



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 823 Newsy Stuff

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

**March 21 2012**



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#### NEW ZEALAND, KAWHIA, MARCH 10 2012. COUNCIL HUNTS WAIKATO DIESEL SPILL CULPRIT



*Council resource officer Mark Row takes a sample of water from Kawhia harbour.*

Waikato Regional Council says the source of an oil spill at Kawhia harbour yesterday remains a mystery, and wants the public to help catch the culprit. Locals have labelled the diesel spill in their harbour yesterday as "a tragic act of eco-crime" and are demanding those responsible come forward and admit what went wrong. About 100 litres of diesel spilled into the harbour. Council compliance manager Rob Dragten said the council was taking the spill "very seriously" because of the damage it could have caused to the environment and people's safety. "We want to track down whoever's responsible to help ensure this type of thing doesn't happen again at Kawhia," he said. While it was possible it could have spilled while a vessel was refuelling at the wharf, council compliance manager Rob Dragten said no one has permission to refuel at the wharf. "So any person refuelling a vessel at Kawhia would likely

be operating illegally," said Mr Dragten. Regional on-scene commander Adam Munro said the spill appeared to have caused little environmental damage at this stage with wind and tides dispersing the diesel.

##### Local Anger

Local man Bevan Taylor told the Waikato Times he was furious the people responsible had "ducked for cover". "No one is owning up, but we want to know what happened and get to the bottom of it - it is bloody tragic and can only be described as a eco-crime," he said. Munro said it was too early to tell what had caused the spill. Council staff were talking to local boaties and harbour workers who may have seen what happened near the wharf yesterday morning, but Taylor said rumours were rife in the seaside village. "I heard there was a fuel tank being removed from a large vessel that works with the Taharoa ironsands and that something went wrong - this cannot be casually overlooked - our children can't swim and what about the threat to bird and marine life?" Taylor said he walked "about a mile of coastline" yesterday and saw diesel pooling everywhere. But Munro said that unlike an oil spill, diesel was more deceptive and could look worse than it was. "We certainly haven't seen any residual impacts yet, but we are still in the early phases of our investigation." Staff would continue working on the case today and charges were an option, if warranted. "We are keen to speak to anyone who saw what happened or have information that will assist us with our investigation," he said. Anyone with information can call the council's oil spill response team on 0800 800 401.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/council-hunts-waikato-diesel-spill-culprit-4767774>

#### USA, GA, NEWMAN, MARCH 10 2012. TRAIN 'BLAZES' INTO NEWMAN: 25 FT. FLAMES EXTINGUISHED AT EAST BROAD >> 3,700 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL IN TANK

john winters



This view of the burning CSX engine is from the Salbide Avenue bridge looking north. The second of two engines pulling the load of train cars was spotted burning as the train rolled into Newnan and under the bridge at Jefferson Street and Bullsboro Drive while heading south Thursday morning. A southbound CSX train rolled into Newnan Thursday with flames shooting out of its second locomotive before finally stopping in downtown. Newnan Fire Department firefighters spent about 25 minutes spraying down the flames, which reached 25 feet or more into the air. Witnesses described the fire as a geyser shooting out the top of the engine. There were no reports of injuries. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, according to a CSX spokesman. The train came to a stop just south of the East Broad intersection and alongside the Caldwell Tanks building. That company was evacuated, as were a few residences across the tracks, authorities said. Newnan Police Department officials blocked off intersections leading to the train crossing as a precautionary measure. The shooting flames died down about 10:10 a.m., when power was finally shut down to the engine. According to Battalion Chief Stephen Brown with the Newnan Fire Department, for some reason the engineer could not shut down the engine. "He tried to use the emergency shutoff, but it wasn't working,"



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Brown said, adding that engineers and firefighters started to pull electrical power, while also working on the shutoff switch, until the engine finally bogged down. Firefighters used a mixture of water and foam to contain the blaze. Brown said the engine's fuel tank held about 3,700 gallons of diesel fuel. "There's no telling how long that fire would have gone on," Brown added. Later Thursday morning, train cars were uncoupled and pulled apart and traffic was allowed to go through the East Broad Street intersection. The engineer stopped the train Thursday in Newnan after being notified of the problem on his radio, said CSX spokesman Gary Sease. It was unknown how long the locomotive had been on fire. Sease said the two-locomotive train was headed from Atlanta to Birmingham with 74 rail cars. The damaged locomotive was swapped out and the track cleared by the afternoon.

<http://www.times-herald.com/local/Train--blazes--into-Newnan---2117009>

### USA, MA, NEW BEDFORD, MARCH 10 2012. GAS STATION CANOPY FALLS ON FATHER AND SON

• **Watch the Video** [Wind knocks over gas station canopy](#)

• **Watch the Video** [Canopy collapses at New Bedford gas station](#)

• **Watch the Video** [Gas Station Canopy Falls on Father And Son](#)



A roof at the Sunoco Extra Mart in New Bedford fell onto a minivan in Thursday's high winds.

Strong winds caused a canopy at a New Bedford to collapse. It fell down on people pumping gas at the Sunoco X-tra Mart on Durfee Street. The dad was getting gas at one of the pumps. Then he got in his minivan with his son, who was already in the back seat. Before he knew it, this pole started wavering back and forth in the wind and came crashing down. Gordon Dean's minivan is a wreck. He's just happy he and his 7-year-old son are alive. "I just got through putting my gas in it, put my son in. I jumped in. It was like as soon as I jumped in I heard boom," said Dean. I thought

something had exploded. I thought there was an explosion." He quickly learned it was the canopy above the gas pumps and the pole holding it up. Gusty winds knocked it down, landing on top of them. Dean was in the front seat, his son Logan was in the back. The pole just missed them. "I just snatched him out of the car and we got out of the car and got away and went over by the building," said Dean. That's when he called Logan's mom, who was at work miles away. "I didn't know. I wasn't here," said Patricia Raposo, "Freaked out, scared of course. I'm upset with it yes, it happens I guess. I don't know." But everyone is okay. Logan thinks it was all an adventure. :I don't think he really realizes what went on, you know, 7 years old he's think Iron Man and stuff like that.

<http://www.abc6.com/story/17117442/gas-station-canopy-falls-on-father-and-son>

### USA, AK, JUNEAU, MARCH 10 2012. ADEC HELPING HOMEOWNERS PREVENT OIL SPILLS

• **Watch the Video** [Southeast Spotlight Report: ADEC helping homeowners prevent oil spills](#)



The tank legs or stand are in good condition and are on a stable foundation.



Oil spills can be messy and expensive, but there are some simple steps you can do to protect your heating oil tank. Sarah Moore is an Environmental Program Specialist with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, she told us some of the things to watch out for: "One of the most important things that people don't know; is that rust red that your tanks come from the store as is actually just a primer, so the tank should be painted after you receive it and install it. Putting on a rust-protective coat will make a big difference in between the life span of your tank. Also making sure that the stand is sturdy so that it's not going to rust out and allow the tank to collapse. Protecting your fuel lines from snow and ice, and kids and pets, is also a good step to prevent a fuel spill." Tanks can be installed above or below ground. A properly protected above ground tank makes it easier to spot potential problems. Underground tanks can have small leaks that may go un-noticed for years, but there are signs you can look for to catch trouble early. "If a homeowner has an underground heating oil tank, we recommend checking their tank for water periodically. Because we live in such a moist environment, when your tank fails there's an increased amount of water that seeps into your tank" explained Moore.



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DEC staff will be on hand with more tips and to answer questions at the Juneau Home Show this weekend at Centennial Hall at the following times:

- Saturday March 10th, 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Sunday March 11th, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

ADEC's responders are always available to help, and prefer to prevent spills before they happen according to Moore. "Homeowners are required to contact the State of Alaska, and that's my office, when they have a heating oil tank spill that they know of, they can contact us at 465-5340. But more importantly what we're trying to inform the public about this weekend is the fact that they can call us at any time when they have a question about their tank; if they're considering decommissioning a tank they already have, or if they think they have a problem, or want to prevent a problem. They can give us a call, we can talk them through the process and we can even come out and meet with you and look at your tank and talk about it in person" she said.

<http://www.kath.tv/?page=news&story=215>

### USA, S.C, ABBEVILLE CO, MARCH 10 2012. ABBEVILLE TRAIN DERAILMENT CLEANUP CONTINUES FRIDAY

• **Watch the Video** [Abbeville Train Derailment](#)

• **Watch the Video** [Train Derails In Upstate; Hazmat Responds](#)

• **Watch the Video** [Raw Sky 4 Video](#)

• **Watch the Video** [Train carrying methanol derails in Abbeville](#)

• **Watch the Video** [Investigation, Cleanup Continue After Train Derails In Abbeville](#)

• **Photo Gallery [10]** [Abbeville Train Derailment](#)

• **Photo Gallery** [28 train cars derail in Abbeville](#)



South Carolina Emergency Management and Abbeville leaders say 50 residents remain displaced Friday morning. Workers will begin to offload the methanol out of the tanker this afternoon. That could take six hours. It's unclear if residents will be allowed to return today, but it's possible. Nine cars still remain, the others were removed overnight, we're told 18,000 gallons of propanediol was either offloaded from the leaking car or pumped out of the ditch where it leaked, CSX is responsible for cost of clean-up, but it's unclear who will pay for the emergency and law enforcement response. Four units from the state transport police have been requested to assist with response.

**Posted: March 8, 2012**

Crews are on the scene working around the clock to clean up a chemical spill following a Thursday morning train derailment in Abbeville. Nearby homes were evacuated after more than two dozen CSX train cars derailed around 5 a.m. at Redd and Hagler Streets, near Long Branch Street. The evacuation has since been lifted for most and residents have been allowed to return to their homes, but are asked to stay indoors until further notice. The only residents not allowed back in include Redd and McBride streets, and Shop Hill Drive. They are being put up at a Greenwood hotel. Abbeville Fire Chief Mason Speers tells 7 On Your Side one of the derailed cars is leaking propanediol, a chemical used to make antifreeze for recreational vehicles. Officials say no one was hurt and there is no health risk because of the spill. It's unsure how much of the chemical has leaked, but officials say the leak is now sealed off. Other cars also carried methanol, which is flammable, but officials say none was spilled during the derailment. The cause of the derailment has not yet been released. Crews are working on a plan to offload and remove the chemicals and eventually get the derailed cars off the tracks. American Red Cross members responded to care for displaced residents. A shelter is set up at the Abbeville Civic Center. CSX Railroad says they will take care of hotel costs for residents for the remainder of the time they are displaced. There is no timetable on how long clean-up will last or when the residents will be allowed back in to their homes. Some of those displaced tell 7 On Your Side they were told to plan to be away for three days. Some residents tell 7 On Your Side they were awakened by a strange noise. Bryant Wilson says, "I stay right behind the tracks. I usually hear a lot of noise all the time, but this was a little different." It was the sound of train cars spilling off the tracks. Hilda Copes' dog was on



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high alert. She says, "She (her dog, Sheeba) knew something was wrong." The community woke up to the mess. 1,000 people initially got word to get out of their homes. As they huddled in a shelter, residents found got better news. Copes says, "We're lucky. It could have been worse. It could have been some chemicals on there that exploded." Officials say only one chemical, propanediol, leaked, but it has been contained, and it is not hazardous. There's one other worry, methanol, a flammable chemical, was in some of the cars, but we're told none of it leaked out. However, crews have to take extra care as they get the methanol pumped out of the train car. David McCuen, Abbeville's Assistant City Manager, says, "The only concern is when they (clean-up crews) go to pump it with it being flammable, having some concern there, so that nothing else were to happen." The potential danger is why people like Copes, living right next to the danger zone, have to stay out of their homes. Copes is glad for the wakeup call from her dog, and as clean-up continues, she says this will be a wake-up call for the whole community of the dangers of living next to the tracks. Copes asks, "What's going to happen in the future to avoid this? That's gonna be the next thing." The city of Abbeville says it notified residents within a half mile radius of the train derailment through reverse 911 and going door to door. Some residents tell 7 On Your Side it took 2 hours after the train crash before they were notified. The city says they will look into the concerns and see if any changes need to be made for future notifications.

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2012/mar/08/44/news-alert-train-derails-abbeville-county-evacuati-ar-3372811/>

### IRELAND, KILKENNY COUNTY, MARCH 10 2012. GREEN LIGHT GIVEN FOR COMMERCIAL STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES

Kilkenny County Council has given the go ahead to allow for the commercial storage and distribution of explosives at a facility at Galmoy Mines. Permission was granted for the change of use of this authorised explosive magazine facility from private storage to commercial storage and distribution of explosives. The storage shed will be used to store a maximum of 40 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate Blasting Intermediate (ANSI) and 30 tonnes of Ammonium Nitrate (AN). It is proposed that a Detonator Repack Shed be constructed outside the Detonator Magazine and that a primer repack shed be constructed outside the second primer magazine. Both sheds will be used for the repackaging of detonators and primers, respectively, from their delivered to site case quantities into the quantities required for onward shipment to customers. The green light was also given for an extension to the facility. The extension involves the construction of a storage shed measuring about 456 square metres and two repack sheds of approximately 3.2 square metres each. The existing and proposed development is located in the townland of Castletown, Galmoy. The existing development consists of a securely fenced explosive magazine complex owned by Galmoy Mine Limited. It was used for the private storage of explosives by the mine and comprises of five magazine bins/stores, an office building including toilet facilities and associated septic tank and percolation area and an access route onto the R435. The area of the facility including the access route is approximately 2.38 hectares. Permission was also granted to retain the existing access route, security fence, office building, including toilet facilities and septic tank, percolation area as well as the existing terms.

<http://www.kilkennypeople.ie/news/local/green-light-given-for-commercial-storage-of-explosives-1-3604388#>

### USA, CA, IRVINE, MARCH 11 2012. MARINE HANGAR WAS 'WITCHES BREW'

robert o'dowd



Hangar 296 at MCAS El Toro

MCAS El Toro's Hangar 296 was "ground zero" for TCE plume spreading miles into Orange County and the only building on the former base contaminated with radiation. Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) El Toro has been an EPA Superfund since 1990, primarily from the TCE plume from Hangars 296 and 297 spreading into the Orange County aquifer. Both hangars were over 200,000 square feet in area, constructed in 1944, and used 55 gallons drums of trichloroethylene (TCE) to decrease aircraft for decades. TCE waste from these two hangars contaminated the aquifer under MWSG-37 and formed a TCE plume, threatening the Orange County principal aquifer off base. Millions have been spent by the both the Navy and local government in the clean-up, an effort that will not be completed for decades. Once the premier Marine Corps jet fighter base, MCAS El Toro was closed in July 1999 and the Navy sold most of the land on the former base at a public auction for \$650 million to a real



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estate joint venture in 2005. In July 2002, a Navy contractor reported that the north mezzanine of Hangar 296 was contaminated with radiation (no radiation was found in Hangar 297). TCE, a known carcinogen, and radiation from a Ra 227 paint room in Hangar 296 are an environmental health risk to Marines who were unknowingly exposed to these toxins and developed cancers years later. The TCE plume from both hangars swept through the area where the base wells were located, averaging 50 to 500 ug/L over the wells or 10 to 100 times the EPA acceptable level of TCE in water. The Navy purchased a small quantity of softened municipal water in 1951 and much larger quantity in 1969. Missing original well construction drawings and water distribution engineering drawings make it difficult to pinpoint the exact date when the base wells were abandoned by the Marines. One engineering drawing from 1975 showed that the base wells were still part of the water distribution system at that late date. The missing key is the location of the critical well screen intervals, the first point that water and contaminants enter a well. The Navy asked its consulting engineering in 1998 to locate and video tape the well screen interval on Well No. 4, the first well designated for sealing in concrete. The results were not encouraging. Over 40 feet of the well screen interval on Well No. 4 was located in the contaminated aquifer. The remaining base wells were sealed in concrete without an inspection to locate their well screen intervals. In 1986, the water distribution engineering drawings for El Toro were redrawn. Only Irvine Company Well No. 55, now an agricultural well, was the only well remaining in the water distribution system. Consistent with DOD policy, no Marine Veterans were notified of their possible exposure to organic solvents and radiation by the Navy and Marine Corps. However, DOD and the various Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) have the capability to link to the EPA Superfund database for El Toro and all 130 military bases that are Superfund sites. The EPA database identifies the chemicals of concern and their health effects, useful information to Veterans and their medical health care providers. No Congressional committee has raised this issue with DOD and it appears to fall into the category of 'let sleeping dogs lie.' Even though it's been over 40 years since I worked and slept on duty watch in Hangar 296, I have vivid memories of El Toro, once the premier Marine Corps jet fighter base, and home to the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, relocated to Miramar in July 1999 when the base was officially closed. Most of my memories of El Toro are good. In 1963, the Vietnam War had not consumed the country with anti-war fever; the draft was in effect and no one cut across the border to Canada to avoid military service. Buddies from the Corps will remain in my memory until the good Lord calls me home. I still call one retired Marine Captain I served with overseas and at NAS Glenview, Illinois. We were both Corporals in 1964-1966. Even though his brother died this week and he was on his way to the funeral, he called my home to pass on information to help me track down Marine veterans who might be able to confirm information the VA needed on my disability claim. The Marine who had the top bunk while I slept on the bottom at El Toro died of brain cancer on November 10, 2002, the Marine Corps birthday. We had served together right out of boot camp. Can't forget that date. He's in my prayers every day. Believe me, we were not choir boys in the Corps. The first sergeant, who passed out our Good Conduct Medals in Japan, looked each of us in the eye and said "Thanks for not getting caught." To say that I was shocked to learn that MCAS El Toro was a Superfund site a few years ago would be a gross understatement. I had worked for the EPA IG as an auditor in the 1970s and knew that El Toro's placement on the EPA Superfund list was not good news for anyone who lived and worked on the base, especially for someone who narrowly survived bladder cancer and seem to have multiple medical conditions not shared by his brothers and other family members.

#### Bladder Cancer

I had been very lucky. Filling the toilet with blood after shoveling snow in December 2005, I knew that that I had a serious medical problem. I drove myself to the nearest ER, had a urine analysis confirming blood in my urine (something I already knew). The examining physician concerned that I might just blow this off, made it very clear on the need to follow-up with a urologist. I told him that I had seen so many urologists over the past 20 years that the AMA should erect a monument in my name or at least make me an 'honorary urologist.' This was a weekend. The following week, I had a cystoscopy in my urologist's office, confirming a small tumor. Three weeks later I was operated on. The small tumor had grown and in the words of my urologist was "aggressive." I had a good doctor. Follow-up chemotherapy was not pleasant but it worked. The cancer remains in remission, but being a cancer survivor is a little bit 'like looking over your shoulder' for the bad guy to reappear and take you out. When your life insurance agent tells you that you are uninsurable, I get the message. For me, it was not comforting in the least to learn that the north mezzanine of Hangar 296 was contaminated with radiation from a Ra 226 paint room. TCE and radiation? This is a little bit like 'pick your poison,' a game I rather not play. I didn't get a choice of assignments in the Corps. I went where I was ordered to report to. There is strong evidence that bladder cancer may be associated with exposure to ionizing radiation, according to scientists at the Center for Environmental Health Studies, Boston, MA. The VA agreed that my stage 2/3 bladder cancer and hyperprolactinemia were "at least as likely as not" due to exposure to TCE/PCE



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and El Toro in the 1960s. But, radiation exposure may have been a factor, too. No one in the 1960s knew that MWSG-37's 200 acres would be the most contaminated area at El Toro, literally ground zero for the TCE plume, the most industrialized portion of the base, the area where the base wells were located, and where the Navy and EPA would identify 11 separate contaminated sites. MWSG-37 may not have been an environmental cesspool or the military equivalent of Love Canal, but if you could have looked into a crystal ball and had the ability to select your duty assignment, no one but a fool would have volunteered to work in El Toro's southwest quadrant. El Toro was a long way in time and space from Shakespeare's "Macbeth," and there were no witches dancing around the TCE vat (caldrion) in Hangar 296, but it doesn't take much of an imagination to see the very real toxic health effects to TCE vapors, dermal contact, and ingestion in the water supply to this deadly carcinogen. If you're still in doubt, just do a Google search on "the health effects of TCE exposure." If the TCE tank in Hangar 296 was not a 'witch's brew,' it was the closest thing to it. The Marines who worked in the hangar had no idea of the deadly health effects of TCE.

#### Radiation In Hanger 296

A FOIA to the Navy produced another, maybe even more frightening environmental nightmare for those exposed to it. Radiation. In July 2002, Roy F. Weston (a Navy contractor) reported that the area in the north mezzanine of Hangar 296 was contaminated with radiation from a Ra 226 paint room.

<http://www.salem-news.com/articles/march092012/toxic-hangar-ro.php>

#### ITALY, SANTA PANAGIA, MARCH 11 2012. CREW FROM STRANDED ITALIAN TANKER RESCUED

 **Watch the Video** [Storm hits Sicily, tanker aground](#)



Coast guard helicopters on Saturday lifted to safety all 19 members of an empty Italian oil tanker that ran aground in bad weather off the island of Sicily. No one was injured in the accident, which took place almost two months after the cruise ship Costa Concordia hit rocks off another Italian island, Giglio. More than 30 people died in the January 13 accident. 'The helicopters were operating in critical conditions due to the terrible weather and strong winds, but everyone is now safe and sound,' Italian coast guard commander Filippo Marini told news channel Sky TG24. The position of the Gelso M, which was listing after hitting rocks, had made it 'impossible to use lifeboats or coast guard patrol boats' to evacuate the crew, another Italian coast guard official, Cosimo Nicastro, said. The 11,000 ton ship was taking in water in some parts of its engine room and officials were evaluating whether it would be possible

to tow it to the nearest port. According to the maritime monitoring website [www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com), the Gelso M had set sail from Venice and was heading for the Sicilian port of Augusta. Inclement weather also struck other parts of the southern Mediterranean on Saturday. In Malta a British tourist, a man believed to be in his 50s, drowned after being swept out from the shore of the resort town of Qawra. Rescuers on the island nation worked to clear the streets of toppled electricity poles and trees while several moored boats were damaged when they drifted onto the shore.

[http://news.monstersandcritics.com/europe/news/article\\_1694459.php/Crew-from-stranded-Italian-tanker-rescued](http://news.monstersandcritics.com/europe/news/article_1694459.php/Crew-from-stranded-Italian-tanker-rescued)

#### USA, CA, BUELLTON, MARCH 11 2012. 1 DEAD AFTER FIERY TANKER CRASH



*The driver of this tanker truck died after he lost control of the vehicle and it rolled over before bursting into flames.*

Northbound lanes of Highway 101 are expected to remain closed until mid-afternoon following this morning's fatal accident involving an overturned fuel tanker that burned north of Buellton. The tanker carrying 8,500 gallons of gasoline overturned about 3:45 a.m. on northbound Highway 101 between Buellton and Highway 154, according to a Santa Barbara County Fire Department spokesman. All lanes of the highway were closed for several hours, with traffic diverted onto Highway 154, authorities said. However, southbound lanes reopened just after 9 a.m. today, the California Highway



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### Release 2012 – 823 Newsy Stuff

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

**March 21 2012**



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Patrol reported. Northbound lanes should open by 2 p.m., CHP officials said. Santa Barbara County Fire Department crews spent several hours battling the burning wreckage and were assisted by Vandenberg Fire Department's specialized foam truck to help extinguish the blaze. The tanker truck reportedly was headed to Atascadero but additional details weren't available.

[http://santamariatimes.com/news/local/update-northbound-hwy-to-reopen-this-afternoon-dead-after-fiery/article\\_29c24f56-6ad5-11e1-b2b3-0019bb2963f4.html](http://santamariatimes.com/news/local/update-northbound-hwy-to-reopen-this-afternoon-dead-after-fiery/article_29c24f56-6ad5-11e1-b2b3-0019bb2963f4.html)

### ENGLAND, TAUNTON, MARCH 11 2012. M5 HORROR CRASH RECREATED IN HANGAR - AND IT SHOWS FIREWORKS DID NOT CAUSE MULTIPLE FATALITIES >> FOG, NOT SMOKE FROM FIREWORK DISPLAY, IS THOUGHT TO BE TO BLAME FOR NOVEMBER SMASH THAT KILLED SEVEN



*Horror accident: Seven people died in pile-up at Junction 25 of the M5.*

Fog, not smoke from a firework display, is thought to be to blame for the horror M5 smash in November in which seven people died. That's the findings of a painstaking probe by scientists who recreated the conditions on the night of the crash in an aircraft hangar. They believe a driver braking suddenly as he or she hit a dense bank of fog is the most likely cause of the 35-vehicle pile-up. Meteorologists, pyrotechnic experts and crash scene investigators worked on the scaled-down reconstruction. Fog was created over water doubling up as the River Frome by the M5 and smoke generated to represent the firework display at nearby Taunton Rugby Club. The team discovered that a south-easterly wind blowing on November 4 would have blown the smoke from the display AWAY from the crash site – clearing the fireworks display organisers

of any blame. Immediately after the crash, Avon and Somerset Assistant Chief Constable Anthony Bangham, claimed it was a criminal investigation. The finger of suspicion was pointed at the rugby club and Geoff Counsell, boss of Firestorm Pyrotechnics, whose event had finished minutes before the crash. Lawyers representing the club and Mr Counsell are still considering whether to take legal action or make an official complaint against him. A source close to the probe said: "It's been an incredibly, complex inquiry. And it's still hard to be absolutely categoric about what happened." Instead, the main thrust of the inquiry has looked at the possibility that a driver, possibly joining the motorway at junction 25, was the catalyst for the crash. A lorry at the front of the pile-up owned by J.B.Wheaton and Sons of Chard, Somerset, had damage to the front offside bumper, consistent with some sort of minor collision. An Iceland truck straddled the middle and outside lanes and a TNT lorry jack-knifed. More and more vehicles ploughed into the wreckage, some bursting into flames. Terry Brice, Kye Thomas, Michael and Maggie Barton, Anthony and Pamela Adams and Malcolm Beacham all died. Police will pass their file on the crash to the Crown Prosecution Service in the next fortnight and a final decision on whether there will be any charges is likely by the end of May. Coroner Michael Rose opened the inquest into the deaths in November last year but victims' families have been told a full hearing could be heard by September, so a criminal case is unlikely. Avon and Somerset Police said: "All contributory factors are being investigated to identify what can be done to prevent similar incidents in the future. At this stage it is difficult to say when the findings will be made public."

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/m5-horror-crash-recreated-in-hangar-758053>

### GHANA, MARCH 11 2012. GHANA NAVY ARRESTS TANKER WITH HIJACKED CRUDE



The Ghana Navy has arrested an oil tanker, MV Madina that attempted to discharge hijacked crude oil from Nigeria at the Saltpond Offshore Producing Company Limited (SPOCL). Mr Quincy Sintim Aboagye, Chief Executive Officer of SPOCL, who had earlier received information about the hijacked crude from the owners, directed that the vessel MV Madina should be tied up to prevent it from escaping until the Navy ships arrived. The Owners of MV Madina told GNA, that the vessel was engaged in lifting crude oil from a marginal oil producing field in Nigeria into a bigger vessel, MV North Wind Grace but the Captain and the crew conspired to hijack it while laden with crude oil. They said they began to trace the vessel and alerted the Benin and Ghanaian Security. They said they informed Mr Aboagye about the incident, who confirmed that the



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Vessel was at SPOCL and they pleaded with him to detain the vessel until the Navy moved in to arrest it. The Owners said they would file the necessary papers to reclaim their oil and the vessel at the courts on Monday. Meanwhile, Director of Public Relations of the Ghana Armed Forces, Colonel M'Bawine Atintande told the media that guards have been placed on the vessel.

<http://vibeghana.com/2012/03/10/ghana-navy-arrests-tanker-with-hijacked-crude/>

### **NIGERIA, NIGER DELTA, MARCH 11 2012. NIGER DELTA: OVER 100 ILLEGAL REFINERIES RESURFACE >> REPLACE THOSE BOMBED BY JTF >> LOCAL, TRANSNATIONAL GANGS RULE CREEKS**

*olawale rasheed*

The Nigerian state may be in for a tough time as a very large part of the Niger Delta region is now ruled by operators of illegal refineries. The Niger Delta environment is being destroyed daily through spillage and disposal of waste from the crude refining across the creeks and waterways. Pictures and videos of many parts of the creeks and waterways of the Niger Delta on Friday revealed increasingly sophisticated operations of hundreds of illegal refineries and bunkering sites along the over 5,000 kilometres oil pipelines in the region. Sunday Tribune's exclusive access to the dangerous creeks and waterways' covered such areas as Imo River, Awoba area, Krakana, Bodo West, Bonny River, Cawthorne and Nembe of Rivers State with investigators confirming that worst cases were replete in Bayelsa and many parts of Delta State. A noticeable trend throughout the flight was that illegal refiners were clearly at work conducting their operations in broad day light. At a point in Bodo West when Sunday Tribune flew low, gun wielding operators of one of the refineries warned us to back off by waving their deadly weapons at us. In Krakana, many acres of lands were dotted with active illegal refineries with many boats loaded with drums on the creek side. In Bodo West and other areas, the refining equipment appeared to have been made of drums and welded steels which were then heated to distil the stolen crude for diesel. In all the areas visited, the pipelines were dotted with hacked points fitted with taps which were linked to the illegal refineries located inside the creeks and waterways. The pipelines clearly showed signs of vandalism as in Cawthorne area, about four bunkerers were seen fixing their taps on the pipelines with a long hose leading right inside the creeks where the refinery was located. On seeing intruders, they took to their heels, disappearing into the jungles though leaving their taps still fitted into the pipelines. During the flight, more than 50 refineries were seen in operation with the cooking of the crude to distil diesel generating flames currently flaring up across the various sites. In many areas, the more than 100 refineries bombed last year by the Joint Military Task Force in the areas were being revived with new sites being developed beside the destroyed facilities. In Awoba area, the bunkerers were even more sophisticated as they dug the ground to reach the pipeline from where they welded and fitted their taps which were then linked along the creeks. All along the creeks were boats of various sizes zooming in and out, loaded with many drums and their red flags openly displayed. The red flag was said to denote warning to anybody who might want to confront them. To confirm the advanced nature of the operations, Sunday Tribune also saw about four sites where boats and barges for crude theft were being made in what looked like a big legitimate business. In Waterside, in particular, bunkering boats and barges were being constructed. A very disturbing discovery during the flight was the extensive environmental damage witnessed with many acres of land barren and filled with slugs from the illegal refineries. At many sites from Krakana to Bodo West, large expanse of land laid waste with many more acres dotted with oil wastes from nearby refineries. What is more, the creeks and waterways were full of oil flowing into the rivers, killing all aquatic life in the area. Sunday Tribune findings after the flight revealed that the creeks and waterways were truly inaccessible to security agencies as they were deep inside the jungles and mere patrolling of the areas would demand many marines, rather than conventional troops. Facts on ground in the creeks and waterways visited showed that the areas were largely under the rulership of armed local and transnational gangs. Stuart Jannes, an Australian who operated helicopter services across the creeks and waterways of the Niger Delta, warned about the increasing sophistication of the illegal bunkerers who he said had graduated from crude drums thieves to ambitious refiners of crude oil across the Niger Delta. Jannes, who said he had been flying over the Niger Delta for over 15 years, added that oil theft was previously on a small scale with those behind the activities largely unorganised, a situation he said had changed in the past few years with hundreds of illegal refineries dotting the creeks and waterways. "It is scary and expanding at a pace one cannot imagine. They are becoming bolder and I was shot at many times when I flew low to record their activities. I have been kidnapped twice, but I was lucky. "See, if an attack is to be launched on them, miraculously, they get alerted and they move to another area. At times, you don't know who to talk to," the expatriate who piloted the chopper for the flight said. Oil companies caught in the web of this illegal trade are even more embittered and disturbed as the blame of environmental pollution due to consequent spillage is squarely placed on them. Shell's manager in charge of oil spill remediation and management, Igbo



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Augustine, told Sunday Tribune that in the past, illegal refineries were not an issue, but that it had now become a major challenge facing the Niger Delta with dire consequences for all stakeholders.

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/sun/front-page-articles/6680-niger-delta-over-100-illegal-refineries-resurface-replace-those-bombed-by-jtf-local-transnational-gangs-rule-creeks>

### USA, WA, SEATTLE, MARCH 12 2012. TWO MEN BURNED IN EXPLOSION NEAR BALLARD LOCKS

Two people were hurt Sunday in an explosion at a business near the Ballard locks. Seattle Fire officials say two men working at J.K. Fabrication were welding on a boat next to two fuel tanks and the tanks ignited. One tank flew over a fence and onto train tracks. A 59-year-old man was in critical condition with burns over 40 percent of his body. A 33-year-old man had burns over 20 percent of his body and was in serious condition.

<http://www.nwcn.com/home/?fId=142252775&fPath=/news/local&fDomain=10212>

### USA, OH, JEFFERSON CO, MARCH 12 2012. FIRST RESPONDERS AT SCENE OF FUEL TANK FIRE

Firefighters responded to a fuel tank fire that broke out about 9:45 a.m. Sunday in [Jefferson County](#). Dispatchers said the fire occurred on Riddles Run Road near the Cardinal plant at a coal mining site. Mingo Junction, New Alexandria and Brilliant fire departments responded and extinguished the fire within the hour. Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency were called out to the scene. No further reports are available at this time.

<http://www.wtov9.com/news/news/first-responders-scene-fuel-tank-fire/nLQX5/>

### USA, N.Y, LIBERTY, MARCH 12 2012. CANCER RATES UP NEAR ONCE-TAINTED LIBERTY WELL

*leonard sparks*

 **Report** [www.health.ny.gov/environmental/](http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/)

A draft state Department of Health report on the health effects of a potentially cancer-causing gasoline additive discovered 20 years ago in a well supplying drinking water to about 4,000 Liberty residents found a higher-than-expected incidence of leukemia among men. The two-year study looked at birth outcomes and cancer diagnoses in areas supplied by the village's Elm Street well. The well, sited near several gas stations, tested positive in 1992 for high levels of methyl tert-butyl ether. Comparing state cancer rates to actual cases reported in the state Cancer Registry, the study found 18 leukemia diagnoses in men between 1990 and 2003, higher than the expected 10. "Although this is not a cause- and-effect link and may, in fact, be due to chance or other possible exposures, we recognize this may raise concerns among men and their families," the report said. Insufficient data exist on the effects on humans of drinking MTBE-contaminated water, state officials said. But the additive is known to cause a number of ailments, including leukemia, in laboratory animals. The level of MTBE contamination in the Elm Street well, which fed water to residents in the village and to the Town of Liberty's Ferndale and Stevensville water districts, was about 150 parts per billion — roughly three times the state standard. "It was just a nasty smell," said Richard Manzi, who moved to Liberty in 1991. "It wasn't water you could drink." The report, dated Feb. 29, also found higher rates of lung and bronchial cancer in women between 65 and 74. Neither cancer is associated with MTBE exposure, and a majority of the women were current or former smokers, the report said. It also found no statistically significant incidences of other potential effects, including low birth weights, birth defects or premature births among residents potentially exposed to the contaminated water. Hundreds of residents combined to file a class-action lawsuit against ExxonMobil Corp and the village. The suit was eventually dropped. The contamination also led the village to build a new water treatment plant at Lily Pond as its primary water source. Water from Elm Street, MTBE-free since 1998, is still used in limited amounts in periods of high demand. "The water coming out of Elm Street, it's cheap to process and it's a great water source, but not if it's contaminated," said village Trustee Joan Stoddard.

<http://www.recordonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120311/NEWS/203110321/-1/SITEMAP>

### ENGLAND, YORKSHIRE, MARCH 12 2012. LONG DELAYS AFTER FUEL SPILLAGE CLOSES MOTORWAY

Drivers were warned to stay clear of the road on Sunday afternoon after it was closed due to a spillage of highly-inflammable liquid propane. Police closed the road between Junction 36 at Tankersley and Junction 37 at Barnsley after a tanker carrying the gas overturned shortly before noon. They then enforced a 1,000m cordon around the scene to ensure it did not ignite. At one point, southbound traffic was queueing back to Leeds, while northbound queues stretched back to Junction 34 at



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Meadowhall. Diversions were in operation until the motorway reopened shortly before 7pm following an investigation into the accident.

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/business/long-delays-after-fuel-spillage-closes-motorway-1-4335511>

#### NIGERIA, LAGOS, MARCH 12 2012. IMPORTER NABBED WITH EXPLOSIVES BY CUSTOMS



The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) command and other security agencies arrested an importer for the unauthorised importation of 11 cartons of substances suspected to be explosives and electronic detonators. The explosives which was packaged professionally so it could beat security checks were brought in on the 18th of February 2012 on board South Africa Airways and it weighed 25kg in total. Comptroller of Customs Airport Command, Mr Charles Edike confirmed that the importation was made without permit from the appropriate authorities. The personnel at the NAHCO warehouse suspected the content inside the cartons which were labelled cartridge powder devices and chargers were prohibited items so security agencies were alerted immediately to further look into the cargo, due to the urgency attached to the clearing process by the importer while attempting to smuggle the cartons out of the cargo terminal without proper clearance of the items inside the carton as he also

had the explosives concealed in pallets made of other goods which concealed the original content. The importer who claimed to be a miner living in Kaduna state evaded import duty payment. The importer and the prohibited explosives were handed over to the police for proper test on the items and for further investigation.

<http://www.channelstv.com/home/2012/03/10/importer-nabbed-with-explosives-by-customs/>

#### NIGERIA, IBADAN, MARCH 16 2012. 10 TANKERS, TRUCK, CARS BURNT IN IBADAN AUTO ACCIDENT

yinka fabowale & gbenga adesuyi

 **Photo Gallery [4]** [Trucks gutted by fire in Ibadan this morning.](#)



There was pandemonium and traffic chaos along Iwo-Road/Ojoo Expressway, for the better part of yesterday after a truck, Bluebird saloon car and 10 petrol tankers fully loaded with fuel caught fire near the Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Mega Station at General Gas area of Ibadan, the Oyo State capital. The fire incident, which occurred at about 2.30am, woke up many residents of Idi-ape, Basorun, Akobo and General Gas axis from their sleep due to the intensity of the fire as well as the continuous explosion occasioned by the inferno. Many others were scared that the fire might spread across the streets and major roads in the area, forcing fire fighters and Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) officials to cut electricity connections and cables in the area. Though no life was lost, electricity poles, shops, stalls as well as private cars parked along the road were not spared. It was gathered that a lorry with registration number: XQ 717 GGE carrying coal and coming from Ojoo end of the expressway had lost

control, skidded off its lane, somersaulted several times and hit an NNPC tanker fully loaded with fuel, attempting to park. The resultant collision led to an explosion, with splashed petrol from the tanker, spilling to others parked in front of the NNPC Mega Station, thus sparking off the inferno that completely burnt 10 tankers in the process. Narrating how the incident happened, NNPC Sales Manager in charge of Oyo and Osun depot, Mr. Adebisi Adewale said the petrol splash caused fire to spread to other vehicles within the area. "The fire was spreading from one vehicle to the other. It also caught up with another lorry fully loaded with diesel." He added that men of state fire service were immediately informed about the incident, but they did not arrive the scene until at about 3.00am. "When they eventually arrived, they did their best to put off the fire and it was their efforts that prevented the fire from affecting our station as you can see," he told Daily Sun. The state Commissioner of Police,



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Mr Moses Onireti said he immediately dispatched a team of police officers to the scene when he got the news of the fire incident. Meanwhile motorists and commuters using the route, which connects travelers from the South-west to the northern part of the country, experienced hell, due to attendant traffic gridlock. A long stretch of queue forced many motorists on the four-lane road to abandon their section of the road to beat the traffic jam, but this only compounded the situation, leaving the traffic at standstill for hours from early hours till noon. The development forced others alerted to the situation to take other routes in the city. However, the situation began easing at about 3.00pm, when security men took positions to control traffic.

<http://www.sunnewsonline.com/webpages/news/national/2012/mar/15/national-15-03-2012-004.html>

#### **NIGERIA, DELTA STATE, MARCH 17 2012. 12 VEHICLES BURNT IN IBADAN TANKER EXPLOSION, 11 DIE OF KEROSENE EXPLOSION IN DELTA, EDO**

*uchechukwu olisah & biola azeezthursday*

A fire incident, a road accident and a kerosene explosion across the country have left 24 people dead with property worth millions of naira destroyed in the aftermath of the incidents. Twelve vehicles were burnt in the fire incident that happened in the early hours of Wednesday in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital following a tanker explosion on the Ojoo-Iwo Road Expressway. Fresh cases of kerosene explosion in Edo and Delta states have claimed the lives of 11 persons. Besides, 11 others are receiving treatment at the Accident and Emergency ward of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH) for burns they sustained from the explosions. The deaths were recorded between February and the early part of this month with nine of them recorded at the UBTH, while two were recorded in unidentified hospital. Co-ordinator-General of Save Accident Victims Association of Nigeria (SAVAN), Dr Eddy Ehikhamenor, said 90 per cent of the victims of kerosene explosion incidents were brought from Delta State to the UBTH. Dr Ehikhamenor advised Nigerians to learn and know how to test kerosene to avoid adulterated kerosene, which he said was responsible for the explosions. He named the method of testing to include visual, volatility, sensory and out-door or light testing. The visual method of testing, according to him, involved observing the colour of kerosene, adding that if the product was colourless, then it was good product, but if it was yellowish or gold, then it is adulterated kerosene. Ehikhamenor also said volatility method of testing involved putting a little drop of kerosene on the human skin to observe it. He said if it dries up leaving white patches it then meant the kerosene was adulterated. If it failed to dry quickly, it meant that the kerosene was good. Dr Ehikhamenor explained that the sensory method entails perceiving the odour, and that if the odour was choking, then the kerosene was adulterated, while the light testing required dropping a little quantity of kerosene on a piece of paper and putting fire. He said if it catches fire immediately, then the kerosene had more fuel.

<http://tribune.com.ng/index.php/front-page-news/37648-12-vehicles-burnt-in-ibadan-tanker-explosion-11-die-of-kerosene-explosion-in-delta-edo-9-month-old-12-others-die-in-ilorin-benin-autocrashes>

#### **INDIA, COIMBATORE, MARCH 17 2012. EXPLOSIVE MATERIAL SEIZED FROM WOMAN AT RAILWAY STATION >> IT WAS MEANT TO BE TRANSPORTED TO KERALA**



*Detonators and gelatin sticks seized at Salem Railway junction on Wednesday.*

Explosive material including detonators and gelatin sticks that were to be transported to Kerala by train were seized from a woman at Salem Railway Junction in the early hours of Wednesday. Senior officials in Railway Police told 'The Hindu' that their patrolling unit saw a couple with a huge bag standing in a suspicious manner on Platform Number 1 at the Railway Junction here to board the Pondicherry-Mangalore Special Express train. When they attempted to enquire, the man ran away leaving the woman behind with the baggage. On enquiry, the police found 150 gelatin sticks, 45 detonators and 3 kilogram of Ammonium Nitrate in the bag. They detained the woman who was identified as one Kavitha (25) from Nungampadi village in Tiruvannamalai district. She told the police she and her husband Palani (32), who ran away, were posing as genuine passengers to

smuggle the explosive materials to Talassery in Kerala where the demand for the same is heavy. Kavitha said that they usually transport the dangerous material in bus. She said that since police vigilance especially after the spate of bank robberies had increased, the couple preferred to travel in train for the first time. They transported the material to Salem from Tiruvannamalai by bus on Tuesday night. Railway Police DSP P Nachimuthu said that special teams were formed to nab



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Palani and an enquiry was going on to trace the source of explosives. He also congratulated Sub Inspector Manikandan and Woman Sub Inspector Karthikeyani who arrested the woman.

#### Man Killed

In another incident, a 75-year old man was killed on the spot when explosive material he handled went off at his clandestine cracker manufacturing unit at Omalur near here on Wednesday. The impact of the explosion was so huge that the body of the victim, Chinnappan, was totally mutilated. The people of Omalur town heard a loud noise when the unit went up in smoke. The entire thatched mud unit was reduced to rubble. Police said that the deceased was the father of one C. Periyapponnu who owned a licensed fire works go-down at Omalur town. He had stored different varieties of crackers, which were used for festivals and functions in the locality. Behind the licensed godown, they also operated a clandestine manufacturing unit in which the explosion took place on Wednesday killing his father instantly who was then engaged in manufacturing country crackers and rockets. Mettur RDO S Soorya Prakash inspected the site. Omalur police are conducting a detailed enquiry.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/article2995697.ece>

#### BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO STATE, MARCH 17 2012. CHEVRON HALTS BRAZIL PRODUCTION AFTER NEW LEAK



*Chevron's previous spill leaked 2,400 to 3,000 barrels, resulting in an \$11 billion civil lawsuit.*

Chevron filed to temporarily halt production operations in Brazil on Thursday after it detected a "small new seep" of oil in the same offshore field where it suffered a high-profile leak in November. The US oil company said it was taking the step as a precautionary measure to study its "reservoir management plans" in Brazil, where it has spent over \$2 billion developing the largest foreign-run oil field. If approved by Brazilian regulators, the suspension will shut down a field with the capacity to produce 80,000 barrels a day, more than 3% of Brazil's oil output. Chevron's previous spill leaked 2,400 to 3,000 barrels from sea-floor cracks and resulted in an \$11 billion civil lawsuit, the largest environmental damages case in Brazil's history, even

though the total amount of oil was less than 0.1% of the BP spill in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico. Chevron said there is no evidence yet that the two spills in Brazil are related or that it caused the latest leak. "The suspension of production is designed to let us analyze scientifically what caused this," Rafael Jaen Williamson, Chevron's director of corporate affairs in Brazil, said at a news conference in Rio de Janeiro. He added that he hoped the suspension would only last "a matter of months" and that the decision does not alter Chevron's investment plans in Brazil. The move to suspend operations at the so-called Frade field, which is currently producing about 61,500 barrels a day, raises questions about the safety and speed with which Brazil can develop giant new offshore oil resources. The Campos basin, where Frade is located, and the neighboring Santos basin contain an estimated 100 billion barrels of oil, enough to provide all current US needs for more than 14 years. Brazil hopes the region, the world's most promising offshore frontier, will help it produce more than 7 million barrels a day of oil by 2020, passing the United States to be the No. 3 oil producer after Russia and Saudi Arabia. Chevron's troubles in Brazil could force it to rethink its Latin American strategies. A shortage of trained workers, engineers and equipment have driven up costs in Brazil, and Chevron faces an \$18 billion environmental verdict in Ecuador. The request to suspend output came on the same day that Brazilian oil regulator ANP said it had notified Chevron that it would be fined an undisclosed amount for failing to prevent seepage at the site. Chevron is already facing fines of up to \$121 million for the November spill and has had its drilling license suspended in Brazil. Chevron said the decision to suspend production at Frade was supported by its partners in the field: Brazilian state oil company Petrobras <PETR4.SA> and Frade Japan, which is owned by Japan's Inpex, Japanese trading house Sojitz and Japanese state oil and metals group JOGMEC. Chevron owns 52% of Frade and operates the field. Petrobras owns 30% and Frade Japan, 18%. Chevron shares, which were already trading down for the second straight day before the news of the new Brazil leak, slid further. The shares fell as much as 1.1% to \$109.47, with trading volumes reaching the highest level in three weeks. They closed at \$110.03, down 0.6% from Wednesday. The ANP said the oil was seeping out of cracks in the ocean floor, not the Chevron well that was sealed following last year's leak. Williamson, the Chevron executive, said there was no evidence that the new leak was caused by drilling or production at the Frade field. The leak was first spotted on March 4, and engineers found the source on March 13, Williamson said. Oil is leaking from an 800-meter-long crack on the sea floor, only a few millimeters wide, said Mauro Pagam, an installation engineer with Chevron. "We were not



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drilling or injecting water in the area of the latest leak," Williamson said. "The information that we have now leads us to believe that this is not ours." The Campos basin is known for natural leaks of oil - seepage that helped lead to the discovery of the petroleum region, responsible for 80% of Brazil's oil output. There is no longer any oil on the surface and the spill did not result in a slick, only "small balls of oil" that have been broken up mechanically by boats, Pagam said. Only 5 litres of oil were collected during the cleanup. The ANP said on Tuesday that Chevron could win back its drilling rights "within months" if it can convince Brazilian officials it understands exactly what caused the November leak.

<http://business-standard.com/india/news/chevron-halts-brazil-production-after-new-leak/160572/on>

#### USA, MS, PASCAGOULA, MARCH 17 2012. CHEVRON REFINERY CREWS WORK TO CLEANUP OIL AFTER SPILL

patrice clark

 **Watch the Video** [Chevron Crews Cleanup Oil Spill](#)



Multiple crews were in Bayou Casotte all day Tuesday, working to cleanup oil-stained water from a Chevron refinery spill hours earlier. "A little before 4 AM, a guy who was doing inspection of the wharf area saw some sheen in the water," Government and Public Affairs Manager Alan Sudduth said. That sheen turned out to be oil coming from a broken pipeline. Chevron's Alan Sudduth said the leaky pipe was shut off, but more than 1,000 gallons of oil had already spilled in the water. "We would anticipate days before this process is finally complete," Sudduth said about the cleanup. "We will also want to make sure that throughout this process that we have not had any significant environmental impacts. We are continuing to monitor what we call the sensitive area on our property." To

trap all the heavy oil and get it out of the water, skimmers and vacuum trucks were deployed, and hundreds of yards of absorbent oil boom were also put in the water. "It is localized to our wharf area, so there is no danger to drinking water, there is no danger to community. So far, we have had no indication that the oil has affected our wildlife here in our area or any of the marsh areas," Sudduth said. Sudduth said it is a little too early to tell how the spill will affect business until the cleanup operation is complete. "I will tell you, that this is refinery process 330,000 barrels per day, so if you take that into consideration that we lost 45 barrels. I can't imagine it having an impact on supply and demand," Sudduth said. "But again our main focus is our Bayou Casotte." The Coast Guard was also out monitoring today's cleanup operation. Sudduth said Chevron will work closely with both the Coast Guard and MDEQ to make sure the company is meeting all necessary requirements.

<http://www.wlox.com/story/17151951/cleanup-crews-work-to-remove-oil-after>

#### IRAN, FARSI ISLAND, MARCH 17 2012. STOLT VALOR SUFFERS EXPLOSION IN ARABIAN GULF, RESCUE CREWS RESPOND



*Navy Ensign Darius Mercer, right, and sailors assigned to the guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones transfer six rescued Filipino mariners to U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Baranof in the Arabian Gulf.*

Crews of the Navy guided-missile destroyer USS John Paul Jones and Coast Guard Cutter Baranof rescued 24 Filipino mariners, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command officials reported. The John Paul Jones, assigned to Combined Maritime Forces Task Force 152, responded to a distress call from the Liberian-flagged motor vessel Stolt Valor, operating in international waters 48 nautical miles southeast of Farsi Island, Iran, officials said. When the John Paul Jones' crew spotted one of two life rafts signaling with a small light and launched the ship's rigid-hull inflatable boat to investigate, they found 16 people in the first raft and eight more in the other. "We were ready to assist, and we were fortunately in the position to help," said Navy Cmdr.

Jon Duffy, the John Paul Jones' commanding officer. Stolt Valor's master confirmed one crew member died during an explosion that occurred onboard. The 24 rescued mariners were in good health and did not require medical help, officials said. Their rescuers gave them food, water and blankets. "Coming to the aid of fellow mariners in trouble and conducting search and rescues at sea are critical skills that the Navy trains us to get right," Duffy said. "I couldn't be more proud of how our crews



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reacted from the initial distress call to when every survivor was safe on deck." At about 7:30 a.m., the 24 survivors were transferred from the John Paul Jones to the Baranof to be taken to Manama, Bahrain. Stolt Valor is a chemical tanker carrying about 13,000 metric tons of methyl tertiary butyl ether, which is used to increase oxygen content in gasoline throughout the United States to reduce carbon monoxide and ozone levels caused by auto emissions, officials said. It is considered soluble, but not biodegradable, they added. The Combined Maritime Forces battle watch officer reported the incident to the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Center, which sent firefighting tugboats to the scene. The USS John Paul Jones is conducting maritime security operations in the Arabian Gulf. Coast Guard Cutter Baranof is assigned to Task Force 55 and U.S. Coast Guard Patrol Forces Southwest Asia, supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

<http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/stolt-valor-suffers-explosion-in-arabian-gulf-rescue-crews-respond>

#### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MARCH 17 2012. MAN DIES AFTER SWALLOWING DANGEROUS CHEMICAL

A man has died after ingesting a dangerous chemical in an incident that saw the emergency department at Newcastle's Mater Hospital evacuated. Police say the 32-year-old man swallowed the chemical in the science laboratories at Newcastle University. When he arrived at the Mater Hospital, concerns were raised about the volatility of the chemical and the fire brigade's hazmat unit was called in. Police Inspector Michael Gorman says a number of people who were in contact with the patient had to be decontaminated. "Police and hazmat from the fire brigade attended the emergency department at the Mater Hospital, took steps to isolate the patient and close the emergency department to any more incoming patients," he said.

"A partial evacuation of the emergency department was carried out until such time as hazmat were satisfied that the area was safe. "The toxicologist was brought in both to treat the male patient but also to liaise with the hazmat staff in terms of the air quality and any possible contamination to any persons who had come into contact with the male during the course of the evening." The emergency department was reopened just after 2:00am.

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-03-17/dangerous-chemical-clears-emergency-room/3895718?WT.mc\\_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-03-17/dangerous-chemical-clears-emergency-room/3895718?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

#### USA, CA, SAN BERNADINO, MARCH 17 2012. THREE MEN FOUND DEAD INSIDE RANCHO CUCAMONGA HOME, CAUSE UNKNOWN

San Bernardino County Sheriff's are investigating the cause of death for three painters who were found inside a Rancho Cucamonga house Friday afternoon. Sheriff's deputies responded at 2:52 p.m. to the 8400 block of Autumn Leaf Drive after a woman reported finding the men she hired to paint her house unresponsive, said Cindy Bachman, sheriff's spokeswoman. Rancho Cucamonga Fire Chief James Curatalo said the homeowner found the men in different rooms of the house. They were hired to paint the interior and were using a paint compressor inside the residence, he said. There were no signs of trauma on the men and investigators do not suspect foul play, Bachman said. There were no further details.

[http://www.sbsun.com/ci\\_20193780/three-men-found-dead-inside-rancho-cucamonga-home](http://www.sbsun.com/ci_20193780/three-men-found-dead-inside-rancho-cucamonga-home)

#### USA, MO, KANSAS CITY, MARCH 17 2012. TANKER CARRYING LIQUID ASPHALT OVERTURNS IN NORTHLAND



*A tanker truck carrying liquid asphalt overturned this morning.*

A tanker truck carrying liquid asphalt overturned this morning, forcing the closure of the ramp from Missouri 210 to northbound Interstate 435 in Kansas City. The crash occurred shortly after 9:15 p.m. The Kansas City Fire Department's hazardous materials units reported liquid asphalt leaking from the truck. The leak was capped and the spill contained by 9:35 a.m., but officials expected it to take some time for the roadway to be cleaned up. The crash wasn't expected to be cleared until about noon, according to Kansas City Scout. Traffic was being told to use an alternate route. No one was injured in the crash.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/03/16/3494933/tanker-carrying-liquid-asphalt.html>



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### USA, WA, SPOKANE, MARCH 17 2012. CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER IN IONE HAS SHIFTED FLOW DIRECTION

The flow of contaminated groundwater at the Airport Kwik Stop in Ione has changed direction and now may be moving toward domestic wells east and southeast of the Airport Kwik Stop. The affected area includes about 14 homes west of Highway 31 and south of Greenhouse (Dewitt) Road. It is unknown whether gasoline-contaminated groundwater has reached these wells until they are tested. Yesterday, Thursday, March 15, 2012, representatives of the Department of Ecology (Ecology) went door to door in the neighborhood to notify residents whose wells might be affected. Ecology is asking for access to these properties to sample the domestic wells as a result of this new information. Ecology will pay for collecting and analyzing the samples. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) is preparing to clean up the site under the state's Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). Currently the public is reviewing and commenting on the work plan. The plan contains details about investigating the extent and location of the petroleum contamination and about determining the best way to clean it up. Data received this week show the change in the flow direction of the petroleum contaminated groundwater, but the cause of this shift has not been determined at this time. If you have questions about your well, please contact Ecology's Site Manager with well sampling questions: Doug Ladwig 509/329-3440 or e-mail [Doug.ladwig@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Doug.ladwig@ecy.wa.gov). Health related questions may be directed to Northeast Tri-County Health District: Matt Schanz in Colville 509-684-2262 or Jim Sayer in Newport 509-447-3131. "We know there are people in the area who are anxious about this news and concerned about protecting their source of clean water," said Michael Hibbler, who manages Ecology's Toxics Cleanup Program in Eastern Washington. "We share their concern. We will get accurate and timely information to those homeowners who might be directly affected. Ecology and health experts are available to discuss this situation with anyone." The petroleum contamination was found in soil and groundwater at the Kwik Stop, the nearby Cabin Grill and two adjacent private properties. In 2008, a pipe connection leaked and gasoline was sprayed inside the premium gas dispenser and from there appears to have migrated away from the store. In 2010 and 2011, soil and groundwater samples showed that some contaminants were above the limit where cleanup is required. The owners of the Cabin Grill installed filters on their tap water system to be safe. To see the work plan for conducting the formal investigation and determining cleanup options, contact Kari Johnson, at Ecology, [kjoh461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kjoh461@ecy.wa.gov), or the Ione Public Library at the Ione Community Center, 509-442-3030. It also is available at Ecology's Toxics Cleanup website. Comments must be received by March 28, 2012.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2012/088.html>

### CHINA, GUANGDONG PROVINCE, MARCH 17 2012. SHIPWRECK OIL LEAKAGE IN S. CHINA CONFIRMED

A shipwreck that occurred Tuesday near the coast of southern Guangdong Province has resulted in "a certain amount of oil spill," the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said on Thursday, citing monitoring results. The SOA's South China Sea Branch and Guangdong Provincial Administration of Ocean and Fisheries started immediate monitoring of potential seawater pollution after receiving a report that Kenos Athena, a vessel from the Republic of Korea loaded with 7,000 tons of sulfuric acid and 140 tons of residual fuel oil, was wrecked in water adjacent to Zhelang Island. According to a statement released Thursday by the SOA, "a patch of rufous oil slick" covering about five to six square km was spotted on the sea surface southwest of the wreckage site, and the slick contained a large amount of petroleum-related substance, indicating leakage from the vessel. Meanwhile, further monitoring was under way to confirm whether the sulfuric acid had also leaked, said the statement.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-03/15/content\\_14844996.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-03/15/content_14844996.htm)

### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, DIAMOND CREEK, MARCH 17 2012. PETROL TANKER CRASH FORCES EVACUATIONS IN DIAMOND CREEK

A petrol tanker took out trees and powerlines in Diamond Creek yesterday, forcing the evacuation of nearby homes. CFA member Peter Perkins, one of the first to arrive at the scene about 5.20pm, said the Cootes Transport driver was attempting a hill start near Moray St when his brakes failed and his tanker started rolling backwards down Ryan's Rd towards houses. Cr Perkins said the driver steered the tanker into a tree halfway down the hill, breaking off a large branch that took down powerlines. He said fire crews arrived to find powerlines hanging low over the road and the truck, carrying 18,000 L of unleaded fuel and 4,000 L of diesel, resting up against a tree without brakes. Firefighters then blocked the road and evacuated residents downhill from the tanker while it was secured, with assistance from Plenty CFA. Cr Perkins said the truck driver was not injured and the tanker was towed away about 8.30pm. Diamond Creek police Sgt Jo Jamieson said the road was closed and traffic diverted for two hours after the incident while crews repaired the powerlines.

<http://diamond-valley-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/petrol-tanker-crash-forces-evacuations/>



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