



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 793 Newsy Stuff

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

January 3 2012



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USA, AKA, NOME, DECEMBER 23 2011. COAST GUARD TO HELP RUSSIAN TANKER BRING FUEL TO NOME THE COAST GUARD IS ENLISTING ITS ONLY FUNCTIONING ICEBREAKER TO HELP WITH THE DELIVERY OF FUEL TO NOME.

The Cutter Healy will break ice for a Russian tanker delivering fuel in January. Related Content• Iced-in Nome facing expense of fuel shipments by airplane• Russian tanker to carry fuel to iced-in city of Nome The Coast Guard is enlisting its only functioning icebreaker to help with the delivery of fuel to Nome. The city on Alaska's western coastline is iced in and facing a winter fuel shortage because a massive storm prevented a fuel delivery by barge this fall. The plan is for an ice-classed Russian tanker to deliver 1.5 million gallons of petroleum products to Nome in early January. The Coast Guard says it will have the Cutter Healy break ice along the nearly 300-mile route from the ice edge to Nome. The Seattle-based Healy's mission has been extended a month for this. Mayor Denise Michels says the city appreciates the collaborative efforts being shown to deliver the fuel that will sustain it through the winter.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/12/21/1954266/coast-guard-icebreaker-will-help.html>

USA, OH, SHARONVILLE, DECEMBER 23 2011. SHARON ROAD REOPENS AFTER METHANOL TANKER TROUBLE >>SEMI LOSES ITS METHANOL TANKER, FORCES ROAD CLOSURE

▶ Watch the Video <http://www.wlwt.com/r/30053215/detail.html>

A truck that lost its trailer closed Sharon Road for a while Thursday morning, Crews say the tanker trailer was carrying 5,000 gallons of methanol when the trailer fell off the back of the truck. As of 6:30 a.m. both directions of Sharon Road between Crowne Point Drive and Canal Road were shut down. A crane was being brought in to try and lift the truck, but a first attempt was unsuccessful. A second attempt succeeded, and the tanker was removed from the road by 7:20 a.m. The tanker did not leak any fuel or methanol, officials said.

<http://www.wlwt.com/r/30053215/detail.html>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, DECEMBER 23 2011. GAS TRIAL BUNGLE SLAMMED BY JUDGE

jeremy sollars



Cougar Energy's Kingaroy underground coal gasification site may have been shut down by the Queensland Government but the company has raised \$2.7 million to pursue with offshore projects.

In a blow to supporters of coal gas exploration, an energy company which allowed deadly toxins to enter underground water at Kingaroy has been ordered by a court to decommission and rehabilitate the site. Cougar Energy operated one of three underground coal gasification pilot projects using methods which could be used in the Warwick area if suitable coal deposits were found here. The Cougar trial at Kingaroy began in March 2010, using technology which involved drilling bore holes into a coal seam and injecting steam and oxygen under pressure and igniting the mixture underground to force coal gas to the surface. But within just five days of

operation - on March 15 - the Cougar well underwent a major failure involving the cracking of its cement lining, which allowed the toxic carcinogens benzene and toluene to enter surrounding underground water supplies. Similar failures have occurred in tests in the United States. Cougar advised the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) that a "flare malfunction" causing movement of the well casing had taken place, but it took the company until June 30 to come clean about the leaching of contaminants. DERM ordered the pilot trial to stop on July 17, pending further monitoring and later ordered Cougar to decommission and rehabilitate the site before any further trials could take place. Cougar appealed the order in the Planning and Environment Court of Queensland, which yesterday ruled the DERM orders would stand. Judge Richard Jones delivered a 14 page ruling in which he slammed Cougar Energy for its repeated assertions that no environmental harm had taken place due to the cracking of the well, noting that there is no "safe" concentration level for benzene in drinking water. He also noted the contaminated water at Kingaroy could be a potential future source of potable human drinking water and that the precautionary principle must apply. "On the evidence before me, I am satisfied that the potential for environmental harm associated with this case is real," he said. "(Cougar's) position seems not only to be contradicted by the scientific evidence but



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also the definition of environmental harm as defined in the Environmental Protection Act which ... includes not only adverse effects but potential adverse effects". Cougar Energy was yet to issue a statement by time of printing last night.

<http://www.warwickdailynews.com.au/story/2011/12/23/gas-trial-bungle-slammed-by-judge/>

USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, DECEMBER 23 2011. BSEE: UNANNOUNCED SPILL DRILL TO TEST SUBSEA CONTAINMENT RESPONSE



In this file photo from the USCG, an aerial view of the vessel Discoverer Enterprise as it recovers oil from the riser insertion tube approximately 85 miles off the coast of Mobile, May 17, 2010.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) has completed the first unannounced oil spill drill since the reorganization of the former Minerals Management Service was completed on Oct. 1. The table-top drill, which took place last week, was led jointly by BSEE in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard and the State of Louisiana and tested Stone Energy Corporation's ability to assess a subsea well control situation and mobilize the proper subsea containment/intervention equipment in a timely manner. A final evaluation will follow when analysis of all documentation is completed. "The Unannounced Spill Drill

Program provides an effective tool that helps us ensure operators are appropriately trained in effective containment deployment and that the necessary equipment and resources are truly in place to implement the approved response plan," said BSEE Director James Watson. "This program is one of many diverse activities we employ within our agency to ensure operators are able to fully execute their oil spill response plans." The Unannounced Spill Drill Program, initiated in 1989, tests an operator's ability to notify the appropriate entities and personnel in the event of a spill, including federal regulatory agencies, affected state and local agencies, internal response coordinators, and response contractors, and to take appropriate action to implement their response plan. If the decisions made during the drill do not align with the approved oil spill response plan, it provides an opportunity to determine what needs to change in the response process. Last week's drill tested Stone Energy Corp. with a scenario that was premised on a hypothetical blowout experienced by one of its deepwater exploratory wells. The selection of an operator to participate in an unannounced drill is based on such factors as the number of oil producing facilities, the volume of oil production, and proximity to sensitive areas. With an eye to the operator's current activities, a location is chosen and a spill scenario is developed. Simulated weather conditions provided to the operator during the drill are used to produce a hypothetical trajectory of the spill. For more information on BSEE's Unannounced Spill Drill Program, go to: <http://www.bsee.gov/Inspection-and-Enforcement/Inspection-Programs/Inspection-Programs.aspx>

On the Web www.bsee.gov

<http://bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2011/press12222011.aspx>

USA, TX, MIDLAND, DECEMBER 23 2011. HOT OIL TANKER EXPLOSION CAUSES \$400,000 IN DAMAGES

james cannon



Midland and Northeast Volunteer firefighters spray water on a hot oil truck Thursday at T&T Testers located on the 1300 Block of Dayton Road.

A hot oil tanker exploded Thursday evening causing an estimated \$400,000 in damages. There were no reports of injuries. An employee of T&T Testing was welding near the hot oil tanker when it erupted, causing flames to shoot dozens of feet into the air. Although the Midland Fire Department was able to save the nearby structure, another hot oil tanker, about three feet away, caught fire, Battalion Chief Vince Hancock told the Reporter-Telegram. The unit was not in service at the time of the fire and was in the shop, located on the 1300 block of Dayton Road, for repairs when the blaze began. Once the tanker caught fire, pressure began to build in the tanks until a release valve opened, causing flames and flammable gasses to spew into the air,

Hancock said. "I heard two explosions, and then my building shook," said Eddie Cline, the owner of Ignition Sales-Service, located a block from the fire. "When those (tankers) go, it's like a roman candle." Although firefighters were able to keep the



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tank cool enough until the pressure subsided, the tanks could have exploded. Cline said about 10 years ago, a similar incident happened to one of his tankers in Seminole. He said he found part of the propane tanks as far as a half mile away from the explosion site. "We consider these hot oiler tankers as bombs on wheels," Hancock said after noting how lucky his firefighters were that no one was injured. "It's very dangerous."

http://www.mywesttexas.com/top_stories/article_63480acc-2048-563e-bec3-71d3766ff0d7.html

NIGERIA, LAGOS, DECEMBER 23 2011. SHELL BEGINS CLEAN-UP OF MASSIVE OIL SPILL

kunle akogun & ejiofor alike



Chairman of Shell Companies in Nigeria, Mr. Mutiu Sunmonu

Shell said Thursday that an investigation by a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and analysis based on a combination of satellite pictures, photos from aerial surveillance, infra-red cameras and direct observations from vessels has indicated that the oil leak from its Bonga offshore facility remains offshore and is thinning and breaking up. The oil giant also stated that it would deploy two aircraft today to support the five ships it had already deployed to apply dispersant and maintain constant surveillance after the worst oil leak in Nigeria in a decade. Earlier, the Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology had charged the oil giant to immediately take necessary steps to not only halt the spill, but also ensure that it quickly cleans up the affected areas. Shell confirmed that a leak did indeed occur in a flexible export line linking its Floating Production Storage and Offloading Vessel (FPSO) to the tanker. Chairman of Shell Companies in Nigeria, Mr. Mutiu Sunmonu, said in a statement last night that the sheen had "thinned considerably due to a combination of

natural factors and dispersant application, and in places is breaking up, all of which should aid further dissipation". Sunmonu, who disclosed that one aircraft was already in the field on spill surveillance duty, added that more equipment and vessels were being mobilised. "We have brought in additional oil spill response experts and marine life experts to assist in the overall effort," he said. He said another significant development was that the company had identified the source of the leak as a failure in a flexible export line and expressed appreciation to other oil companies and government agencies for their ongoing support to mitigate the impact of the leak. "Since Tuesday, when we became aware of this regrettable leak at our Bonga offshore facility, substantial progress has been made in mitigating the consequences. The sheen has thinned considerably due to a combination of natural factors and dispersant application, and in places is breaking up, all of which should aid further dissipation," he said. Sunmonu stated that the company would continue with its efforts to protect the coastline, adding that a sizable mitigation operation was underway to protect sensitive areas. Shell had earlier assessed that up to 50 per cent of the leaked oil had dissipated due to natural dispersion and evaporation. The company also acknowledged that as satellite pictures had shown, the overall area covered by the sheen was large. Chairman of the Senate Committee, Senator Bukola Saraki (PDP, Kwara Central), who briefed journalists in Abuja Thursday, also disclosed that members of the committee would soon undertake an on-the-spot visit to the affected area with a view to making first-hand assessment of the extent of damages the spill might have caused those living within the area or the impact it has had on their livelihood. The spill, which has released about 40,000 barrels of oil off the Nigerian coast, is the worst since the 1997 case from a Mobil Producing facility. Saraki, who was with Senators Barnabas Gemade (PDP, Benue), Boluwaji Kunlere (Labour Party, Ondo) and Ben Ayade (PDP, Cross River) at the press briefing, however expressed relief that no life was lost in the incident. He told the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to carry out an independent assessment of the spill, saying that already, Shell had taken some steps such as deploying helicopters and vessels to the spill site. Saraki lamented that NOSDRA is incapable of carrying out independent investigation because of poor equipment. "To the best of our knowledge, NOSDRA lacks the necessary equipment such as boats, vessels to navigate the typical terrain where most of these spills take place, helicopters to fly over the affected areas, buoys, barriers and most importantly, information command and control centre like other parts of the world to monitor and control this kind of spills and have to now rely almost exclusively on the grace and benevolence of the oil companies to provide them logistics, equipment and information command and control centre," he said. According to him, "This spill and the challenge in dealing with it once again underscores the need for us as a nation to strengthen the capacity of the agencies responsible and streamline our environmental regulatory framework."

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/shell-begins-clean-up-of-massive-oil-spill/105657/>



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MALAYSIA, KUALALUMPUR, DECEMBER 23 2011. PETRONAS TALKS TO SHELL, EXXON MOBIL FOR PETROCHEMICAL TIE-UP

[Petronas](#) is in talks with several oil majors including Shell and [Exxon Mobil](#) to develop petrochemical plants within its \$20 billion refinery complex in southern Malaysia, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters. Malaysia's national oil company is also talking to Japanese firms [Itochu Corp](#) and [Mitsubishi Corp](#) as well as [Dow Chemical Co](#) as it seeks to tap surging Asian demand and diversify its earnings, the sources said. Petronas is expected to make a decision on the partnerships by mid-2012, which signals it is quickly moving beyond the feasibility stage of the project. "Petronas is getting a lot of interest for the joint venture undertakings," said one source, who declined to be identified as discussions are ongoing. "They have moved to the basic engineering and design stage and after this the tendering process for building the complex will start," the source added. Petronas, Shell and Mitsubishi officials in Malaysia declined to comment. Itochu, Dow Chemical and Exxon Mobil were not immediately available for comment. Petronas first unveiled the Refinery and Petrochemicals Integrated Development (RAPID) project in May and has said the complex will be commissioned by end-2016, which both sources said was on track. The \$20 billion complex is to be built in southern Johor state which borders Singapore -- the largest oil trading hub in Asia.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international-business/petronas-talks-to-shell-exxon-for-petrochemical-tie-up/articleshow/11216800.cms>

GHANA, SHARNA, DECEMBER 24 2011. LOADED FUEL TANKER DESTROY PROPERTIES IN SHAMA



The timely arrival of Fire Service personnel from Sekondi-Takoradi saved a disaster when a tanker loaded with fuel caught fire at the Bano Filling Station at Shama on Thursday morning. The firefighters led by Reverend Micheal Nii Nunoo, Metropolitan Fire Officer, used their equipment to cool part of the tanker containing the fuel while the whole tanker was in flames. This effort prevented the spillage of fuel on the ground and thereby saved a situation that could have been very disastrous, as the fire could have spread fast, to destroy lives and nearby properties, Rev Nunoo said. Two empty tankers parked nearby were not spared from the engulfing fire as they got partly burnt while the adjoining house also had its roofing razed down. Reverend Nunoo told the GNA that on Thursday morning the office received a distress call about the fire outbreak at the filling so the men quickly rushed to the scene and went into action. He said the tanker was discharging fuel through a pipe into an underground tank, and suddenly there was spark followed by

fire, which spread very fast to damage two other empty tankers and a the roofing of a house nearby. Mr Stephen Oscar Cobinna, the Western Regional Fire Officer, has advised the public to take precautionary measures in the homes, offices and everywhere during this dry season to prevent fire outbreaks. He said the fire personnel would conduct immediate investigations the cause of the fire.

<http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2011/12/23/loaded-fuel-tanker-destroy-properties-in-shama/>

TAIWAN, TAIPEI, DECEMBER 24 2011. COMMISSION CALLS FOR CHECK ON GAS STATIONS AFTER LEAKS DISCOVERED

yang shu-min & kendra lin

The Consumer Protection Commission (CPC) demanded Friday that all of Taiwan's 2,650 gas stations be inspected after a random check by the CPC on 26 stations showed a number of pumps were leaking. The commission found that 13 fuel dispensers at 11 of the stations checked were leaking, a situation that could endanger public safety, warned CPC official Wu Cheng-hsueh. The CPC thus demanded that the Energy Bureau under the Ministry of Economic Affairs check all stations as soon as possible. The Cabinet-level commission conducted its inspection between October and November after it received a consumer complaint about a gasoline leak at a self-service station. A total of 198 stations are equipped with self-service devices, according to the bureau. Besides calling for a check on all stations, the commission also asked for the installation of devices to remove static electricity and shut-off buttons, especially as nozzles at three of the checked stations had hold-open levers, which might leak fuel if not closed properly, said Wu. The bureau said in response that all the problematic pumps discovered by the CPC had passed a Dec. 9 inspection. As for other stations around Taiwan, Energy Bureau Director-General



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Jerry Ou said he could not say whether a thorough examination would be completed next year. According to the bureau, it has checked more than 1,200 stations over the past six years.

http://focustaiwan.tw/ShowNews/WebNews_Detail.aspx?Type=aSOC&ID=201112230027

COLUMBIA, DOSQUEBRADAS, DECEMBER 24 2011. 3-FUEL PIPELINE BLAST KILLS 11 IN COLOMBIA

monica garcia

- Over 70 people injured, many in critical condition
- Blast shatters homes, firefighters search for survivors
- Too early to say if fuel thieves responsible - Santos



Dec. 23: Rescue workers search for survivors in the rubble of homes destroyed by a pipeline explosion in Dos Quebradas, Colombia.

A huge explosion at a gasoline and diesel pipeline in Colombia killed 11 people, injured at least 70, and destroyed dozens of homes on Friday, in an incident described by President Juan Manuel Santos as a "great tragedy". The explosion at a pipeline controlled by Colombia's state-owned Ecopetrol was first blamed on fuel thieves, but Santos later said it was too early to speculate on what caused the blast. "This really is a great tragedy ... For the time being there are 11 people dead, 78 injured, of which about nine or ten are in critical condition," Santos said during a

visit to the village of Dosquebradas in the western region of Risaralda, adding that there were many children among the injured. "We don't know yet what caused this tragedy. It's being investigated, we'll probably be able to establish the cause (later) today," he said, surrounded by blackened houses, while firefighters searched for survivors among the debris. Ecopetrol issued an statement earlier on Friday saying that fuel thieves probably caused the blast. "Ecopetrol regrets the incident in which several people were killed and others injured when an explosion occurred in the Salgar-Cartago pipeline ... apparently caused by people who were stealing fuel," the company said. The pipeline is about 140 miles (230 kms) long and links Salgar, in the center of the country, to western regions. "It s a enormous disgrace because people have been warned that they must not interfere with the pipeline," the mayor of Dosquebradas, Luz Ensueno Betancur, told reporters. Locals told Reuters that they were woken up by a strong gasoline odor in the wee hours of Friday and could not breath properly, which prompted many to go outdoors. "We were gasping for air, and were able to come out, but there were other people who could not leave before the flames and the explosions started," said Hugo Nelson Sanchez, whose house was destroyed. The Mining and Energy Ministry says the number of fuel thefts has fallen in recent years as the military has clamped down on illegal groups, who in the past financed themselves largely by stealing and selling crude oil, gasoline and diesel. Colombia, once dismissed as a failing state, has been improving its image by combating leftist rebels and attracting foreign investment through looser regulations, a more streamlined hydrocarbons agency, and lower taxes. However, illegal armed groups, including the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia guerrillas, are still powerful; and attacks against oil and mining companies have picked up this year. Colombia's national oil production has ramped up to a record 950,000 barrels per day as the improving security situation has allowed greater exploitation of heavy crude areas, in addition to incremental production increases at existing fields.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL1E7NNPAX20111223>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, GOONDIWINDI, DECEMBER 24 2011. HOUSES, CAR AND MAN'S HANDS DAMAGED AFTER FUEL USED TO LIGHT BARBEQUE IN GLADSTONE

rikki-lee arnold

Firefighters were kept busy with two separate incidents overnight in which one person was taken to hospital with burns to their hands. At around 7.40pm Thursday night in Gladstone, two houses and one car were damaged when fuel was used to light a barbecue. A 26-year-old man was taken to Gladstone Base Hospital with burns to his hands. Later at 1.30am crews were called to a serious house fire on Marshall St in Goondiwindi. No one was injured at the incident but a fire truck is still monitoring the house this morning. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Acting Assistant Commissioner for Central Region, Colin May, used the fires as an opportunity to remind Queenslanders to be careful with barbecue equipment this Christmas. "When using barbecues you are working with the very hazardous materials of gas and fire," he said. "It is important for people to take



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the time to check the hoses and valves on gas bottles are secure. It is also important to have your gas cylinder professionally tested before you use it."

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/houses-car-and-mans-hands-damaged-after-fuel-used-to-light-barbeque-in-gladstone/story-e6freoof-1226229091853>

USA, CT, NORWICH, DECEMBER 24 2011. BARRELS OF BIODIESEL HAULED FROM NORWICH HOME

greg smith

[Watch the Video Barrels of Biodiesel Hauled from Norwich Home](#)



A truck is towed Thursday from a home on Boswell Avenue after barrels of biodiesel were removed from its bed.

Barrels containing hundreds of gallons of improperly stored biodiesel were removed Thursday from inside and outside a two-family house at 312 Boswell Ave. The biodiesel, a fuel made from used vegetable or animal fat-based oils, was found in barrels stored inside the house and in the bed of a white pickup truck parked outside the house, state Department of Emergency and Environmental Protection Emergency Response Coordinator Rich Scalora said. Scalora said it was unclear if the unidentified owner of the truck had a permit to make or store the biodiesel, but, in any case, it was "poor housekeeping," with traces of the fuel on the sidewalk, the roadway, the porch and in the bed of the pickup truck parked outside. "The storage at a minimum was improper," Scalora said. The state contracted McVac

Environmental Services of New Haven to suck out and haul away the fuel from the containers. Crews used a power washer to clean the truck to avoid contamination before it was towed away. Crews were still working after dark to ensure none of the biodiesel was left at the scene. Scalora said the product is combustible, and the interior hallway of the two-family house "is probably not the safest place for it." The biodiesel in the truck was a potential environmental, traffic and health hazard, he said. The Norwich Fire Marshal's Office was first called to the scene Thursday morning after the discovery by Norwich Police Officer Kevin Leach. Leach initially was called to the house at about 10:30 a.m. with Norwich Blight Enforcement Officer Ed Martin to investigate a report of an abandoned truck. Two barrels of fuel were spotted in a common hallway while the two were looking for the homeowner, Leach said. Police said they are still looking for the owner of the truck. A neighbor declined comment at the scene.

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/communities/x1282421633/Hazardous-material-investigation-underway-in-Norwich#axzz1hP9revG2>

USA, DE, DELAWARE CITY, DECEMBER 24 2011. ANOTHER CHEMICAL RELEASE AT DELAWARE CITY REFINERY ACROSS RIVER FROM SALEM COUNTY REPORTED



The Delaware City Refinery can be seen from near the mouth of the Salem River in Salem County.

Less than a month after a power failure caused the release of hazardous chemicals at the Delaware City Refinery here, another release has been reported. According to radio station WDEL-AM, the incident took place early Thursday morning at the refinery located directly across the Delaware river from Salem City.

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control says the refinery released 100 gallons of sulfur dioxide into the air. On Nov. 27 a power outage at the refinery resulted in A power failure prompted the activation of incinerator towers that lit up the night sky with large flame plumes and caused rumblings heard as far east as Elmer. At the time, officials at the Delaware City Refinery reported to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control that during Sunday night's incident 1,000 pounds of carbon monoxide, 10 pounds of toxic hydrogen cyanide, 100 pounds of hydrogen sulfide and 500 pounds of sulfur dioxide were released into the air. At the time, Salem County officials were angered that they were not notified of the incident. County officials said Friday afternoon Salem County had been notified of the release. They noted they were told the sulfur dioxide did not leave the plant site.

http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/12/another_chemical_release_at_de.html



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CANADA, B.C, SAANICH, DECEMBER 24 2011. OIL TANKS POSE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS WITHOUT CAREFUL MAINTENANCE

From the 1950s through the early 1990s, oil was the energy source of choice for Greater Victoria residents to heat their homes. But last month's oil spill that saw an estimated 1,000 litres of home heating oil leak into Swan Creek and Colquitz River points to oil having the potential – in the worst-case scenario – to be an environmental disaster. "You can't even afford – and this is afford environmentally, not cost-wise – to have something like this happen and ruin the good work that people have spent years doing, re-establishing a creek to be fish-bearing," says Coun. Vicki Sanders, who chairs Saanich's environmental advisory committee. "Usually (oil spills are) not as catastrophic as this." Bradley Shuya, who owns an architectural firm in Victoria and sits on Saanich's heritage advisory committee, says oil tanks need to be properly maintained, otherwise they become ticking time bombs. "It's not if the tank will fail, it's when it will fail. Eventually it will," Shuya says. For years, homeowners on Vancouver Island, because of our physical distance from the mainland, had limited options to heat their homes. Natural gas, for example, only became available on the Island in the 1990s, when a large underwater pipeline was installed. Shuya says you can almost tell how old a house is in Greater Victoria based on its heating system. Wood stoves and coal furnaces were primarily used in the pre-1950s homes, Shuya says. Oil heating dominated the market from 1950s through the 1980s, until natural gas came to the Island. The '90s and 2000s saw gas and electric heating become the norm in new houses. And now, green technologies – like solar and geothermal – are popping up, though those options aren't in mainstream use just yet. Shuya predicts that many older home heating tanks have some kind of leakage, but he doubts homeowners even realize it. "Typically you'll find some contamination (near an oil tank)," he says. And while oil is one of the predominant methods for heating homes in Greater Victoria, time will tell how long that remains to be so. Rod Lidstone can't help but laugh when asked if home heating technology has changed much since he first became a tradesman in the early 1980s. "You can't keep up with the technology changes!" he says with a chuckle. "People are really thinking outside the box in the way we're designing heating systems. Every day we're talking about another person who's recovered some form of energy that was otherwise being lost, and is, for the most part, free – like the sun." Lidstone is chair of the pipe trades department at Camosun College. The post-secondary school's apprenticeship program covers a wide range of topics, including plumbing, air conditioning, gas fitting and home heating. But Lidstone says the technology is such these days that all sources can run efficiently, and be environmentally and economically sound. "The consumer should know that every one of these could be made very efficient with the technology out there, as long as they're properly designed and installed," he says. Coun. Sanders says she couldn't agree more. Proper installation and maintenance, especially of oil tanks, is crucial to protecting the environment. "There needs to be more in place (to inform homeowners about potential tank leaks) than just an information sheet," she says, citing possibly more stringent tank check-ups from insurance companies. With regard to the most recent spill, Saanich's manager of environmental services is concerned that if any rainfall comes, cleanup efforts in the McKenzie and Glanford avenues area will be hindered. "We're expecting that if we get heavy rain it'll agitate the vegetation, the water level will rise, and any oil that was left high and dry stuck to the vegetation could be released," says Adriane Pollard. "We're expecting we might have some residual oil, which people may notice as sheen or smell." She says it's too early to look at how to best prevent such an incident from occurring again, as well as what the long-term effects of the spill are on Colquitz River. Lidstone says homeowners should thoroughly research all energy source options before choosing how to heat their home. The environmental footprint of each source, and potential impacts if there is a failure, varies depending on where you live and the type of energy. "There's benefits and drawbacks for all of them," he says. "I think with the changing technology, we're soon going to see oil and propane and gas and electric become more of a backup (to green heating options) than anything else."

<http://www.saanichnews.com/news/136159663.html>

CANADA, MANITOBA, WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 24 2011. AMMONIUM NITRATE ADDED TO EMERGENCY REGULATIONS LIST >> BULK HANDLERS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY PLANS

Facilities that handle bulk quantities of ammonium nitrate fertilizer but don't yet have an environmental emergency plan will now have to come up with one. The product, in bulk form, is one of 41 substances that were added Wednesday to the federal Environmental Emergency Regulations, which call for development of what's dubbed an "E2" plan. E2 plans require that people and/or facilities using or storing designated substances "have plans for and can manage the consequences of an unintended release of the substance into the environment." For ammonium nitrate, the E2 hazard threshold was triggered by the chemical's "reactivity" -- a gentle way of saying the product is known also for its use in improvised explosives. The minimum threshold requiring an E2 plan is 20 tonnes, but the new rule includes an exemption for bagged ammonium nitrate sold in its



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usual 20-kg container. "These amendments to the Environmental Emergency Regulations will further protect Canadians where it matters most: at work, in their homes and in their communities," Environment Minister Peter Kent said in a release Wednesday. The Environmental Emergency Regulations came into force late in 2003, the same year in which Environment Canada pledged to evaluate 49 not-yet-listed substances for "their potential to create environmental emergencies." Ammonium nitrate, along with styrene and acetic acid, were at that time added to the list of products to be evaluated at the request of industry stakeholders. Of the 52 evaluated, 41 have now been "found to have the potential to create environmental emergencies due to their significant risk to the environment and human life in the case of accidents, vandalism or terrorist acts." Among the most infamous fertilizer-bomb attacks was the destruction of a U.S. federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995. Domestic attackers in that case detonated a combination of ammonium nitrate and motor fuel, killing over 150 people. Federal regulations already require sellers of ammonium nitrate to register with the explosives regulatory division of Natural Resources Canada, ask for proper ID from customers, provide annual inventory reports and report any suspicious activity to "appropriate authorities." The product's resale is also prohibited.

<http://www.manitobacooperator.ca/news/ammonium-nitrate-added-to-emergency-regulations-list/1000781007/>

USA, TX, DENTON, DECEMBER 24 2011. TCEQ ENDS PROBE OF SPILL >> CITY COULD FACE FINES FOR HANDLING OF DISCHARGE AT WATER TREATMENT PLANT

lowell brown

The city of Denton could face fines for a chemical spill at the Ray Roberts Lake water treatment plant after a state investigation found that workers hosed at least 5,000 gallons of a caustic solution onto the ground and failed to report it. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality ended its investigation of the August spill last week and released the findings at the request of the Denton Record-Chronicle. Investigators notified the city that the case would be referred for enforcement "due to the severity of the discharge and the impact to the environment" and for failing to notify the state within 24 hours as the law requires, according to state records. The enforcement case is being developed, including the penalty calculation, said Lisa Wheeler, a spokeswoman for the state environmental agency. Fines could reach \$10,000 per day for each violation under the commission's penalty policy, but exact amounts are assessed on a case-by-case basis, Wheeler said. TCEQ had no record of prior spills at the plant, which started operations in 2003. City officials had no immediate comment on the state's findings. The city is still working to finish the cleanup, although most of the impacted soil has been removed, stabilized and properly disposed of, city spokesman John Cabrales said. Some areas still have elevated pH levels from the discharge, which involved a diluted solution of sodium hydroxide, an additive used to increase the pH value of drinking water, he said. The cost of the cleanup has reached \$310,000, Cabrales said. The spill became public last month when staff members asked the City Council to approve rising cleanup costs. City administrators said the discharge happened as water production workers repaired a leaky pipe connection on a chlorine scrubber tank. According to state investigation reports, plant workers sealed the tank and filled it with water to ensure the leak was fixed and to dilute the remaining caustic solution. Workers then pumped the liquid into a chemical pit and onto the ground when the pit became full, investigators said. The state investigation stemmed from an anonymous complaint that a plant worker had pumped the caustic solution toward a storm drain that flows into a tributary of the Trinity River's Elm Fork, records show. An investigator arrived unannounced Aug. 11 and reported seeing a hose discharging liquid onto the ground. The on-site operations manager, Ken Hurley, said the discharge started Aug. 4 or 5 and involved an estimated 5,000 gallons, although the investigator thought more may have spilled, according to state reports. Investigators ordered a complete cleanup and monitored the process over multiple site visits, records show. The city hired Protect Environmental Services Inc., a Haltom City-based spill management and response company, to clean up the spill and remove the polluted soil. State investigators determined that "most" of the discharge was contained on plant property. They observed no stressed vegetation or dead fish in a nearby creek the discharge could have reached, records show. The plant is located northeast of Denton below the dam at Ray Roberts Lake, a source of the city's drinking water. City officials said the discharge never jeopardized the city's drinking water quality. A city news release issued Nov. 16 offered no indication that plant workers acted improperly. Through an open-records request, the Record-Chronicle obtained an earlier version of the news release that tells a different story. The document blames the discharge on "employee error and poor judgment" by a front-line supervisor who is not named. The supervisor had performed a common test to gauge the caustic solution's strength, but the test wasn't adequate to determine if the solution could be discharged onto plant grounds, the document states. "Staff will continue to finalize the emergency cleanup efforts and work internally and administratively to implement procedures to prevent future incidents of this nature," the document states. "This prevention effort will include expanded employee training on



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hazardous materials spill prevention and proper disposal." None of that language appeared in the final news release. Cabrales said the water department wrote the original document, and that the public information and city attorney's offices revised it before its release. The employee in question is a supervisor, but management within the water department was not aware of the actions or decisions until after TCEQ conducted its initial investigation Aug. 11, Cabrales said. The city is reviewing appropriate disciplinary actions for anyone at fault, but no actions have been taken, he said.

http://www.dentonrc.com/sharedcontent/dws/drc/localnews/stories/DRC_spill_1224.3698e0242.html

CANADA, N.S, SYDNEY, DECEMBER 24 2011. OIL SPILL FUND CAN'T BE USED TO REMOVE VESSEL STRANDED ON NOVA SCOTIA ISLAND



The MV Miner was being towed from Montreal to Turkey to be scrapped when it broke free and ran aground on Scatarie Island, a provincially designated wilderness management area, on Sept. 20.

The administrator of a special fund set up to deal with oil spills says it can't be used to remove the wreckage of the MV Miner from the shoals of an island off Cape Breton. Alfred Popp says in order for the Ship-Source Oil Pollution Fund to be utilized there has to be oil pollution or some threat of oil pollution. Popp says the fund was originally set up under the Marine Liabilities Act in 1989 and funds are paid out through contributions from the oil industry. He says he has yet to receive an application from the Canadian Coast Guard, but he expects they will be

applying to the fund to recoup the cost of removing 10,000 litres of marine diesel oil from the MV Miner, estimated at about \$250,000. Popp adds the only way to alter the criteria for tapping into the funds would be through changing the legislation. Sydney-Victoria MP Mark Eyking and Cape Breton-Canso MP Rodger Cuzner have been pressuring Ottawa to access the fund. Eyking said he would like to see legislation changed to cover situations such as the MV Miner incident. The Greek ocean-going tug Hellas had been towing the bulk container vessel when its line broke free and the ship ran aground on Scatarie Island, a provincially designated wilderness management area, on Sept. 20. It was on its way from Montreal to Turkey, where it was supposed to be scrapped.

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/46080-oil-spill-fund-can-t-be-used-remove-vessel-stranded-nova-scotia-island>

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, DECEMBER 25 2011. PETROL PIRATES TO PAY \$500

chris robinson



New Rules: Motorists who drive off without paying for their petrol are being targeted by police.

Motorists who drive away from petrol stations without paying will cop an automatic \$500 fine - regardless of intent - under proposed changes to crack down on fuel thieves. In what would be an Australian first, WA Police are working on new legislation to remove the intent aspect of drive-offs, effectively ruling out the excuse of people "forgetting" to pay for fuel. At the moment, police have to prove a motorist intentionally drove off without paying, making it difficult to lead to a conviction. The Motor Trade Association of WA, which has worked closely with police in developing the legislation,

estimated there were more than 54,000 drive-offs a year in the metropolitan area. MTA WA chief executive Stephen Moir said the proposed changes would help significantly reduce the number of drive-offs, which tended to be more common as the price of petrol went up. "It's a relatively easy solution to a very big problem," he said. "(With a) \$500 infringement notice you may very well have forgotten (to pay), but you won't forget again," he said. Mr Moir said the association and service station owners would be "absolutely delighted" if the new rules were put in place, with the changes set to save the industry an estimated \$5 million a year. "It has a substantial impact, because the majority of petrol stations are (owned by) small business people. When you're having to cost in \$100,000 or \$200,000 a year in petrol drive-offs or stock shrinkage, that's a hell of a task," he said. "It does indirectly affect the pricing of petrol, so it's part of a bigger solution that everybody will win at if we can get it through." Mr Moir was confident the legislation would be finalised early next year. Assistant Commissioner Stephen Brown confirmed police had begun to "assess legislative options that would simplify prosecution" of drive-off offences. "One option that will be considered as part of this project will be the creation of a new offence of stealing fuel from a petrol station forecourt," he said.



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One WA franchise operator, who did not want to be named, said drive-offs cost his seven stations \$33,000 last financial year. "There are always the ones who do forget (to pay), but they usually come back so fast it's not funny," he said. "We do have lots of repeat offenders who do it and get away with it, and now they, hopefully, won't be able to get away with it. "They have to do something to reduce the amount of fuel drive-offs in WA, and it would be fantastic to see something like this. I think it's well and truly overdue."

<http://www.perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/petrol-pirates-to-pay-500/story-e6frg143-1226229926529>

AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, LARGS, DECEMBER 25 2011. FUEL DEPOT FIRE EXTINGUISHED >> BIODIESEL

lachlan pryor

Map: [Largs North 5016](#)



Fire crews work to put out the fire.

A significant fire at a fuel depot at Largs North has been extinguished. At the height of the blaze, smoke and fire was highly visible in and around the fuel depot on Willochra St, Largs North. Twelve MFS appliances and 55 firefighters responded to the fire, which was burning in a large bulk fuel storage tank at the depot. The blaze, which began at about 7.30pm, was brought under control and extinguished within an hour. Road blocks that were present in the area have now been removed and MFS crews will remain on scene overnight to ensure the area is safe. MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton said: "Through a rapid response and diligent work, firefighters have managed

to bring this situation to a successful conclusion. "Residents should not be concerned if they notice residual smoke in and around Largs North. Any residents with respiratory issues who may be affected by smoke, are advised to remain indoors and to close doors and windows until the smoke passes." Chief Officer Lupton said.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/industrial-blaze-at-largs-north/story-e6frea83-1226230064958>

USA, PA, JAMISON, DECEMBER 25 2011. 500 GALLONS OF GASOLINE SPILLED IN JAMISON

george mattar

A gasoline tanker truck leaked about 500 gallons of gasoline near York and Almshouse roads on Friday. The spill occurred shortly after 7 p.m. when a customer drove over gasoline hoses rupturing them as a delivery driver was pumping gas into tanks at Quality Gas, near the intersection, said Warwick Police Chief Mark Goldberg. No one was injured during the incident at Jamison Auto Service. in the area of 2140 York Road was closed almost immediately and was expected to be closed, possibly until early Saturday. Between 500 and 800 gallons of gasoline spilled before the delivery truck driver was able to shut off a valve. Firefighters from several companies including Warwick and the Bucks County Hazardous Incident Response Team were at the scene. Firefighters used dikes and giant absorbent materials to soak up the gasoline. An undetermined amount of gas spread onto an adjacent property, the Jamison Pour House, a restaurant. Crews determined that gasoline vapors were creating a hazard in the parking lot. The restaurant was evacuated and closed for the evening.

Firefighters and environmental officials used metering devices to check nearby buildings, but did not detect hazardous levels of gas, the chief said.

http://www.phillyburbs.com/my_town/warrington/gallons-of-gasoline-spilled-in-jamison/article_6e7d8fdf-d31a-5635-9e0f-784cc7b8525d.html

CLEARFIELD, DECEMBER 25 2011. 37 CLEARFIELD HOMES TO BE SAMPLED FOR WATER CONTAMINATION

tanna woods

Groundwater contamination is not causing any problems for Clearfield residents, according to continuing studies being done by the base. Shannon Smith, from the Hill Air Force Base environmental restoration directorate, updated the city council about the indoor sampling program and groundwater contamination recently during a regularly meeting. A number of communities surrounding HAFB have contaminated areas of groundwater -- not drinking water -- from chemicals historically disposed of on base, according to a base report. The Clearfield contamination generally consists of shallow trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene, plus a deeper trichloroethene plume. Both chemicals were used as chlorinated solvents in vehicle and munitions maintenance from the end of World War II to the 1960s, according to the report. The base has been monitoring those plumes to see if they are spreading. The report notes that in most cases there is no threat of exposure to the chemicals



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by contact with groundwater because it is not used as a drinking water supply. However, the base monitors indoor air samples to ensure chemical vapors are not evaporating into the homes from the groundwater. There are 142 affected acres in Clearfield, with 300 to 350 homes in the area. According to the base report, the plumes continue to be stable. In 2012, there will be 37 homes sampled. That is down from the 48 sampled in 2011. There have been 168 sampled since 2003. City Manager Adam Lenhard said that every year those residents in the affected areas get a letter from the base, giving them the chance to have monitoring equipment installed to check for concerns. "Many residents don't choose to have that done, but some do," he said, noting that only one home had any concern and that was found to be an in-home source and not related to the plume. "That is good news," he said. The base is working on a treatability plan that includes hybrid poplar trees planted near the base boundary and Universal Rent-All property. The plan was started in 2009. By July 2013, the hope is to develop a feasibility study evaluating cleanup options and to choose one by February 2014, according to the report presented at the council meeting. Lenhard said it's good the base is making the effort to monitor the plumes and remedy any problems. "We are very appreciative of the base's continuing efforts to monitor the plumes and the ground water," he said. "We are always extremely concerned with the health and safety of our residents. That is a priority." He added that these tests help ensure that the plumes are monitored and any potential effects identified. "We are glad they are taking care of these issues appropriately."

<http://www.standard.net/stories/2011/12/23/37-clearfield-homes-be-sampled-water-contamination>

AFGHANISTAN, KABUL, DECEMBER 25 2011. FIVE DIE OF ALCOHOL POISONING AT AFGHAN WEDDING PARTY >> DRINKING ETHANOL

Five young people have died of alcohol poisoning after drinking ethanol at a wedding party in the Afghan capital, an official said Sunday. Another seven are in a critical condition in hospital after the party on Friday night, said Kabul's criminal investigation chief Mohammad Zahir. Alcohol is illegal in the Islamic country and under sharia law those who buy, sell, or consume alcohol can be fined or imprisoned. But many young Afghans resort to buying alcohol on the black market or risk drinking adulterated home brews. "Five people have died and seven were admitted to hospital in a critical condition after drinking ethanol during a wedding party", Zahir said, adding that the victims were all aged between 18 and 20. A spokesman for the ministry of health said 20 people were initially admitted to hospital and 11 had to have their stomachs pumped. He did not have figures on how many fatalities there were.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/NewsDetail.aspx?ID=29347&title=5-Afghan-die-of-alcohol-poisoning>

USA, MA, CAPE COD, DECEMBER 25 2011. ARGO MERCHANT OIL SPILL WAS CATALYST FOR CHANGE

doreen leggett



The Argo Merchant oil spill changed the way the Cape handles emergencies.

On Dec. 15, 1976, the tanker Argo Merchant ran aground on Nantucket Shoals. When less than a week later it broke in half and spilled enough oil to heat 18,000 homes for a year, residents of the Cape and Islands began imagining the worst. "It was a scary time," recalled Richard Delaney, who was then regional coordinator for the state Coastal Zone Management Office. Back then, he said, the name of the Liberian-flagged tanker was as seared on the nation's consciousness as the Exxon Valdez would be years later. Richard Hiscock was working as a volunteer assistant harbormaster in Chatham at the time and remembers his boss, Peter Ford, going up to the Coast Guard's incident command center at Otis Air Force Base every day and returning with the most-recent coordinates of the spill. "We had a big chart spread out on a big piece of plywood," said Hiscock, who now lives in Vermont. "We plotted where the oil was every day and hoped it wasn't heading toward us." Luckily, the

wind shifted to the northwest so it never impacted the Cape at all. But the huge amount of oil, No. 6 crude, which Hiscock said has the consistency of molasses – served as a wake-up call for the peninsula. While close to 8 million gallons of oil was covering the water 25 miles southeast of Nantucket, it became clear to those on the Cape that they were woefully unprepared. "At that time there was no oil spill response equipment available to anyone, there was no local training, there was no oil spill contingency plan ... all that came about in response to that oil spill," said Hiscock. The good news was that the spill was a catalyst and CZM, as well as other local and regional agencies, began formulating the Cape's response plan – a huge document written in 1979. The wreck also gave the Coast Guard, which rescued the crew early and later shot the bow to sink



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it, more authority when it came to menaces off the coast. According to retired Coast Guard Captain Dennis Bryant, the US Government refused to grant permission for the jettisoning of cargo in an attempt to lighten the ship. But although the prevailing wind and current carried the oil offshore and away from rich fishing grounds nearby, publicity surrounding the casualty resulted in Congress adopting the Port and Tanker Safety Act of 1978, giving the Coast Guard increased authority to inspect and regulate tank vessels, foreign and domestic, operating in US waters. The spill was the largest in U.S. history to that date. "If (the wind) had gone the other way it would have been a real disaster," said Delaney. Delaney hired Mark Robinson, now the executive director of Cape Compact of Conservation Trusts then just out of college, to work with towns and agencies to draw up the oil spill contingency plan for the county and to do oil spill response training. Among other facets the regional oil spill response plans identified the resources (heavy machinery owned by towns and local contractors) where they were and how to get them, as well as the chain of command, Robinson said. The plans also mapped out some of the Cape's most vulnerable resources so if oil does wash ashore, equipment, such as booms and absorbent pillows, can be placed in the most sensitive areas. Grant funding also provided towns those tools. The plan is still updated regularly – Delaney took the original off the shelf at his office in the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies this year to show to members of the Coast Guard who were working on a new version. And fire and harbor masters' departments across the Cape still do trainings once a year to prepare for a possible emergency. "We were lucky with the Argo Merchant," said Delaney. Now, Cape officials hope they are both lucky and prepared.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/chatham/news/x545130649/Argo-Merchant-oil-spill-was-catalyst-for-change#axzz1ha7rhUsx>

CHINA, JIANGSU PROVINCE, NANJING, DECEMBER 26 2011. CHINA PIPELINE BLAST LEAVES 12 DEAD, OVER 300 HURT >> POWERFUL EXPLOSION TRIGGERED WHEN A CHEMICAL PIPELINE IGNITED IN EASTERN CHINA



An injured man is shifted from the site of an explosion at a plastics factory in Nanjing, China, on Wednesday.

At least 12 people died and more than 300 were injured by a powerful explosion triggered when a chemical pipeline ignited in eastern China on Wednesday, state media said. Footage broadcast on state television showed a billowing column of flame and a plume of thick black smoke drifting over the city of Nanjing after the blast, which toppled nearby factory buildings. The blast occurred in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu province, shortly after 10.00am (0200 GMT) and caused heavy damage to the surrounding area, reports said. Many hospitals had almost exhausted their blood stocks and local residents were rushing to mobile collection vehicles to donate blood, the official Xinhua news agency said. "Many residents have been injured and sent to hospitals, we urgently need a lot of blood," the Jiangsu provincial blood centre appealed on its website. State television said 12 people had died, without saying where the information was obtained from. Xinhua said earlier its reporters had seen six people recorded as dead at nearby hospitals. The explosion reportedly occurred on the grounds of an abandoned plastics factory when a pipeline carrying ethylene blew up. The blast also blew out windows and caused damage to businesses and residences up to 300 metres away, while people further away fled their buildings, thinking an earthquake had struck. More than 300 people were rushed to local hospitals for treatment, including 52 with serious injuries, the China News Service said. State television put the injured at more than 100, 15 of them seriously. The explosion hit a bus passing through the area, injuring many passengers, Xinhua said. Photos posted on the internet showed at least one bus that had been completely burnt out, leaving only a charred skeleton. "There are dozens of injured in our hospital. Their situations are not serious, most of them suffered burns," said a doctor at the city's Zhongda hospital, who refused to identify herself. "Nobody has died in our hospital. There are injured people in every big hospital in Nanjing." Xinhua said the fire triggered by the blast had been brought under control. Deadly industrial accidents are routine in China, where basic safety provisions are often ignored. Last week, an oil pipeline exploded in the northeastern port city of Dalian, triggering a spectacular blaze that burned throughout the weekend and spilled about 1,500 tonnes of oil into the Yellow Sea off Liaoning province. The incident was one of China's worst-ever oil spills.

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/world/china-pipeline-blast-leaves-12-dead-over-300-hurt-2010-07-28-1.272086>

CHINA, JIANGSU PROVINCE, JIANGYIN, DECEMBER 26 2011. 8 DIE IN E CHINA FACTORY GAS LEAK

The death toll from a gas leak in east China Jiangsu Province has climbed to eight after six more workers died Sunday, local official sources said. The accident occurred at a wire factory in Jiangyin city at around 9:10 a.m., when gas leaked from a



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malfunctioning stove and intoxicated 25 workers at the site, the city government said in a statement. Another 21 workers who did not feel very well also went to hospital. As of 8 p.m., one worker was in critical condition while the others were in stable condition, the city government said. An investigation on the accident is under way.

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2011/12/25/2743s673166.htm>

VIETNAM, THAI BINH, DECEMBER 26 2011. MAN JAILED FOR MAKING FIREWORKS AFTER BLAST

Doan Van Dung, a 32-year-old man who was alleged of illegally producing fireworks and causing a large explosion on Saturday afternoon in northern Thai Binh Province, was temporarily jailed and prosecuted on the same day. Colonel Tran Xuan Tuyet, director of the Thai Binh Department of Public Security, revealed the news, adding that Dung's sister had died in the explosion that had also caused injuries to her husband and family. Other houses in the neighbourhood also suffered damage, with windows and doors shattered. A neighbour said he was awoken by a deafening noise and strong vibrations and found broken glass in his yard. "We ran to the house to find the door closed, and we had to break in," said the neighbour. "The scene was terrible, the house was almost completely destroyed with bricks scattered and smoke everywhere." He added that two motorbikes were on fire and a large amount of blood was found in the kitchen, and the scent of fireworks could be smelt everywhere. Doan Van Dung said he was rolling the fireworks in the kitchen when the explosion occurred. The cause of the explosion is so far unknown, but according to the police, judging from the extent of the explosion, the quantity of explosives must have been substantial. Further investigations are ongoing.

<http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/politics-laws/law-justice/219069/man-jailed-for-making-fireworks-after-blast.html>

ARGENTIA, BUENOS AIRES, DECEMBER 26 2011. 1 DEAD, SOME 200 INJURED AFTER CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

One man died and some 200 were injured as a result of careless use of fireworks during Christmas celebrations in Argentina, the country's Health Ministry reported. A 27-year old man was hospitalized in the city of Granadero Baigorria after a firecracker exploded in his mouth but doctors were unable to save his life. The ministry said that a total of 193 people were hospitalized after the Christmas festivities with two third of them being residents of the country's capital, Buenos Aires. Most of the hospitalized are children and teenagers, who sustained burns of hands and legs as well as damages to their eyes. An 8-year old boy sustained 37 percent of burns to his body after a firecracker flew into a window of his room starting a fire. Last Christmas some 180 Argentineans were hospitalized for the same reasons.

<http://en.ria.ru/world/20111226/170491416.html>

USA, KY, CALVERT CITY, DECEMBER 26 2011. CRASH AND CHEMICAL SPILL CLOSE I-24 RAMP IN CALVERT CITY

jeff mulligan

 **Watch the Video** <http://www.kfvs12.com/story/16391892/crash-and-chemical-spill-close-i-24-ramp-in-calvert-city>



An early morning wreck creates a traffic nightmare for drivers in western Kentucky. The wreck happened Sunday morning at the I-24 exit number 25. That's right at the Purchase Parkway interchange at Calvert City. Officials say a vehicle carrying a load of corrosive chemicals crashed at that exit. According to Marshall County Emergency Management, the material is a caustic solution of Potassium Hydroxide and Potassium Carbonate used in many industrial processes. It is not considered a threat to the community. Following HAZMAT guidelines, a 150 ft. perimeter has been established around the crash site. An environmental clean-up crew is on site. Due to difficulty of off-loading 10 bulk containers of material estimated at 39,900 pounds, the ramps may be blocked for an extended period, according to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. The Emergency Response Team and the environmental response crew on site indicate it may take 10 to 12 hours for

completion of recovery effort. The crash is blocking the Westbound I-24 ramp to southbound Purchase Parkway. The Southbound Purchase Parkway to Westbound I-24 ramp is closed as a precaution because it is downwind of the crash. The exit will be closed for most of the day. According to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, traffic continues to be light. Most local drivers are self-detouring around the site. KYTC is concerned for out of state drivers who may not be aware of the fairly short detour via US 62 at I-24 Exit 27.

<http://www.kfvs12.com/story/16391892/crash-and-chemical-spill-close-i-24-ramp-in-calvert-city>



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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2011 – 793 Newsy Stuff

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

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PHILLIPINES, MANILA, DECEMBER 27 2011. Boy killed as firecrackers explode inside trike

A boy was killed while his father was injured after firecrackers accidentally exploded inside a tricycle in Norzagaray, Bulacan Monday evening. Victim John Ezekiel de Silva died after firecrackers exploded inside the tricycle driven by his father, Noli. Fire official Ronnie Gatmaitan said the explosion was so hard that John Ezekiel was thrown away from the tricycle. Noli survived the incident but is at risk of becoming blind due to the severe burns on his head. He was transferred to a hospital in Malolos City after receiving initial treatment in Norzagaray Municipal Hospital. Senior Police Inspector 1 (SPO1) Dennis Diaz of Norzagaray Police said a receipt recovered in the blast site showed that the victims carried P14,000 worth of illegal firecrackers and raw materials. He said the merchant who sold the firecrackers to the victims may be held liable for the explosion. Diaz said the victims bought the firecrackers from Bulacan's firecracker hub of Bocaue, and were supposed to bring them to Nueva Ecija. Investigators believed that sparks from the exhaust pipe of the tricycle ignited the fireworks, causing an explosion.

<http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/nation/regions/12/27/11/boy-killed-firecrackers-explode-inside-trike>

USA, FLA, FORT MYERS, DECEMBER 27 2011. ACCIDENT LEADS TO GAS PUMP FIRE

 **Watch the Video**

- [Gas pump explosion](#)
- [Accident leads to gas pump fire](#)



A man was able to walk away without any injuries after his pickup truck crashed into a gas pump and caught on fire. It happened at Palm Beach Boulevard and Marsh in Fort Myers. The accident happened at the Shell Gas Station shortly before 9 a.m. Monday and at 11 a.m., crews were still cleaning up. The gas pump was pushed about 15 feet from where it was into the middle of the parking lot. Fire officials we spoke to say t it was all a result of a car crash. They say a pickup truck was slammed into from behind by another vehicle. The driver lost control and ultimately crashed into the gas pump. The pump caught fire and the fire quickly spread to the truck. But with some quick thinking, the driver was able to get out

unharmd. Fort Myers Police are working to track down the other vehicle in the crash.

<http://www.abc-7.com/story/16393417/2011/12/26/gas-pump-fire-slows-traffic-on-palm-beach>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, DECEMBER 27 2011. STATEMENT OF CSB CHAIRMAN RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO FOLLOWING FATAL FIRE AT EASTERN OHIO HAZARDOUS WASTE STORAGE AND PROCESSING FACILITY – TRAGEDY EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF AN NATIONAL FIRE CODE FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE HANDLING

 **Watch the Video** [Investigation Video](#)

 **Related Links** - Investigation Details

- [EQ Hazardous Waste Plant Explosions and Fire](#)
- [Veolia Environmental Services Flammable Vapor Explosion and Fire](#)



On May 4, 2009, flammable vapors were suddenly released into the atmosphere. The vapors found an ignition source, leading to an explosion and fire that seriously injured two workers and damaged twenty residences.

Statement:

Today as many people enjoy a holiday season spent with friends and family, I would like to call attention to a recent tragedy that occurred late last week in eastern Ohio. On December 17, 2011, a chemical fire occurred at Heritage-WTI, Inc. which resulted in two workers being seriously burned, one of whom succumbed to his injuries days later. Heritage-WTI, Inc. is hazardous waste storage and processing facility located in East Liverpool, Ohio. According to company officials a flash fire occurred when workers were splitting a large solid waste drum of hazardous

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flammable inorganic material into smaller storage drums. Unfortunately accidents at hazardous waste processing facilities are all too common. The CSB investigated a major fire in 2006 at the [Environmental Quality Company \(EQ\)](#), a hazardous waste facility located in Apex, North Carolina, which resulted in the evacuation of thousands of residents for two days. The CSB's [EQ case study](#) found 21 other fire and chemical release incidents at hazardous waste facilities in the United States that occurred from 2002 – 2007. These incidents resulted in two fatalities, 16 injuries, and eight community evacuations, shelter-in-place events, or transportation disruptions. The CSB also investigated a 2009 explosion and fire at the [Veolia ES Technical Solutions](#) L.L.C. facility in West Carrollton, Ohio. The accident occurred when flammable vapor was released from a waste recycling process, ignited, and violently exploded. The blast seriously injured two workers and damaged 20 nearby residences and five businesses. As a result of these two investigations, the Chemical Safety Board issued recommendations to the [Environmental Technology Council \(ETC\)](#), a hazardous waste industry trade group. Specifically, one of the recommendations is to petition the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), a developer of U.S. fire prevention codes, to issue a standard specific to hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. The standard would provide guidance to prevent the occurrence of fires, explosions, and releases at these types of facilities. This recommendation has still yet to be implemented. The [second recommendation](#) to ETC was to develop its own guidance document for its members on the safe processing, handling and storage of hazardous waste. Heritage-WTI, Inc as well as all ETC members would receive this document. It is the CSB's view that the ETC's petition to the NFPA will lead to the development of a national standard that will improve safety practices at hazardous waste treatment plants across the country.

www.csb.gov

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, MADURAI, DECEMBER 27 2011. PANCHAYAT TO STOP VILLAGE FIRECRACKER INDUSTRY

padmini sivarajah

Alarmed by the high number of maimed people in their village, a panchayat in Dindigul district passed a resolution on Monday against the functioning of fireworks units in its limits. About 50 people in this village, who have lost either one or two limbs due to [accidents caused by fireworks](#), are a common sight on the streets. Veerakal village in Athoor union of Dindigul district is like Sivakasi in its climate. About two decades ago, two manufacturers decided to bank on the availability of cheap labour and start their own fireworks units here. They manufactured fireworks burst during temple festivals in the region, mainly catering to the needs of local customers. Lured by the success of these manufacturers, locals started their own units in their homes, making the village a high-risk one. An accident that occurred in one of these factories on December 15, killing two women, has rendered three young girls as orphans as their mother Madhavi (45) succumbed to injuries on Sunday. The three girls, Gokila (15), Saritha and Suryakala had also lost their father to a fire accident last year. Their mother took up the job as she was able to keep their life going with about Rs 300 that she earned by working overtime. "We were scared after our father's death, but she continued to work there," they said. Speaking to The Times of India, V Thangavel, president of the panchayat said he wanted all the fireworks units including the licensed ones to withdraw from the village. "When we approach the police, we are told that two persons have got proper licences, but the problem is they are sourcing raw materials to all the 20-odd unlicensed ones," he said, adding all the illegal units were run in single rooms and were situated near anganwadis and schools. Seenivas Perumal (35), who lost a limb in an accident, said it seemed like a very profitable business to him before the accident. "We could manufacture Rs 15,000 worth fireworks by purchasing raw materials including chemicals for just Rs 500, but I failed to realise that a single bang could bring my life to a standstill," he said. Dindigul district collector K Nagarajan, who suspended the VAO of the village following the December 15 accident, has stepped up vigil and authorities are raiding homes for illegal units. But a villager says that hoarding of chemicals and raw materials in neighbouring Dharmathupatti is rampant and that fireworks are also stored in Kombai and Kombaikaradu. Also, Sempatti inspector Ganeshan, who was transferred to the Armed Reserve police following the recent accident, is back in his seat according to villagers. According to available records in the Sempatti police station, seven people have died in fireworks accidents in the illegal units in Veerakal in the last five years. "But, the authorities and police have certain arrangements with the manufacturers, which makes it difficult to initiate action," said the panchayat president, who is determined to put an end to this menace through Monday's resolution. "We will urge the district administration to withdraw all licences, because our village with a population of about 1,500 is in no way suitable for this dangerous and hazardous industry," he said.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/madurai/Panchayat-to-stop-village-firecracker-industry/articleshow/11261567.cms>



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