. I just charged out," he said. "As I ran out, the doors were already being blown off." Two neighbouring businesses were left untouched by the explosion. Mr Farah said he had been shocked by the blast but that it was "pretty amazing" to escape uninjured. He

appeared to have lost none of his business acumen, adding that his main concern was for "all the young kids who have been waiting for their chocolate pizzas". Mr Farah said surprisingly the building had not sustained much structural damage and estimated the repairs would take about four to six weeks to fix. Mr McQuade estimated the damage to be worth about \$50,000. Lygon Street was initially closed to northbound traffic between Queensberry and Grattan streets but has since reopened. A Victoria Police spokeswoman said police were not investigating as the fire was not believed to be suspicious.

Related Links

- [Restaurant Blast 'Sounded Like A Bomb Exploding'](#)
- [Pest control cans blow doors off pizzeria](#)
- [Carlton explosion closes Lygon Street](#)
- [Explosion blows out windows at Carlton pizza restaurant in Melbourne](#)
- [Explosion blows doors off Melbourne restaurant](#)

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- [Man critical after Melbourne van explosion](#)



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- [Man injured in van explosion](#)
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- [Plumber dies after van explodes](#)
- [Gas blast rocks car yard](#)
- [Man injured in house explosion in Maddington](#)

<http://www.smh.com.au/small-business/bug-bomb-blows-out-pizzeria-shopfront-20120106-1pnke.html>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, JANUARY 6 2012. NEARLY 42,000 ILLEGAL FIREWORKS CONFISCATED IN VICTORIA LAST YEAR



Almost 42,000 fireworks weighing more than 5000kg were confiscated in Victoria last year.

The number of illegal fireworks seized last year skyrocketed more than 16-fold on the previous two years after two bumper hauls. Almost 42,000 fireworks weighing more than 5000kg were confiscated in Victoria last year. Some were as large as a person's head. Most illegal pyrotechnics (23,036) came from an 837kg seizure at Portland in Victoria's Western District. A 4000kg haul of nearly 16,000 fireworks was recovered in Coburg North. WorkSafe figures show that 316kg and 364kg was seized in 2009 and 2010 respectively. The figures come after the death of Tarneit

father Carlos Rodriguez, 34, who had a firework explode in his face during New Year's Eve celebrations. Mr Rodriguez's partner Kim desperately performed first aid before paramedics put him into an induced coma. He died in The Alfred hospital on Sunday night. WorkSafe is the regulatory authority of explosives in Victoria and stores seized fireworks. Spokesman Michael Birt said illegal fireworks were often more powerful than those available legally in Victoria more than 30 years ago. Arson and Explosives Squad Det Snr-Sgt Jeff Maher said the seized fireworks had substantial potential for death and destruction. "These are not just tom thumbs and little skyrockets. These are commercial-grade fireworks which are explosive substances," Det Snr-Sgt Maher said. "Anecdotally from our intelligence holdings and from our information from the public it is quite obvious to us that there is an increase illegal activity and possession of these type of explosives." Det Snr-Sgt Maher said Mr Rodriguez's death would prompt his squad, which works in conjunction with local detectives, to increase their focus on illegal fireworks. "If people are possessing them they are deadly, what happens if they fall into the hands of their children, and the people distributing if we find out who you are we will come and get you," he said. "If we uncover criminal behaviour in our investigation (into Mr Rodriguez's death) we will consider criminal charges," Det Snr-Sgt Maher said. Earlier this week police raided the St Albans shop that allegedly sold the firework that killed Mr Rodriguez and seized a "substantial amount of material". Anyone who unlawfully and maliciously uses an explosive which could put a person's life at risk or cause serious injury faces up to 15 years jail under the Crimes Act. Penalties under the Dangerous Goods Act include fines of up to \$12,214 for an individual, \$61,070 for a company, up to two years jail and a fine for every kilo of illegal fireworks.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/nearly-42000-illegal-fireworks-confiscated-in-victoria-last-year/story-fn7x8me2-1226238553059>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 6 2012. SHALE DRILLER TIGHTENS DRUG TESTING FOR RIG WORKERS >> EXXON SUBCONTRACTOR GOES FROM URINALYSIS TO HAIR-FOLLICLE SCREENING

Union Drilling Inc., the rig owner hired by ExxonMobil Corp. to explore U.S. shale rock formations for natural gas, toughened drug testing of rig workers in an attempt to cut down on accidents. Union is switching to hair-follicle tests from urinalysis to detect drug use, chief executive Christopher Strong said at the Pritchard Capital energy conference in San Francisco on Thursday. The new protocol already has reduced emergency calls from its drilling sites, he said, according to a transcript of his presentation. Energy producers exploring shale rock are facing increased scrutiny from environmental regulators, land-owners, lawmakers and investors after intensive drilling techniques were linked to water contamination and earthquakes. Drug abuse tends to be more frequent among drilling crews than other oilfield workers, Roger New, vice-chairman of the Energy Training Council in Yukon, Okla., said in an interview Thursday. "The screening process on new hires has really been ramped up a lot," Strong said. "We're just not seeing nearly as much hotline traffic about problems on the rigs." The industry is "more worried" about safety and liability since BP PLC's 2010 rig disaster at the Ma-condo well in the Gulf of Mexico killed 11



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workers and provoked a safety crackdown, John Keller, an analyst at Stephens Inc. in Houston, said Thursday in a telephone interview. "There's a PR liability, if not a real liability, if some guy's stoned and messes up on a rig," he said. Drug use historically has been a problem among rig workers, per-haps because of the lack of outside licensing requirements that govern other jobs, such as truck driving, New said. "It's hard work," said David Pursell, a former petroleum engineer who's now a managing director at Tudor Pickering Holt & Co. in Houston. "The pool of folks who want to work in the oilfield is narrower than a traditional manufacturing operation." Union's fleet of 51 land-based rigs focuses mostly on horizontal drilling, the practice of cutting sideways through a geological formation to reach more gas or crude. Extracting fuel from shale requires the use of horizontal wells and blasting mil-lions of litres of high-pressure water, chemicals and sand to break rock thousands of metres underground, a technique known as hydraulic fracturing. The number of rigs drilling horizontal wells in the U.S. surged 23 per cent in 2011, reaching 1,184 on Dec. 16, the highest since at least January 1991, according to Baker Hughes Inc., an oilfield-services provider that tracks rig activity. Union drills wells in several of the major U.S. shale formations. William Holbrook, a spokesman for Irving, Texas-based Exxon, referred Bloomberg to the company's employee handbook. It says drug abuse is grounds for firing, and outside contractors are required to follow the same zero-tolerance policy.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Shale+driller+tightens+drug+testing+workers/5955607/story.html>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 6 2012. EPA RECOGNIZES NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH: TEST FOR RADON GAS TO PROTECT HEALTH/ 21,000 AMERICANS DIE FROM RADON RELATED LUNG CANCER EACH YEAR

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EPA Recognizes National Radon Action Month: Test for Radon Gas to Protect Health/ 21,000 Americans die from radon related lung cancer each year. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging Americans this January, as part of National Radon Action Month, to take simple and affordable steps to test their homes for harmful levels of radon gas. Radon, a colorless odorless gas, is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon can seep into a home from underground and if left to accumulate, high levels of radon can cause lung cancer. Improving indoor air quality by increasing awareness of environmental health risks, such as radon gas, supports healthier homes and communities. "Testing for radon is an easy and important step in protecting the health of your family," said Gina McCarthy, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. "Radon can be found in every single state. Nationally, elevated radon levels are in as many as one in 15 homes – a statistic that is even higher in some communities." Approximately 21,000 people die from radon related lung cancer each year in the United States, yet elevated levels of this health hazard can be prevented through these simple steps:

- **Test:** EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend that all homes, both with and without basements, be tested for radon. Affordable Do-It-Yourself radon test kits are available at home improvement and hardware stores and online or a qualified radon tester can be hired.
- **Fix:** EPA recommends taking action to fix radon levels above 4 Picocuries per Liter (pCi/L). Addressing high radon levels often costs the same as other minor home repairs.
- **Save a Life:** By testing and fixing for elevated levels of radon in your home, you can help prevent lung cancer while creating a healthier home and community.

Radon is a natural, radioactive gas that comes from the breakdown of uranium in soil, rock and water. It can enter homes through cracks in the foundation or other openings such as holes or pipes. In addition to testing for radon, there now are safer and healthier radon-resistant construction techniques that home buyers can discuss with builders to prevent this health hazard. In 2011, EPA announced the Federal Radon Action Plan, along with General Services Administration and the Departments of Agriculture; Defense; Energy; Health and Human Services; Housing and Urban Development; Interior; and Veterans Affairs. This action plan will demonstrate the importance of radon risk reduction, address finance and incentive issues to drive testing and mitigation, and build demand for services from industry professionals. More information on how to Test, Fix, Save a Life, obtain a test kit, or contact your state radon office: <http://www.epa.gov/radon> or call 1-800-SOS-RADON

http://www.epa.gov/radon/action_plan.html



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