



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 816 Newsy Stuff

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USA, FLA, DELEON SPRINGS, FEBRUARY 19 2012. DELEON SPRINGS CONTAMINATION CLEANUP TO START AGAIN >> \$8 MILLION CLEANUP

patricio g. balona

Cezar Perez stared at the sandy ground in his yard and wondered how a dig over the next five months will affect his business. On Monday, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will start the second phase of a four-part, \$8 million cleanup plan to remove gasoline-contaminated soil at the corner of U.S. 17 and Baxter Street. The dig will be in Perez's backyard, which he uses as a parking lot for customers who come to his car-stereo installation business. "Not only will I not have a parking lot but they are cutting out my water and electricity during the project," Perez said. "And then they tell me I can still open my business. It's very disconcerting to have to hear what they tell you." Perez said he has started looking for a job to so he can make the mortgage payments for his property. Universal Solutions of Tampa, the contractor hired to clean up the gasoline soaked soil, will bring in equipment that will remove asphalt, concrete and septic tanks. Safety controls will also be set up on Perez's property, said DEP spokeswoman Jennifer Diaz. Diaz said an "augering system" will be used to remove contaminated soil. The auger, or large drilling device, leaves an open column or "borehole" that is then filled with clean material, Diaz said. Since DEP's contractor will be digging up his yard, U.S. 17 will not be closed to traffic, Perez said. The DEP has been unsuccessfully trying to clean up the contamination since 1989 when leaking tanks were changed at the gas station that is now a Valero, east of Perez's property. Business owners along the U.S. 17 corridor, which makes up the downtown of DeLeon Springs, believe the process is good but preferred a more complete cleanup of Perez's property. The cleanup will bypass the worst contamination core, which lies under Perez's property, according to a study submitted to DEP by Universal Solutions. Amy Munizzi is a member of the DeLeon Springs Association and heads the DeLeon Springs Utility Task Force, a group looking to revitalize the downtown. DEP initially offered to buy Perez's property opposite the Valero gas station identified as the source of the leak, to demolish the building so Perez could rebuild. DEP offered Perez \$55,000 and lately said it has no money for the building. The second phase of the clean up will cost \$2.5 million. "Obviously what we preferred would have been for DEP to take the building down and clean under it," Munizzi said. "We believe that the worst contamination is under there." Munizzi said DEP's offer to Perez put him in a very difficult position. "Perez had to say no because he would have lost his livelihood and would not have been able to rebuild to county code with that money," Munizzi said. "It's not the type of cleanup we wanted but we are grateful that more of the contaminated soil is being removed."

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/local/west-volusia/2012/02/19/deleon-springs-contamination-cleanup-to-start-again.html>

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI, FEBRUARY 20 2012. DUBAI CREEK FIRE REFUSES TO DIE DOWN AFTER EXPLOSIONS FROM OIL PRODUCTS ON BOAT

bindu rai



Fire spread to Bur Dubai side of the creek as one of the boats floated towards Al Seef Road. Two more explosions were heard from the Creek at around 6pm and 6:30pm on Sunday from the blaze that had started on the boats on Saturday. One of the boats involved in the incident was said to have been loaded with cars and petroleum products. The fire that started on Saturday has spread to the Bur Dubai side as one of the boats was said to have floated to the Al Seef Road side. "The sky is black with the smoke," a resident of Dubai who was visiting Bur Dubai, told Emirates 24/7. "The police have partially opened the road, but the one from Al Seef Road towards Bur Juman is still closed to traffic," she said. Another witness, Mukhtar Khan, said: "Water is still being sprayed. Flames are still visible with two sporadic explosion some 30 minutes apart. "There is oil on the boats which is why

the fire is not extinguishing." The charred remains are piled on the Al Seef side of the Creek. The one boat that is still ablaze is still afloat. Smoke has covered the skies while an acrid smell pervades the atmosphere and has permeated the homes of nearby tenants, said an eyewitness.

Earlier Story

The firefighters of Civil Defence in Dubai brought the fire, which broke out on late Saturday evening at 8.20pm in dhows in Dubai Creek near Dubai Municipality under control. One of the boats was loaded with 17 cars and petroleum products. Major Ali Hassan Al Mutawa, Director of Operations Department at the Directorate of Civil Defence in Dubai, who supervised the fire



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extinguishing operation, said squads were able to prevent the spread of fire to the neighbouring boats. He added that an Asian sailor was injured in the incident and has been treated, adding that the operation to control the fire lasted for three hours. Al Mutawa said that the investigation was under way to establish the causes of incident.

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/dubai-creek-fire-refuses-to-die-down-after-explosions-from-oil-products-on-boat-2012-02-19-1.443650>

USA, OH, YOUNGSTOWN, FEBRUARY 20 2012. HOUSE CATCHES FIRE AS RESULT OF GAS TANKER SPILL

 **Watch the Video** [House Catches Fire](#)

For the past 50 years, Sam and Barbara Caffey have lived on Division Street on Youngstown's West Side. When a gas tanker crashed on the 711 connector back in 2006, they smelled the fumes and were evacuated, but their house didn't sustain any damage. They weren't as lucky when another gas tanker crashed in the same spot this past Tuesday. "I never thought it would happen again," said Sam Caffey. The Caffeys live right next to the 711 connector. They say they didn't hear it, but the tanker crashed actually about half a mile from their house. They did hear the fire start in their home. "I ran downstairs, and I saw fire all over the place," Sam Caffey explains. "I was shocked. I didn't know what happened because the flames jumped up so big, so quick, I didn't have any idea what happened." "All of a sudden the ceiling just went up, and then it came down ... it knocked my votive cups off over there," said his wife, Barbara Caffey. Sam got the fire mostly contained before firefighters arrived. "If we hadn't of been home, this house would have burned down to the ground, I know it would have," said Sam. Firefighters evacuated the couple, who are now staying with their daughter a couple miles away. Their home sustained at least \$8,000 of damage. Although it's covered by insurance, they said what's most frustrating is the inconvenience. "It's been terrible, it's terrible," Barbara said. "It was real scary, it was his [the driver's] fault that he turned the truck over and caused all this strain and frustration for us." They don't know when they'll be allowed to move back in, not just because of the fumes, but also because their house is also now structurally damaged. "We're really upset, I mean it's heart-wrenching," said Sam.

<http://www.wkbn.com/mostpopular/story/House-Catches-Fire-as-Result-of-Gas-Tanker-Spill/H8SkpL7ankuA2iTB21VUuA.csp>

SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH, FEBRUARY 20 2012. EXXONMOBIL FINED 'RECORD' £2.8M OVER CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS



ExxonMobil said it regretted the errors which were reported as soon as they were identified.

Energy giant ExxonMobil was fined £2.8m for failing to report carbon dioxide emissions from its Mossmorran chemical plant in Fife, it has emerged. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency said there had been no direct environmental impact. The fine, believed to be the biggest ever in the UK, dates to 2010 but the details have only just been published. ExxonMobil said it regretted the errors, which were reported as soon as they were identified. In its 2008 report to Sepa the company failed to account for 33,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from its ethylene plant in

Mossmorran and Sepa issued the fine in 2010. Details only came to light in a [report published by Sepa last week](#). The agency said the penalty was a mandatory consequence of breaching the EU emissions trading scheme. A spokesman for ExxonMobil, which describes itself as the world's largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, said the inaccuracies were identified by the company's internal systems and were immediately reported to the regulator. He said: "In the past two years ExxonMobil Chemical Limited has made significant investments at Fife to reduce NOx and CO2 emissions. "ExxonMobil regrets the errors relating to the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions under the European Union Emissions Trading System. "ExxonMobil believes that the risks posed by rising greenhouse gas emissions to society are serious enough to warrant action - by individuals, by businesses and society."

'Big Message'

Firms found to have misreported their greenhouse gas emissions can be fined 100 euros or £83 for every tonne they miss. The money has been passed to the Scottish government to fund a series of environmental projects. A Scottish government spokesman said: "Ministers accept that there was no intention to mislead and it was a genuine error. There are mandatory penalties in such cases and Sepa has done its job in applying them." Sepa said the fine was a civil penalty and it was not required to carry out an investigation or report the matter to the procurator fiscal. WWF Scotland's director Richard Dixon said:



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"You would assume that Exxon are now very careful to report the right data but this massive fine is a big message to others to get it right."

 **Related Links** [Watchdog names top polluters](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-edinburgh-east-fife-17089378>

INDIA, BANGALORE, FEBRUARY 20 2012.. PETROL STATION EMPLOYEE BURNED IN TOILET BLAST

An employee was badly burnt after an explosion rocked the toilet of an IOC petrol station in Bannerghatta on Saturday evening. According to the police, seconds after Nagaraj (30) had gone to use the toilet around 6 p.m., there was an explosion. Among the many angles being probed, the police believe that the most likely explanation was that the victim tried to light a match to smoke inside the toilet. They are also probing if there was any leakage or even pilferage of fuel from the station. The pilfered or leaked fuel might have been close to the toilet," said a police official. The condition of the victim was stated to be serious.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/article2908007.ece>

USA, PA, WASHINGTON CO, ROBINSON TWP, FEBRUARY 20 2012. DEP INVESTIGATES SPILL AT GAS WELL SITE IN WASHINGTON CO.

don hopey

The state Department of Environmental Protection is continuing its investigation of the second spill in three months of condensate - "wet gases" and contaminated drilling liquids - at a Chevron-Appalachia Marcellus Shale gas well operation in Robinson Township, Washington County. John Poister, a DEP spokesman, said today the spilled condensate was discovered last Thursday by a township employee inspecting a gas pipeline facility nearby. The spill had run into Bigger Run Creek, a tributary of Raccoon Creek. He had no information about whether fish or aquatic life were killed, but cleanup crews placed absorbent material in the creek on Friday. Mr. Poister said he did not know how much condensate material was spilled. He said DEP is trying to determine the amount and the cause. Department investigators were at the scene Friday and plan to return this week. Mr. Poister said Chevron-Appalachia is continuing remediation work that started in December when the first condensate spill occurred. The company has dug up and filled more than 10 Dumpsters with contaminated soil. The DEP has not issued a violation notice for either spill.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/12050/1211352-100.stm>

NIGERIA, LAGOS, FEBRUARY 20 2012. WHY CHEVRON RIG FIRE CANNOT BE PUT OFF

tony otaru



The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) has said that the month-old fire at Chevron Nigeria's offshore Funiwa oil field would not stop burning unless the source of the leaking raw gas is found and plugged. The fire, which broke out on January 16 on a Chevron- chartered rig involved in exploratory gas well drilling, claimed two lives – French and Indian nationals. 152 others were rescued. Director General of NOSDRA, Peter Idabor, told journalists in Abuja that the fire would also not be stopped because of health and environmental reasons. According to him, putting out the fire completely will make the raw gas emission to be more harmful to the nearby communities and the fishes in the water. 'We are fully in touch with Chevron, we are following the

matter. It is better for the fire to be burning than for the raw gas to be smelling and affecting the communities there,' he said. He continued: 'Sometimes, it is a technical thing. It will cause more harm if the light is put out. It will affect more lives. It will kill more fishes in the water. 'All these were happening as a result of equipment failure. But what is more important is to have in place measures to mitigate the impact.' Maintaining that the present law in the nation's oil sector was hampering the agency from imposing harder sanctions against offending companies. He said: 'We have enabling laws, which give teeth to regulatory agencies like us. But what we want now is to go to the National Assembly to help us pass the amendments before them so that we can come hard on these companies. 'When the laws are amended and strengthened, we would be able to penalise the



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offenders. I assure you, it will never be too late to sanction these companies. The companies have not claimed that the accident was not caused by them.'

<http://www.momentng.com/en/news/6616/why-chevron-rig-fire-cannot-be-put-off-.html>

USA, ORE, SWAN ISLAND, FEBRUARY 20 2012. MAN, 57, DIES AFTER FALLING INTO HOLDING TANK OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

 **Watch the Video** [Swan Island worker dead after fall into vat of corrosive liquid](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Worker dies after fall into chemical-filled tank](#)



Hazardous: Rescue workers drained the tank and descended to recover the victim's body from the Portland, Oregon site.

A man plunged to his death on Sunday after falling into a holding tank filled with toxic chemicals at work. Firefighters reported to the tanker located on a barge on Swan Island, Portland, Oregon at about 10:15am. An employee reported his 57-year-old co-worker missing after last seeing him near an open hatch leading to the tank before he disappeared from sight. As KATU.com reports, the co-worker called police, and Portland Fire & Rescue's Hazmat Team and Technical Rescue Team were called to the scene at 5954 North Basin Avenue near the Swan Island Basin. Portland Fire & Rescue told the website the victim fell into a tank full of

lignin amine, a toxic, corrosive, non-flammable chemical derived from wood and used to spray fruit trees. The worker's identity has not been released. Rescue workers drained the tank after a camera confirmed the man's body was inside, according to Oregon Live. Two firefighters led the recovery effort, descending into the tank from a 28in hatch opening. Investigators told Oregon Live the level of oxygen in the tank - about one per cent - would cause a person to pass out within a minute and die within a couple of breaths. The process took approximately 45 minutes before the man's body was brought back to surface. Portland Police Bureau, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Coast Guard and Oregon OSHA were also at the scene.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2103635/Swan-Island-Man-57-dies-falling-holding-tank-toxic-chemicals.html>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 20 2012. HEALTH OFFICIALS HALT WORK AT PROPOSED CONDO SITE

rigoberto hernandez



The health department issued a cease and desist letter to the decontamination work at 490 South Van Ness Avenue.

Excavation and decontamination work at a former gas station at the corner of 16th Street and South Van Ness Avenue, where a developer wants to put up condominiums, was halted Friday night after the Department of Public Health determined that gas odors could be smelled throughout the vicinity. The Local Oversight Program Division of the Department of Public Health posted [a cease-and-desist letter Friday night at the construction site, which is near Marshall Elementary School](#). "Excavation has become more extensive than expected under the approach remedial action plan," reads the letter. "Petroleum hydrocarbon odors are smelled on and off site during excavation." The letter also summoned the

developer to an abatement conference next week and stated that the company could face civil penalties. Health department staff could not be reached for comment. JCN Developers, a San Francisco firm, wants to build a seven-story, 84-unit condominium complex on the site, formerly a gas station and auto repair shop. On April 5, 2011, the developer [obtained a permit](#) to remove soil contaminated by underground gasoline tanks that had already been removed. While this was underway, some nearby residents said they began to smell bad odors. Erwin O'Toole, the project manager at the site, said it's possible that the excavation has created the odors, but "there is no indication that it is harmful." He added that his company, Granite Excavation and Demolition Inc., monitors the sites at all times and no harmful toxins have been detected. Since excavation began last year, however, neighbors said they have complained to the city about the smell. One neighbor was concerned enough to call 911, a resident near the site told Mission Loc@l. Javier Lopez, who works across the street at a flower shop, said he had some mild headaches last week because of the gasoline-like odor. "What's going to happen if someone lights up a



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cigarette?" he asked. Marc Solomon, a nearby neighbor who is opposed to the development, told Mission Loc@l in an email that there have been strong benzene odors throughout the neighborhood. "They are finding hot spots of benzene and gasoline there, and whenever they hit one it really stinks the neighborhood up," he said. "Benzene is carcinogenic, leading to leukemia." Solomon's main concern is that children at Marshall Elementary School will be exposed to the toxins. Brett Cline, who lives directly across the street, said the smell was strong a couple of months back, but he has not smelled anything since. "It was for a couple hours; if it had smelled for a couple days, I would have been more concerned," he said. The Health Department's action is the second setback for the development. Last year the site's environmental review was put on hold temporarily because the contractor failed to reply to a request for additional information from the San Francisco Planning Department.

<http://missionlocal.org/2012/02/health-officials-halt-work-at-former-gas-station/>

USA, TX, EAST HARRIS CO, FEBRUARY 20 2012. OIL-CONTAMINATED WATER SPILLS IN EAST HARRIS CO.

An oil-contaminated water spill in east Harris County on Sunday left crews trying to clean up the mess and figure out what happened. Highlands volunteer firefighters went to a Highlands-area flood canal around 10:15am Sunday after receiving calls about an oily residue in the water. Firefighters then found a leak coming from the ZXP Technologies facility in the 400 block of East Wallisville. According to officials, ZXP Technologies is a lubricant mixing and packaging facility. The firefighters requested assistance from the Harris County Hazardous Material Response Team, Harris County Pollution Control and the Texas Commission on Environment Quality in order to contain the discharge, which was flowing toward the San Jacinto River. "We are working to contain the spill but due to the high flow of water in the canal the spill is not completely contained at this time", Captain Richard Lawhorn with Harris County HazMat said in a release Sunday. "There is no threat to the public at this time and clean up will begin shortly to try and minimize the effects on the waterways." ZXP Technologies is cooperating with the environmental agencies and taking the necessary measures to clean up the spilled materials. A full investigation into the cause of the spill is underway

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8550100>

USA, S.C, COLUMBIA, FEBRUARY 21 2012. GASOLINE SPILLS INTO COLUMBIA STORM DRAIN



DHEC and the Columbia Fire Department are cleaning up a gasoline spill in Columbia. Columbia Fire Department spokesman, Brick Lewis, says that on Sunday, a person was pumping gas at the BP Gas Station on Huger and Blossom Streets when approximately 10 gallons spilled into the roadway. Lewis says some of the fuel spilled into the storm drain. A haz-mat crew blocked off some of the road to prevent further contamination of the storm drain.

<http://www.wltx.com/news/article/174646/2/Gasoline-Spills-Into-Columbia-Storm-Drain--?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Cbc%7Clarge>

USA, WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 21 2012. CSB CHAIRPERSON RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO IN LEXINGTON (KY) HERALD LEADER: NINE YEARS AFTER CORBIN EXPLOSION, STILL NO DUST REGULATIONS



On Feb. 20, 2003, powerful dust explosions tore through the CTA Acoustics plant in Corbin, where fiberglass insulation was manufactured for the automotive industry. The loss of seven lives and scores of injuries made the accident one of the state's deadliest. U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigators found that the explosion was fueled by resin dust which accumulated in a production area and that was likely ignited by flames from a malfunctioning oven. The resin involved was a phenolic binder used in producing fiberglass mats. Investigators found that CTA had been aware that combustible dust in the plant could explode, but did not modify the design of the plant to prevent the release and accumulation of the dust, communicate the hazard to workers or modify operating procedures. The CSB also



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found that Borden Chemical, the manufacturer of the resin, had failed to include adequate safety warnings on the data sheets for the raw material that generated the combustible dust. As a result of the tragedy in Corbin, the CSB issued a number of recommendations to the company, the state of Kentucky, trade associations and others. I am pleased to report the board found the responses to all of those recommendations to be positive and thus the cases were closed. But dust explosions continued to occur elsewhere, leading the CSB in 2006 to recommend that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration should issue a federal regulatory combustible dust standard for general industry, to end these preventable tragedies. Yet, nine years after the CTA catastrophe, and more than five years after our recommendation to OSHA, there is still no comprehensive OSHA standard to prevent these accidents. The same year that the CTA accident occurred, in 2003, a fatal dust explosion at West Pharmaceutical in Kinston, N.C. killed six workers. Then one worker was fatally burned and another seriously injured at a metal dust fire at the Hayes Lemmerz aluminum wheel manufacturing company in Huntington, Ind. In all, 14 workers died from dust explosions in that one year. The safety board launched a study into the hazards of combustible dust. Our 2006 report revealed there is no national regulation that adequately addresses combustible dust explosion hazards in general industry. Although many states and localities have adopted fire codes that have provisions related to combustible dust, a CSB survey found that fire code officials rarely inspect industrial facilities to enforce the codes. The board clearly stated that American industry needs a comprehensive federal combustible dust regulation. Although OSHA agreed to develop a dust standard in April 2009, the agency's most recent 2012 regulatory agenda does not include any specific milestones or targets for the standard's development. Without a standard that comprehensively addresses the hazards of combustible dust, American workers will continue to be put at risk for future catastrophic explosions and fires. Since the tragedies of 2003 that hit Corbin and two other cities, dust explosions continue to take workers' lives. Among the most devastating:

- On Feb. 7, 2008 combustible sugar dust at the Imperial Sugar Refinery in Port Wentworth, Ga., ignited. The resulting explosions and fire led to the death of 14 workers and injuries to 38 others. The CSB investigated and once again called on OSHA to move forward "expeditiously" with promulgation of a combustible dust standard.
- Just last year, the Hoeganaes powdered iron metal manufacturing plant in Gallatin, Tenn., had three metal dust flash fires, one precipitated by a hydrogen explosion, over a period of five months, killing a total of five workers. Fine, combustible iron dust had accumulated to dangerous levels on plant surfaces. Workers told CSB investigators that the plant had experienced numerous flash fires but the company failed to take corrective action.
- Our final investigation report on the Gallatin tragedies included a recommendation that OSHA move forward with a dust standard within one year.

Industrial combustible dust explosions are hardly limited to the United States. According to media reports, last year two electronics manufacturers in China that produce parts for Apple Computer products experienced dust explosions when fine particles of aluminum ignited, killing four workers and injuring dozens of others. Apple's Supplier Responsibility documents state that the company is now requiring improved ventilation, inspections and cleaning methods for dust deposits. I don't know what steps China is taking to prevent its dust explosions, but I do know what can be done here in the U.S. It's time for OSHA to move on a comprehensive regulation to adequately address combustible dust hazards.

Related Links <http://www.kentucky.com/2012/02/19/2075179/nine-years-after-corbin-explosion.html>
<http://www.csb.gov/investigations/detail.aspx?SID=35>

CHINA, LANZHOU, GANSU PROVINCE, FEBRUARY 21 2012. 1 DEAD IN CHINA TANK TRUCK EXPLOSION

A chemical worker died in a tank truck explosion in Northwest China's Gansu province Monday morning, local authorities said. The tank trailer carrying 58 cubic meters of liquefied petroleum gas exploded near an LPG station in Xigu district in the provincial capital Lanzhou at around 9 am, the city's safety administration said in a press release. It said the blast, which occurred during nitrogen replacement, broken the tank into pieces, shattered several windows and toppled a fencing at the gas station. The victim was not identified. The safety administration said investigation was underway, and no toxic gas leak or other pollution were detected

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-02/20/content_14650134.htm

NIGERIA, LAGOS, FEBRUARY 21 2012. CHEVRON GAS FIRE: ALISON-MADUEKE PROMISES RAPID RESPONSE

Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, has promised succour within one week for communities affected in the Chevron Nigeria gas explosion, which occurred over a month ago. She also pledged Federal Government's



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commitment to providing lasting solution to the rising incidence of environmental pollution caused by oil and gas exploration and production activities in the Niger Delta. The minister made the promise during an assessment tour of some communities believed to have been impacted by the recent gas rig explosion at Chevron Nigeria's Funiwa field operated KS Endeavour. She said: "We have done the aerial survey, we have seen, and also heard from the community leaders and youths. The next thing is to report back to the President and within the next one week response will be provided to the community leaders." The minister's pledge is the first official comment from government since the gas rig exploded over a month ago, in which two foreign oil workers were declared dead. Affected communities had cried out for rescue from the damages caused by the fire, which they said had destroyed their aquatic life, and in turn, denied them of their daily means of livelihood since indigenes were mainly farmers. Madueke was quoted as saying that her ministry will galvanise the International Oil Companies, IOCs, as well as the host communities to ensure that the operating environment is made safe for all concerned in line with international best practices. On January 16, Chevron reported a fire outbreak aboard the shallow-water jack-up drilling rig KS Endeavor in which two people died. The Funiwa 5 is a new gas platform along the Kolu-Ama River in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. The rig was drilling a natural gas exploration well approximately six miles (10 km) off the coast of Nigeria and in roughly 40 feet (12 m) of water. The resultant gas fire which has since diminished to a marginal level brought to the fore the perennial challenge of environmental pollution and degradation in the oil bearing region. The statement also said that the minister undertook an aerial survey of eight host communities spread across Southern Ijaw and Brass Local Government Areas (Koluama 1, Koluma 11, Ekeni, Foropa, Fishtown, Ezetu 1, Ezetu 11 and Sanga, Mrs. Alison-Madueke assured the community that the President is determined to bring the suffering of oil producing areas to an end. Responding on behalf of the community, His Royal Highness, Mienye Newton, the Ama-nana-wei of Kolu-Ama 11, pledged the readiness of the entire clan to work with the Petroleum Ministry as well as the IOCs to ensure clean environment and the much needed development of the area. The traditional ruler, Ama-nana-wei of Kolu-Ama 1, HRH Jeremiah Lechemo, commenting, said, "The visit by the minister has made us to forget about the pain we are going through, though the pinch is still there but this is the first time we are feeling federal government's presence in our midst." Chairman of the Keffes Rural Development Foundation, Mr. Christopher Tuodo, called on the minister to fast track the supply of relief materials to the people as well as provide urgent medical assessment team to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the situation.

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/02/chevron-gas-fire-alison-madueke-promises-rapid-response/>

CANADA, NUNAVUT, RESOLUTE BAY, FEBRUARY 21 2012. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF RESOLUTE BAY FUEL SPILL UNKNOWN >> DRAFT REPORT CITES CHALLENGES TO CLEANING SPILL, ASSESSING EFFECTS ON SOIL



Contractors hired by the Government of Nunavut to assess a spill from a tank farm and its effects in Resolute Bay, Nunavut, say they are still unsure of the environmental effects of the spill.

There is still uncertainty about the environmental effects of a major gasoline spill in Resolute Bay, Nunavut. Officials say an estimated 87,000 litres of gasoline poured onto the ground at the hamlet's fuel tank farm between Oct. 27 and Oct. 28. The Government of Nunavut hired contractor Nunami Stantec Ltd., which submitted a draft report detailing the cleanup and spill assessment at the site. Using Access to Information legislation, the CBC has obtained a copy of the draft report the company completed Dec. 19.

'Gasoline Spurting Out'

According to interviews cited in the draft report, a truck driver who wanted to fill up with gasoline around midnight on Oct. 27 noticed one of the tanks at the farm was empty. He asked someone else to open a valve from a larger tank to allow the empty one to fill. Both people then left the site without turning off the valve. The document details that at about 6:30 a.m. the following morning, a First Air employee noticed "gasoline spurting out of the vapour release valve" of the previously-empty tank. The Government of Nunavut redacted the fuel tank logs, so it is unclear how much fuel was in the tanks both when the leak started and when it was stopped.

Some Fuel Contained

Two employees from Nunami assessed the site between Nov. 7 and Nov. 15. The document shows Nunami focused on three areas: a 20,000 litre containment area around the tank which leaked, a larger lined spill catchment basin southeast of that tank, and the area immediately downhill from the leak, which includes a sensitive marine environment in Resolute Bay. The



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engineers concluded that anywhere from 19,000 to 67,000 litres of the leaked gasoline was contained. A total of about 87,000 litres spilled.

Soil Contamination

The engineers analyzed soil samples in an effort to figure out how and where the gasoline spread. They compared chemicals in the soil samples to chemicals found in the catchment basin. In the draft, the engineers wrote that samples they took downhill from the spill site "showed evidence of primarily gasoline contamination," adding that those samples also show signs of diesel contamination. Chemicals found in the soil at two areas east of the spill catchment basin – one on the opposite side of an access road – also have properties similar to gasoline. It's unclear, though, when that soil was contaminated. The draft report notes it's possible that it was contaminated in a previous spill. Emails between Nunami and the Government of Nunavut also show the fuel sample taken from the catchment basin was scheduled to be tested in order to confirm it did in fact come from the tank which leaked.

"Several Factors ... Resulted In A Level Of Uncertainty"

The engineers give a number of reasons for the level of uncertainty in their draft report. They said it would have helped them to have had accurate design drawings of the site. The document also highlights the challenges the crew had in doing their assessment, such as cold temperatures, blizzard conditions, short daylight and a limited availability of equipment.

Recommendations Redacted

The draft report includes three pages of recommendations for the Government of Nunavut. However, those recommendations are unknown because the territorial government redacted that section of the document. The government cited a section of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act which deals with information which could be used to make future decisions.

Related Links

- [Cleanup work on Resolute spill yet to begin](#)
- [Massive fuel spill cleanup underway in Resolute](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/story/2012/02/20/north-resolute-bay-spill-unknown.html>

NIGERIA, BAYELSA STATE, YENAGOA, FEBRUARY 21 2012. BONGA OIL SPILL KOU CLAN NATIVES TELL TERRIBLE TALES



tony erhariefe

Community leaders from Kuo clan, Bayelsa State

Oil communities affected by the Bonga oil spill in Bayelsa and Delta States have alleged that the operator of the source of the spill, the Bonga Oil Field, has abandoned them. Mitchell Suwa, a native of Kou Clan, one of the affected fishing communities in Bayelsa State, said that unless something is done quickly, the lives of the coastal dwellers would be in jeopardy: "It is tragic that over a month after our environment was polluted by 40, 000 barrels of crude oil due to equipment failure on the path of Shell (SPDC), the oil giant has refused to go into talks with the affected communities, let alone embark on cleaning up the mess. As I speak to you, our people are sick, some are dying and we can no longer feed our families. There is no medical team to treat and attend to the sick. Unless something is done

soon and fast, our lives would be endangered. "Shell informed us that the spill occurred on December 20 and we had the meeting on December 22 two days after the spill. We were all alarmed! In the past we had experienced oil spills but 40, 000 barrels was going to stretch the communities and have lasting environmental impact on our lives. But what could we do? We had no choice but to rush back home and warn our communities of the impending dangers. We held our breaths and waited, praying and hoping that somehow, the crisis could be averted."

Disaster

However, just as they were rounding-off preparation for Christmas celebration on Watch Night, December 24, at precisely 9pm, the oil slick made landfall, polluting the coast and the creeks and ever since, the lives of these fisher folks who populate the coastal areas and creeks have never been the same. Suwa continued: "It was terrible. There was so much crude oil floating on the coast and rivers you could actually scoop it with buckets. We are fishermen; that's all we do for a living here.



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The oil spill destroyed everything. Now we can't go fishing anymore. Our nets have been destroyed; our fishing boats have gone kaput as the engines no longer work. "On that day we saw helicopters and sea planes flying overhead and dropping chemicals which caused sickness among our people. Old people were falling sick and children were vomiting. It was a terrible experience."

Aftermath

"We can no longer fish. Our livelihood has been totally destroyed. I have two boats but the engines have gone bad and my nets have also been destroyed by the sleek. I have been fishing for the past 15 years. I can no longer feed my family. The shoreline is where our living comes from, it is our only source of livelihood. Where do I go from here?" Suwa added that the spill, the worst in the history of the communities has culminated in environmental degradation and health hazards and SPDC has refused to take responsibility. "They know the truth. They were the ones that warned us at the meeting they held with community leaders on December 22. Despite the warning they gave us, they have refused to take responsibility. How can they claim to have dispersed the oil; it is merely their divide and rule tactics. "The health hazards are enormous, some people have developed strange rashes, children are falling sick and dying. We did not have Christmas because we could not use our beach for our annual beach party, we could not fish, add to that the chemicals that were sprayed on us, it has been terrible." For Kingdom Ishaya, a father of seven kids and a native of Kou Clan, the oil sleek has robbed him of everything and unless there is intervention soon, hopes of feeding his family are bleak: "The oil spill affected us fishermen and businessmen alike. We have been robbed of our livelihood. My younger sister is very sick right now. She got strange rashes all over her body after she unknowingly used the polluted water. We cannot go to the rivers anymore. It is a serious problem. I have not seen this before. "I cannot go to the river anymore. My nets and boats have been condemned. How can you talk about Christmas when we do not even have livelihood? The musician we paid for our Christmas Beach Party bolted with our money. The chemicals they sprayed on us were so bad we were all running for cover. I have eight kids. It has affected every facet of our lives. "We are telling government to do something about this problem. This is our land, we are Nigerians. How can we live like refugees in our own country?" Another fisherman, Victor Jisi, Chairman of Age community: "When Shell invited us to that meeting on December 22, 2011, we all believed that they meant well and that it would be a matter of time before the problem was resolved. "On Christmas day we could not celebrate. Shell did not respond even after we called them. Forty thousand barrels of crude oil are floating in our creeks and rivers and have damaged our coasts and nothing is happening. They even had the audacity to claim that the oil spill had not reached the coasts even though NOSDRA and MIMASA came and took samples and proved that the spill was from the Bonga Oil Field. "Now they have taken away our livelihood. We cannot bath in the water or cook with it or fish. People who do have rashes all over their body. Shell should come to our aid and compensate us. This is an infringement on our human rights. It is the worst spill in 25 years. We cannot go near the coast line any more." Comrade David Itiemocha, Chairman of Kou Clan: mind: "To be frank, it has been terrible and I am not happy. On December 24 when we should be celebrating watch night, the oil came to our shoreline. All this while we have been calling on Shell but they have abandoned the entire clan and we are seriously affected and this is the most inhuman. I have reached out to them. One Mr. John is the leader of the emergency team. I informed him that people are falling sick. That was on Christmas Day but there was no response. Children are vomiting and dying, people are developing strange rashes because they are affected by chemicals they sprayed and up till now there is no medical team on ground. We have been feeding through humanitarian efforts from people. I have seven children and two wives." John Isiayei is a victim of the sleek: "I am not happy. I have lost so much. I personally scooped the oil and I can tell you that the damage is terrible. A man died in my village. I am a fisherman and I have three boats. I have been fishing for the past 10 years and it is my only source of livelihood. Shell knows that my only source of livelihood is fishing. If Shell wants it rough we will give it to them. We believe that government is backing Shell. Imagine, we have Senate Committee on the Petroleum Industry and Minister of Petroleum and yet, nothing has been done by them to bring Shell to order. This is tragic!" Eric Faka spoke on behalf of Kou Delta communities also affected by the sleek: "Since December 24, we have not been able to cook because if you do you will start a very big fire because of the oil sleek. We can't light our local light because it could cause an explosion. We are sitting on a keg of gunpowder. "We have been crying out to government and nobody has come to our rescue. Shell is denying that it is not their oil. This is the worst spill in 25 years. We are all fishermen we have been robbed off our livelihoods. I have three boats and they are all grounded." Lawyer to the affected communities, George Oguntade (SAN), said that it was unfortunate that SPDC could shirk its responsibilities: "The response of Shell as regards the extent of the Bonga oil fields is utterly outrageous and very disturbing but then, it is not surprising. We have visited all the affected communities in Bayelsa and Delta States and I can tell you authoritatively that the Dodo River, the Ramos River and the Forcados River are a gory sight. They are covered with a thick oil slick which lies across



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the length and breadth of these rivers. "Despite this manifest facts, Shell still believes that it can hoodwink the whole world by saying that the oil spill has not reached the coast. I have seen the extent of the damage and I can assure you that even the strongest and most resilient of aquatic life stands little chance of surviving the pollution and environmental degradation. "Interestingly, despite its denial, Shell has by some magic deployed oil booms across the affected rivers with its name boldly inscribed on them across all these rivers. What was this for? Christmas decoration? I don't know. Also of interest is the fact that NIMASA and NOSDRA have also issued public statements countering Shell's position and confirming quite clearly that the spill has indeed spread to all the coastal creeks of the mangrove. "In my mind, the right thing for Shell to do is to take responsibility and admit that this spill has reached all the coastal communities and that damage has been suffered by these communities. They must make adequate compensation in this regard. It is also of great importance that Shell has to give out money to these communities to allow them clean up their communities by themselves. From what I understand, they are not comfortable with Shell cleaning up their land. They want to do it themselves to ensure that a thorough job is done by an independent third party cleaner. "This will be the ideal step in this regard and I hope that Shell will live up to its responsibility. I believe that in any other jurisdiction where there has been an oil spill, this is what Shell will do and Nigeria should not be an exception." Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), helmsman, Mr. Ziakade Patrick Akpobolokemi, said Shell's efforts fell short of national and international standards: "All agencies of government should come together to make Shell pay for devastating the ecosystem. This is a question "The action or inaction of Shell caused this spill. There is no doubt about that. We have collected forensic evidence, interviewed the local communities and taken films. Shell should be alive to its responsibilities, give proper compensation to the communities and make remediation efforts in line with international standards." Peter Idaor of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), described the spill as the worst in 10 years. Attempts to reach Shell for comments at the time of filling this report was not successful. Repeated phone calls to the oil giant's media relations department several days were not successful. An E-mail requesting Shell's response on the spill sent to its website is yet to receive attention.

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2012/feb/21/national-21-02-2012-0016.html>

IRAN, BANDAR ABBAS, FEBRUARY 21 2012. FILMMAKERS RESCUE IRANIANS FROM BOAT FIRE

 **Watch the Video** [Burning Boat Rescue Filmed off Iranian Coast](#)



The crew of an Iranian boat that caught fire while ferrying fuel from Dubai had a lucky escape when documentary filmmakers on a nearby boat came to their rescue while capturing the fiery ordeal on film. The filmmakers were shooting in Iranian waters off the coast of the country's southern Bushehr province on Monday when the boat transporting fuel to Bandar Abbas Port caught fire, according to a reports by Iran's state broadcaster IRB. The footage shows huge flames billowing out of the stricken vessel as members of the boat's nine-man crew gather around the edges of the ship, some eventually leaping into the water to flee the flames. Iran state television has reported all men aboard the fuel transport ship are Iranian, with the exception of one man whose nationality was not disclosed. The blaze was sparked by a technical fault in the engine room and took one and a half hours to bring under control, the report said.

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/world/8422877/filmmakers-rescue-iranians-from-boat-fire>

CANADA, B.C, BURNABY, FEBRUARY 21 2012. CHEVRON REFINERY DEALS WITH GAS LEAK

jennifer moreau

Burnaby's Chevron refinery had a gasoline leak early last Thursday morning. Chevron spokesperson Ray Lord told the Burnaby NOW that it was a rare event and that the leaked gasoline was contained in the refinery's catchment basin. "We had a minor incident occur here at the plant (Thursday) morning, at about 4 a.m. We were transferring gasoline to a barge here at the refinery. In the course of that transfer, from tank to barge, a loss to containment occurred, meaning some gasoline was lost in the course of that transfer," Lord said. Chevron was immediately aware of the leak and stopped the transfer. The spill occurred away from the water, near a tank on the refinery's property, and the gasoline was contained in an impounding basin



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system. "It's a catch basin that's lined with sort of a rubberized lining. The gasoline down there... was immediately recovered using the vacuum truck," Lord said. The material is then taken to the refinery's treatment system. Chevron staff estimated that 4,100 litres or 26 barrels of gas leaked. The leak was caused by a loose pipe flange that has since been repaired. According to Lord, no one was hurt, there was no environmental impact or odour complaints, but the transfer had to be stopped until they fixed the problem. Chevron contacted Metro Vancouver in case of odour complaints. Chevron's North Burnaby refinery has been around since 1935. The refinery has been dealing with an ongoing oil seep on its north slope since May 2010. A mix of gas, diesel and crude oil has been seeping outside of the refinery's property due to underground contamination. Chevron has been working to clean up the seep and prevent more material from migrating offsite.

<http://www.burnabynow.com/Chevron+refinery+deals+with+leak/6180772/story.html>

NEW ZEALAND, MANGAKINO, SOUTH WAIKATO, FEBRUARY 21 2012. BLAZE AT PETROL STATION

The Fire Service was called to the Jas Kelly Motors on Waipapa Rd in Mangakino, 79km southwest of Rotorua.



A petrol station in the central North Island has been completely destroyed in a large fire this morning. The blaze broke out at the Jas Kelly Motors on Waipapa Rd in Mangakino, 79km southwest of Rotorua, about 3.09am, Fire Service spokesman Steve Smith said. It is the second petrol station fire in the area within the past seven months. The Gasoline Alley station in Whakamaru, 10km from Mangakino, was burnt down in what police believe was a deliberately-lit fire in July last year. The investigation was still ongoing. Smith said at least 20 firefighters with five pumping trucks and two water tankers responded to this morning's fire. He said it was a third alarm fire, meaning it was three times larger than normal. The blaze was now under control, and one fire truck remained at the scene. Mangakino's chief fire officer, John Kelso, said the petrol station was "completely destroyed". Police were at the scene, but he could not say whether the fire was being treated

as suspicious. Kelso was not concerned that it was the second fire in the area. The Fire Service was investigating the cause, he said.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/6451836/Blaze-at-petrol-station>

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, LONGWARRY, FEBRUARY 21 2012. LONGWARRY MILK FACTORY FIRE >> BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED MORE THAN \$3 MILLION DAMAGE.

peter strachan & georgie haberfield



The fire-damaged factory.

Update 10.30am: An explosion and fire that tore through a Longwarry milk production plant in the early hours of the morning is believed to have caused more than \$3 million damage. The explosion occurred at 1.20am in the milk drying plant at Longwarry Food Park, which produces Gippy Milk. Warragul CFA operations officer Ian Pattie said it took two hours to bring the fire under control and a further two hours to cool the plant down before they could leave. "The fire virtually destroyed the milk drying plant, but we stopped it before it spread any further," he said. Mr Pattie said explosions at dry production plants were not uncommon, due to the heat needed to convert milk into powder. Management expect dry production at the plant, which largely covers their export market, to be down for several weeks. But fresh milk production is expected to return to normal by the end

of the day.

Earlier Report 9.31am: A fire at a milk factory in Longwarry took crews almost four hours to put out this morning. The blaze broke out in a milk drying machine at the Longwarry Food Park about 1.10am. The Mackey St factory processes both wet and dry milk, and the fire started in a machine that turns liquid milk into powder form. CFA spokeswoman Kayla Maskell said the machine is very hot inside. "Sometimes it doesn't completely dry and it sticks to the wall, it can build up and is really combustible," she said. There was an explosion in the machine, which caused a spark and the fire, which spread to other equipment along the production line. "Luckily when firefighters got there they were able to separate the equipment and contain



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it to that particular area in the drying chamber," Ms Maskell said. Seven CFA crews took until 4.50am to put out the blaze, and didn't leave the scene until about 7am. There were four staff working at the time, but none in that part of the factory. No one was hurt in the fire. The damage caused to the equipment is about \$3 million.

<http://origin.berwick-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/longwarry-milk-factory-fire/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, PENRITH, FEBRUARY 21 2012. RESIDENTS NOT TOLD OF SERVICE STATION CONTAMINATION

alicia tetley



Councillor Prue Guillaume said it was unacceptable that there was a contaminated site near homes

Residents living around the 7-Eleven at Jamisontown have just found out the soil underneath their feet is contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals. Media reports revealed earlier this month that the state government had declared the petrol station at 92 Mulgoa Rd as contaminated but failed to tell residents. Nathan Wydmuch, who recently moved into his home facing Mulgoa Rd and sitting diagonally to the petrol station, said he didn't know about the contamination until the Penrith Press told him. "I have three young kids and I constantly walk them around the area, so it's a bit scary," he said. "If it is contaminated, the government have a responsibility to the public to get it fixed." Christine Russell, who lives in Willoring Cres, found out through her daughter. "I've been aware of the problems in

the area like with the Caltex service station," she said. "I don't suppose it would be a problem. It's not on the surface or pooling and I can't smell it." Penrith councillor Prue Guillaume said it was completely unacceptable that there was a contaminated site right next to homes. "We need an immediate briefing for local residents, a remediation plan and a public awareness campaign to inform the community about what steps they should take to avoid contamination," she said.

<http://penrith-press.whereilive.com.au/news/story/residents-not-told-of-service-station-contamination/>

CHINA, LIAONING PROVINCE, ANSHAN, FEBRUARY 21 2012. CHINA FACTORY BLAST KILLS 10, INJURES 17



At least 10 people were killed and another 17 injured in an explosion at a steel plant in northeastern China, a company official said Tuesday, in the latest industrial accident to hit the country. Another three people were still missing after the accident late Monday in a steel casting workshop owned by state-run Angang Heavy Machinery in the city of Anshan in Liaoning province, a spokesman for parent company Ansteel Group said. "We're still searching (for the people missing) and trying to find the cause," Song Jiachen said. The 17 injured had been taken to hospital for treatment, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing local officials. An investigation into the cause of the blast is under way. Workplace accidents are common in China, where bosses frequently ignore safety rules in the quest for higher profits. Nearly 50,000 people died in work-related accidents in the first nine

months of 2011, down 16 percent from the the same period in 2010, figures from the State Administration of Work Safety show.

<http://www.timesofoman.com/innercat.asp?cat=&detail=217&sec=news>

USA, N.J, BRIDGEWATER, FEBRUARY 21 2012. EPA UNVEILS \$204M CLEANUP PLAN FOR CYANAMID SUPERFUND SITE

sergio bichao

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is backing a \$204.1 million cleanup plan for the polluted American Cyanamid site along the Raritan River. The 435-acre Cyanamid site, a former chemical manufacturing facility, was placed on the Superfund list in 1983 and has undergone more than two decades and \$200 million worth of remediation. The plant closed in 1999. The site is contaminated with cancer-causing and dangerous chemicals such as benzene, polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, and chromium, according to the EPA. The site's owner, the pharmaceutical company Pfizer, last year announced its



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own remediation proposal it estimated would cost \$205 million. Detailed cleanup plans will be developed after the EPA hears public comments between now and March 31. The EPA will hold a public meeting to explain its proposal and its alternatives at 7 p.m. March 8 at the Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School, 14, Vogt Drive, Bridgewater. Leaders for CRISIS, a environmental watchdog group that the EPA funds in order to facilitate citizen participation in the Superfund process, said the EPA's proposed remedy is better than the other alternatives, but they still have concerns with the principal threat waste materials and long-range plans for treating groundwater. "We will be taking a very close look at how these issues are addressed in the Proposed Plan, and I anticipate that we will ask for more extensive details on the measures proposed for dealing with them," CRISIS Executive Director Walt Sodie said Thursday. The EPA's proposal calls for treating toxic material and capping the waste areas to trap vapors. Some of the soil will be excavated and treated while deeper contaminated sites will be capped with a 24-inch barrier to prevent contact. More wells would be added to the existing groundwater collection system, which the EPA said already has treated millions of gallons of water. A new groundwater recovery system would prevent seepage into the Raritan River and the Cuckhold's and Middle brooks. To minimize disruptions to the cleanup effort, the EPA would place land use restrictions on the site. Other options included a \$137.9 million plan to contain contaminated soil and treat groundwater and a \$1.8 billion plan that would excavate all contaminated soil for treatment. The Superfund site has run into trouble recently. Last year officials detected benzene at 20,000 times regulatory levels seeping from the Cyanamid property into the Raritan River. The chemical seeps from two Cyanamid sites, which will be addressed in a separate study expected next year. During Hurricane Irene water treatment pumps at the Superfund site were disrupted by 42 feet of flood water.

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20120220/NJNEWS/302200023/EPA-cleanup-at-Cyanamid-put-at-204M>

NEW ZEALAND, BAY OF ISLANDS, FEBRUARY 21 2012. CONTAINER DUMPED OVER GAS LEVELS

sam boyer



Containers can be seen pushing open the hatch covers on the bow section of the Rena.

Salvage operations aboard Rena were complicated over the weekend when gases were detected from a dangerous-goods container. Salvors were able to remove 8.5 containers but one container emitting harmful gas was instead dumped overboard as a precaution. Maritime New Zealand yesterday reported one container carrying ferrosilicon had been "wet stored" in 9m of water near the Rena after higher than normal gas levels were detected. They said plans were in place for its removal. Svitser salvage spokesman Matt Watson said the levels of gas detected were of potential harm to the salvors. The safest option in the circumstances was to submerge the container. "They've pulled it up and identified some high levels of

gas [so] they've dunked it back in the water. It's been a strategic submission as a precaution. "What they do is they leave it in the water ... and when they are absolutely ready they'll pull it up. My understanding is it's tagged and buoyed," he said. Neither Maritime New Zealand nor Svitser were yesterday able to comment on the type of gas seeping from the container, but ferrosilicon is known to produce large amounts of extremely flammable hydrogen gas when exposed to water. Maritime New Zealand spokeswoman Sophie Hazlehurst said working conditions had been unsafe for salvors with the ferrosilicon container on board. She said an MNZ adviser had approved the "wet storage". "I know our environmental person said it would be safe stored in the water as it has been," she said. Mr Watson said he was not yet aware what precautions and process would be used to extract the submerged container when the time came to remove it. Once the container had been brought ashore, question marks remained too around the processing of the container and its potentially-flammable cargo. Container recovery outfit Braemar Howells' spokeswoman Monique O'Connor said the container would be processed according to its condition. "There's nothing definitive from Braemar at this stage. How we process depends on the condition of the container when it's delivered into our care," she said, adding it would be premature to comment on specifics. Containers on board the Rena as well as those in the vicinity of the wreck remain the responsibility of Svitser. Once they are delivered to shore they enter into the care of Braemar. Blue twine - enough to fill two skips - was collected from the ocean on Sunday. A helicopter was used to locate the floating twine which was then collected by fast response vessel and barge. The twine was found between Waihi Beach and Mayor Island. Braemar barges were also used over the weekend to transport not only discharged containers, parts of containers, and twine but also 119 bulk bags of lamb that were moved from the Rena and sent straight to landfills.



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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

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

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Electronic sensor readings on both sections of Rena have indicated no significant changes to the state of the wreck. The sea state is expected to remain around 1m today. A strengthening northerly wind will elevate the sea to around 2m by Wednesday afternoon. Around 2.2m significant wave heights are expected on Thursday.

<http://www.bayofplentytimes.co.nz/news/container-dumped-over-gas-levels/1279426/>

SOUTH AFRICA, KWAZULU-NATAL, NEWCASTLE, FEBRUARY 21 2012. CYANIDE LEVELS IN RIVER 'SAFE'

kamcilla pillay & laea medley



The Buffalo river, part of the Umzinyathi river system, as seen from the reservoir nearby. Despite the presence of this system and a communal tap, most people in the area use water directly from the contaminated river system to cook, bathe and wash.

The Department of Environmental Affairs were expected to meet residents in Newcastle on Monday to discuss a way forward on the recent spill of cyanide in the Ngagane river. Last week 11 cows died within minutes of drinking water in the river, and chemical company Karbochem has admitted to the spill. However, the department has assured people that the cyanide in the water is now at safe levels. Spokesman for the Department of Environmental Affairs, Jeffrey Zikhali, said the department had measured a high amount of cyanide in the river. "We added chlorine to the water to try to neutralise it," he said. "We also spoke to the community about the dangers of the water." While officials have given communities the go-ahead to use the water from the river, riverside residents are not as keen. The owner of the 11 cattle, Vusumuzi Kubheka, said the company needed to be more vigilant. "The company needs to investigate how the source of the leak came to cause such a problem. Obviously, somebody wasn't doing their job," he said. Kubheka said the loss of his cattle was especially upsetting because they had been his breeding cows. "These are worth far more than slaughter cows. And some of them had been running with my bull – if any of them was pregnant, they would have calved by September. This makes it a huge loss to me." Each animal was worth between R9 000 and R12 000. Kubheka said he and Karbochem had been in talks over compensation for the nine cows recovered from the stream, but details had not yet been discussed. Alfred Khumalo, an Nquthu resident who has lived on the banks of the river for seven years, said: "I heard about the cattle dying on the radio, and I'm worried about my animals getting sick." He said he was concerned about the health of his family. The community shared one communal tap but still used water from the river for washing, drinking and cooking. Thandeka Sibiba, another resident of the area, said she was concerned about people being poisoned by the water. "Nobody from the municipality warned us," Sibiba said. Dr Dumisani Thabethe, communications manager of Uthukela Water, said the river had been flushed with water from the Chelmsford dam nearby and that the spill had been "contained". "We did this to dilute the chemical and have confirmed with Karbochem, the company responsible for the leak, that the substance was cyanide," he said. He said that since the incident, there had been no new reports of sick or dead livestock. "People are also in no danger – the water is safe," he said. He said Uthukela Water, the municipality and other bodies had met on Friday to discuss a way forward and put in place precautionary measures. GroundWork director, Bobby Peek, said this was not the first time a chemical spill happened in this area, and that these types of spills are not monitored as well as they should be. "Although those affected may be taking legal action, the fact is that the spill has already happened," he said. "The question is, why did this happen, and why didn't government pick up on it earlier?" Peek said long-term and continuous monitoring was needed from the government. Mayor of Newcastle, Afzul Rehman, said the company was trying to ascertain how much of the chemical had made it into the Ngagane river. Water Services Authority manager, Nkululeko Ncube, said they were still monitoring the situation. "Flushing the river will allow the chemicals to be drained away and diluted. The water is safe," he said. Spokesman for Karbochem, Jaco Prinsloo, said the leak had been found, but they were still unsure whether such a leak could have caused the "unfortunate situation". "The contaminants have been neutralised, diluted and flushed away. It has not been removed from the river, but is of no danger to animals or humans," said Prinsloo. He said the company would enter into discussions with any affected party. "The company is the owner of the site where this incident occurred, but the company processes do not involve the manufacture or use of cyanide. This specific incident will be investigated together with all the tenants on the site to determine the exact cause of the problem. Once this is known, everything will be done to prevent a recurrence of the incident."



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Related Links

- [Mechanical failure lead to cyanide leak](#)
- [Cyanide spill: firm may face fine](#)

<http://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/cyanide-levels-in-river-safe-1.1238351>

INDIA, SOLAPUR, MAHARASHTRA, BHALWAN, FEBRUARY 22 2012. 5 WOMEN PERISHED IN A CRACKERS FACTORY FIRE

[Watch the Video 5 Women Perish in Solapur Cracker Factory Fire](#)



Five women workers were killed and nine others were injured in a major blast at a firecracker factory in Bhalwani village in Maharashtra's Solapur district, police said. The toll is likely to go up as some workers are feared trapped under the debris of the structure which caved in under the impact of the explosion, they said. The blast took place at Sagar firecracker factory after the gun powder used in making crackers caught fire. The intensity of the explosion was so high that eight rooms of the factory collapsed, police said. "As of now, five dead bodies have been removed and all are women....The exact toll could be known only after the rescue work is over....JCB machines are pressed into service for removing the rubble," Mangalvedha tehsil police station incharge P Bhosale said. According to a villager Maulana Begumpur, the blast took place at around 5:30 PM and the factory soon caught fire. Three fire engines were pressed into service to control the flames, police said.

http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/India/Five_Women_Perish_In_Solapur_Cracker_Factory_Fire-14441.html

USA, AZ, CASA GRANDE, FEBRUARY 22 2012. TANKER TRUCK ROLLS OVER ON I-8

[Watch the Video Tanker Truck Rolls](#)

Skyfox flies over the scene of a tanker truck rollover Tuesday morning on Interstate 8. The tanker flipped at 5:37 a.m. in the westbound lanes, and one lane is blocked near milepost 125, just west of Casa Grande. The driver has some minor injuries. There is no word yet on what caused the rig to flip or when the lane will be back open. The tanker is spilling fuel.

<http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/traffic/tanker-truck-rolls-over-on-i-8-02212012>

USA, FLA, TAMPA, FEBRUARY 22 2012. THIEVES TRY TO STEAL DIESEL FUEL FROM GAS STATION; HAZMAT CALLED OUT TO CLEAN UP MESS

[Watch the Video](#)

- [Citrus Park fuel thieves flee, causing spill](#)
- [Thieves try to steal diesel fuel from gas station](#)
- [Gallons spill after apparent gas theft at Citrus Park BP](#)

A Hazmat team spent most of Tuesday morning cleaning up 25 gallons of spilled diesel, after a few thieves attempted to steal the gasoline from the in-ground fuel tank. It happened at the BP gas station at 8606 Citrus Park Drive, near Westfield Citrus Park mall. Detectives say a patrol deputy spotted the oddly parked van at the closed gas station just after 1 a.m. as he was driving down Citrus Park Blvd. By the time he turned around, the suspects took off in a getaway vehicle, leaving the siphon pumping into the van and fuel spilling all over the parking lot. This crime isn't anything new. Capt Andy Ross, with CSO says the thieves will often gut out a van and place a bladder bag inside with a pump on the bottom so they can park over the in-ground tanks and siphon out fuel. The vans can carry up to 250 gallons of stolen fuel. "We had a widespread case of this a few years ago in the central part of the state. It never really went away, but it seemed to kind of die down a little bit. It does seem now it might be on the upswing again," Capt. Ross told 10 News. Capt. Ross says the suspect vans are fairly easy to spot; they are usually oddly blacked out and have a barricade behind the driver's seat. A van full of stolen fuel will appear to be weighed down and may even be leaking fuel. The stolen fuel is usually then sold on the black market. Detectives are working to find surveillance video from the time of the theft and continue to search for the suspects.

<http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/239921/250/Thieves-try-to-steal-diesel-fuel-from-gas-station>



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