



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 825 Newsy Stuff

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

**April 3 2012**



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#### USA, WASHINGTON DC, MARCH 22 2012. GOV'T REQUIRES NEW LABELS FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

*sam hananel*

The Obama administration announced long-awaited regulations Tuesday to improve labels on hazardous chemicals and make them conform with international guidelines developed by the United Nations. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration estimated that such labels could prevent more than 40 deaths and about 500 workplace injuries and illnesses from exposure to hazardous chemicals each year. Assistant Labor Secretary David Michaels said labels will be easier to understand and less confusing, especially for low-literacy workers. About 43 million U.S. workers come in contact with hazardous materials on the job. The process of developing the rules began during the Bush administration, and the rules were initially proposed more than two years ago. The Obama administration is holding them out as a product of a presidential directive last year to streamline burdensome agency regulations and eliminate red tape. OSHA officials said the latest rules would actually save companies more than \$475 million annually in training costs and paperwork. Chemical manufacturers currently have to produce two sets of labels and records: one to satisfy U.S. standards and another to meet the U.N. guidelines. "Not only will it save lives and limbs, but it will lead to increased efficiency on part of employers who produce and purchase chemicals," Michaels said. "And it will level the playing field for employers to compete abroad." The rules will be phased in over a transition period and companies will not have to comply with them fully until June 2016. Elizabeth Pullen, president of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, a trade group representing health and safety professionals in the chemical industry, said the new labels will improve protection for workers, employers and chemical users. Marc Freedman, executive director of labor law policy for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said businesses generally support the idea of revising label requirements. But he said OSHA went too far by requiring labels to include hazard information about combustible dust — tiny particles that can catch fire as a result of producing chemicals, plastics, metals and foods. "It's going to create a lot of confusion and uncertainty, which will undermine whatever other value this regulation provides to these companies," Freedman said. Michaels said the agency is simply treating combustible dust the same way it has for the last 25 years. He said investigations of deadly explosions, like the sugar dust that blew up the Imperial Sugar plant in Port Wentworth, Ga., in 2008, killing 14, have shown that workers didn't have the safety handling information they needed to prevent accidents. The agency is considering a separate rule that would require many industries to better control combustible dust hazards.

[http://www.northjersey.com/wires/143592766\\_Gov\\_t\\_requires\\_new\\_labels\\_for\\_hazardous\\_chemicals.html?page=all](http://www.northjersey.com/wires/143592766_Gov_t_requires_new_labels_for_hazardous_chemicals.html?page=all)

#### USA, CO, DENVER, MARCH 22 2012. REPORT: COLORADO OIL, GAS REGULATORS 'INADEQUATE,' NOT ENFORCING RULES

*troy hooper*

A new report blasts the state agency charged with regulating the oil and gas industry for failing to enforce its own rules. There were 516 spills in 2011 but the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) only assessed five fines, according to [the report that Earthworks released today](#). "The COGCC's mission is to foster responsible oil and gas development by balancing drilling with protection of landowners, public health, and the environment," Gwen Lachelt, the director of Earthworks' Oil & Gas Accountability Project, said in a prepared statement. "Right now, the COGCC's rules, like its mission statement, are just empty words on a page. There is no balance here." As the number of wells drilled increases in Colorado, the number of inspections is decreasing, the report found, noting it is physically impossible for existing COGCC staff to annually inspect every well. The report also claims many rule violations are not recorded. The few who are penalized are subject to maximum fines of \$1,000 per day, which the report deems "inadequate to deter irresponsible operations." "There is always room for improvement in anything that we do," Colorado Department of Natural Resources spokesman Todd Hartman said on behalf of COGCC. "At the same time, the issues addressed in the report today are not simple. We are and will continue to be aggressive in our enforcement when operators take actions that pose significant threats to the environment and public health." COGCC's staff, he added, "works diligently, responsibly and effectively to ensure protection of the public and environment from any potential impacts of oil and gas development in Colorado. We enforce the most comprehensive set of oil and gas regulations in the country, including, beginning April 1, the strongest and most transparent hydraulic fracturing chemical [disclosure rules](#) yet adopted in any state." The Earthworks report comes amid heated debate about whether local governments should be able to make their own laws regarding oil and gas drilling. Competing bills — one introduced by a Democrat to [empower local governments](#) and another one introduced by a Republican to solely empower COGCC — died at the state capitol. Gov. John Hickenlooper recently convened a [task force](#) to "help clarify and better coordinate" the regulatory jurisdiction between state and local governments.



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#### The Task Force's Findings are Due April 18.

Boulder County, Longmont and Colorado Springs have temporarily halted drilling activity. Commerce City, Erie and Aurora, Arapahoe County, Douglas County, Elbert County, El Paso County and Huerfano County are vying for their own regulations. The proliferation of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is fueling much of the [community concern](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is studying the risks that fracking poses to drinking water after complaints have been made in Colorado, Wyoming and other states. This week the University of Colorado-Denver School of Public Health announced that an analysis of [residents in Garfield County](#) living within a half-mile of oil and gas fracking operations found they have been exposed to air pollution five times above the federal hazard limit. [U.S. Reps. Diana DeGette and Jared Polis](#), both Democrats from Colorado, have asked President Obama to strengthen environmental and public health standards to protect against fracking. "COGCC's inadequate performance shows why citizens need to have federal standards, as well as state regulations," Earthworks' policy director Lauren Pagel said. "In Colorado's case, state regulation means inadequate regulation, and therefore, irresponsible development." She recommended that COGCC increase its inspection staff, standardize and publicize inspections, and increase fines for violations. COGCC has doubled its staff size over the past seven years during hard economic times, responded Hartman, and the agency will hire an additional seven people, including two more inspectors, over the next fiscal year at a time when government agencies continue to cut budgets. Moreover, COGCC's website is "perhaps the most open and informative in the country, with wholesale public access to documents associated with complaints, inspections and alleged violations – as well as all follow-up documents that follow from those," Hartman noted. "We publish updated statistics monthly on a wealth of material, including violations, complaints, spills, remediation and inspections."

#### Still, Critics Remain.

Last month, 18 conservation and citizen activist groups [questioned the ties](#) between industry and regulators at the COGCC and asked Hickenlooper to improve the state's oversight. The Earthworks report is just the latest to question Colorado's ability to regulate the energy industry. [The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission](#) last week criticized the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for its oversight of radioactive materials. State officials strongly defended their processes and called the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's comments "unprofessional."

<http://coloradoindependent.com/116024/report-colorado-oil-gas-regulators-inadequate-not-enforcing-rules>

#### USA, LA, GEISMAR, MARCH 24 2012. CHEMICAL PLANT IN GEISMAR EXPLODES, CAUSE UNKNOWN

joshua auzenne

##### Watch the Video

- [Fire at Geismar Chemical Plant](#)
- [Chemical plant in Geismar explodes, cause unknown](#)



Inspectors from several environmental agencies are trying to determine what caused an explosion at Westlake Chemical along LA 73 in Geismar. A fire broke around 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning. An estimated 300 people were told to stay indoors. "During the restart of our vinyl chloride monomer plant we had an explosion and fire. There were no injuries and all personnel have been accounted for," Westlake Chemicals Environmental Health and Safety Manager Karen Khonsari said. At 9:10 a.m., paramedics said there were no reports of injuries. Authorities say "the lines involved in the release are either shut in or in the process of being shut in." There was an evacuation and shelter-in-place ordered for a one mile radius. Highway 73 was closed. "We used a system called First Call to do a reverse 911 to

notify everybody to shelter in place around the facility," Ascension Parish OEP Director Rick Webre said. Shelter-in-place means you should stay in your home with the doors and windows closed, along with the air conditioning and heating units turned off. This was lifted just after 11 a.m. The plant was releasing Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM); Hydrochloric Acid (HCL); Chlorine (CL); and Hydrochloric Acid solution in whole or parts. The Department of Environmental Quality is sending the Mobile Air Monitoring Lab, the DEQ command post and emergency responders to do additional monitoring and oversight. The EPA's ASPECT plane, which can conduct aerial monitoring, arrived Thursday afternoon. The EPA is providing additional air monitoring equipment to add to DEQ's equipment. An EPA START contractor team was on the site by early afternoon as well



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as an EPA on Scene coordinator. DEQ Emergency Response will do continuous monitoring for the duration of the incident and is coordinating with the plant, LA State Police and Ascension Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness. The DEQ Incident Command Center was set up in the facility parking lot and Ascension OEP, Sheriff and State Police are on scene with DEQ Emergency responders. Inspectors are now trying to determine how much gas is left in the damaged plant tower, where it is, and what needs to be done to prevent future accidents.

<http://www.wafb.com/story/17228744/chemical-plant-in-geismar-explodes-cause-unknown>

### USA, MD, BALTIMORE, MARCH 24 2012. MARYLAND WATERSHED ONE OF MOST POLLUTED IN NATION >> GUNPOWDER-PATAPSCO WATERSHED RESPONSIBLE FOR MOST OF STATE'S WATER POLLUTION

steve kilar

 **Document** [Read the full report](#)



Nearly all of the toxic pollutants in Maryland's waterways come from the watershed that enters the Chesapeake Bay near Baltimore, according to a report released Thursday by an environmental watchdog group. The Gunpowder-Patapsco Watershed, which stretches above the Maryland-Pennsylvania border and as far west as Mount Airy, had more than 1.3 million pounds of toxins dumped into it during 2010, the nonprofit group Environment Maryland concluded. That's 98 percent of the chemicals released into the state's waterways that year, the report said. The watershed is the 43rd most polluted in the country. Curtis Creek, south of Brooklyn along the border of Baltimore and Anne Arundel County, received the vast majority of those pollutants, the group's study said. About 922,000 pounds of

chemicals were released into the creek, which feeds into Curtis Bay. The report, which has a national scope, said that 26 million pounds of chemicals find their way into the 1,400 U.S. waterways during 2010. The chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, developmental and reproductive disorders, include mercury, arsenic and benzene. Environment Maryland analyzed data from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory for 2010. It is the most recent data available, Environment Maryland said.

[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-03-22/features/bs-md-environment-maryland-report-20120322\\_1\\_water-pollution-toxic-pollutants-environment-maryland](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2012-03-22/features/bs-md-environment-maryland-report-20120322_1_water-pollution-toxic-pollutants-environment-maryland)

### USA, S.C, CHARLESTON, MARCH 23 2012. DIESEL FUEL LEAK IN ASHLEY RIVER CLEANED UP

A diesel fuel leak discovered about 1 p.m. Thursday in the Ashley River was nearly all cleaned up about six hours later, the Coast Guard said. Diesel fumes could be smelled along the Lockwood Drive waterfront, and an oil sheen spread across the river, after the spill from a privately owned 42-foot cabin cruiser. The vessel's bilge pump apparently malfunctioned and leaked the fuel at the Harborage at Ashley Marina, Coast Guard Lt. Kevin Kuhn said. He said the boat owner contacted a private contractor, who deployed absorbent materials from booms in the water, and also pumped out the remaining spilled fuel from inside the boat. Kuhn said absorbent materials "aren't 100 percent effective" in recovering spilled fuel, "but it's the best you can do." The exact amount of the spill is undetermined, but it was small, Kuhn said. "Diesel fuel is light enough that it will all float at the surface," Kuhn said, so that size of a sheen could spread from a relatively minor spill. The sheen spread to about 75 square feet, he said. The Coast Guard will determine if any charges or fines are appropriate in this case, Kuhn said.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/news/2012/mar/23/local/>

### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, HERBERTON, MARCH 24 2012. DRINKING WATER WARNING FOR HERBERTON RESIDENTS

tony stickley

People living downstream of the Baal Gammon mine at Herberton have been told not to take drinking water from the Walsh River after releases of water from the mining operation after heavy rains. The Department of Resource Management also ordered operators Kagara Ltd, who are in partnership with Minto Ltd, to take measures to prevent any further releases. A spokesperson for the department said in a statement last night that officials were investigating the releases into Jamie Creek



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and had visited the site at least five times to collect samples. Three weeks ago a number of dead fish were found floating in the river about 7km downstream from the mine. "DERM has also issued the company with an environmental protection order that requires it to take all actions necessary to cease the release of water," the spokesperson said. DERM said the company had completed construction of a contaminated water storage dam, implemented measures to divert clean stormwater and improved water pumping systems and capacity after being ordered to do so by the department. People living downstream and a landholder who has a licence to take water for irrigation had also been contacted. "The department advises downstream residents to refrain from using the water for drinking or stock watering purposes until further notice," DERM said. The department was also investigating the mine discharges and would "take appropriate enforcement action if a breach has occurred". The department said the number of dead fish was very small. Investigations into the fish deaths were continuing. However, due to their state of decomposition and the small number of fish involved, it was unlikely DERM would be able to identify the cause of death.

[http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2012/03/22/211405\\_local-news.html](http://www.cairns.com.au/article/2012/03/22/211405_local-news.html)

#### USA, CO, DENVER, MARCH 23 2012. CHEMICAL TANK OUTSIDE HOLYOKE LEAKS, ONE MAN INJURED

*kieran nicholson*

A chemical vapor leak near Holyoke injured one man this morning and caused a few homes outside the town to be evacuated. The incident happened about 10 a.m. at the Grainland Cooperative, an agricultural chemical storage facility, about a mile outside of the Eastern Plains town, said Randy Schafer, the Phillips County emergency manager. The injured man was taken to Holyoke Hospital. Details on his condition were not available. Officials believe about 3 percent of a 30,000 gallon tank storing anhydrous ammonia leaked. The Holyoke Fire Department, with the help of surrounding fire departments, worked on containing the leak. Traffic in the area was rerouted as a safety precaution to keep people away from the area where the gas was wafting. Colorado Highway 23 and Phillips County Road 45 were closed by the incident. A Colorado State Patrol hazardous materials team was called in to help, said Sgt. Michael Baker, a state patrol spokesman. The tank holding the chemical iced over as the gas escaped, stopping the leak, Baker said. Emergency responders at the scene are taking steps to permanently contain the leak. Rain in the area helped keep the gas down; winds blowing out of the north helped steer the chemical away from town. Skin contact with the gas can cause burns, Schafer said, and ingestion of the vapor can cause lung damage.

[http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci\\_20233044/chemical-tank-outside-holyoke-leaks-one-man-injured](http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_20233044/chemical-tank-outside-holyoke-leaks-one-man-injured)

#### USA, OH, BELLEVUE, MARCH 24 2012. FIRE CAUSES \$10,000 IN DAMAGES AT MARATHON DISTRIBUTION CENTER

No one was injured when an equipment fire broke out at the Marathon Pipeline and Distribution Center on the 4000 block of SR 4 around 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, according to a fire department representative. The fire destroyed a \$10,000 decontamination shower. The outdoor shower is a small metal stand with a plastic tank on top that personnel use to clean up after they fuel tankers. When firefighters arrived on scene, the plastic tank that holds water was melted and small flames were coming from the structure, the representative said. Firefighters extinguished the small blaze in under a minute using a dry chemical extinguisher. The tank has a heating element in it that was glowing red hot when firefighters got there. They called a Marathon representative, who gave them instructions to turn off the heating element. The fire was likely caused by the heating element.

[http://morningjournal.com/articles/2012/03/22/news/cops\\_and\\_courts/doc4f6b200fe5393729003405.txt](http://morningjournal.com/articles/2012/03/22/news/cops_and_courts/doc4f6b200fe5393729003405.txt)

#### USA, ORE, PORTLAND, MARCH 24 2012. 2 TECHNICIANS OKAY FOLLOWING CHEMICAL REACTOR EXPLOSION IN NW PORTLAND

*faris tanyos*

 **Watch the Video**

- [2 injured in Northwest Portland plant chemical explosion](#)
- [2 hurt in chemical explosion at Siltronic plant](#)

An explosion at a chemical reactor for a semiconductor plant in Northwest Portland Thursday night was caused by leak during "routine maintenance," according to a company spokesperson. In a statement released to KOIN, Christof Bachmair with Wacker Siltronic said a technician was working on a tool when it "developed a leak, allowing oxygen to enter the exhaust."



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The fire occurred sometime before 9:30 p.m. at 7200 N.W. Front Avenue. Investigators with Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) reported that the explosion in the dome of the reactor occurred when the oxygen then reacted with a chemical compound known as trichlorosilane, "a source of pure silicon, widely used in the semiconductor industry." Trichlorosilane consists of silicon, hydrogen and chlorine. Bachmair says the two technicians near the tool were taken to a local hospital as a precaution, and neither was seriously injured. The plant itself suffered "minor damage," and returned to normal operation Friday, Bachmair said. Paul Corah, spokesperson for PF&R, confirmed the explosion was isolated to the immediate area around the reactor, and no nearby residential areas were evacuated. The names of the two technicians, ages 58 and 56, were not released. Almost four dozen PF&R personnel, including a hazmat team, responded to the incident Thursday.

<http://www.koinlocal6.com/news/local/story/Two-technicians-okay-following-chemical-reactor/gl-b2Vz2zESkA3aK14YCzA.csp>

### USA, CA, DAVIS, MARCH 24 2012. SLY THIEVES USE BREAD VAN TO STEAL FUEL FROM GAS STATION'S UNDERGROUND TANK!

 [Watch the Video Bread Van Used to Steal Fuel from Underground Tank!](#)



What will they think of next? Surging gas prices caught the unwanted attention of some crafty thieves who used a bread truck as a cover-up to steal thousands of dollars' worth of gasoline from an underground tank in California. Surveillance footage shows the two men rolling up to the pump with their delivery truck, supposedly to fill it up with gas. Which they did, but not in the way the gas station owner would have liked. As you can see from the video, while one man was pretending to put gas in the truck, the other man sneakily lifts the lid off an underground tank. They then used their own pump to fill up the customized truck, which was equipped with a 1,000-gallon gas tank! Their downfall, of course, was that they got too greedy... The owner of the gas station, Darshan Mundy, [told CBS News](#) that his Valero shop had been hit six times in the past month alone by the same suspects, costing him \$8,000. "It is tough. This is another big loss," said Mundy "Then we started watching what was happening." A gas station employee eventually caught on

to the trick and called police that apprehended one of the thieves, 27-year-old Tyler Bird, while the other man managed to flee on foot and is being sought by authorities. "This is the first time in my 20 year career that I've seen something like this," Lt. Paul Doroshov told [Today's THV News](#), adding that police were very concerned about public safety. "You're talking about a lot of vapor a lot of flammable fluids and the people doing it are not exactly your gas truck operators that are well trained," said Doroshov.

<http://carscoop.blogspot.com.au/2012/03/sly-thieves-use-bread-van-to-steal-fuel.html>

### USA, CA, SANTEE, MARCH 24 2012. UPDATE ON OLIVE LANE FUEL SPILL, CLEANING UP 1,100 GALLONS OF DIESEL >> OLIVE LANE MAY BE CLOSED INTERMITTENTLY AS CREWS CLEAN UP THE GAS SPILL NOW ATTRIBUTED TO VANDALISM.

*steven bartholow*

A diesel fuel spill at a trucking company on Olive Lane that occurred Sunday afternoon has been verified as vandalism 16 gas tanks were punctured and about 1,100 gallons spilled, according to the Sheriff's Department and City of Santee.

The Sheriff's Dept. said that they have no suspects at this time, and are still investigating the vandalism. Private security can be seen posted at the trucking company and the site of the spill. Hazardous-materials crews cleaned up all day Sunday and Harrison Trucking has had an environmental services contractor working on the cleanup since Sunday. Santee City Manager Keith Till said state Fish and Game officials are overseeing the work, and added that the cleanup requirements are stringent. Areas affected and cleaned include the trucking facility, Olive Lane, residential properties on MacCool Lane, vacant properties off Olive Lane, the storm drain system and Forester Creek. Santee Deputy Fire Chief Richard Mattick said his department was the first to the scene after odor of diesel fuel was reported about noon. Several agencies followed. Nobody was hurt, and no evacuations were ordered. Till related a few factoids about the spill:



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- A mobile analytical laboratory onsite is being used to analyze soil samples. New lawns and fences have been installed on private properties on MacCool that were damaged.
- The cleanup activities and data will be documented and submitted to Fish and Game for final approval.
- City staff involved in the response have included the fire department, that made the initial response; Community Services staff that provided access to portions of the storm drain for cleanup; Development Services staff, who ensured the response was sufficient to comply with Regional Water Control Board standards; and Sheriffs investigators.
- The private contractor cleaning up the site has handled intermittent street closures as needed.

<http://santee.patch.com/articles/update-on-olive-lane-fuel-spill-1-100-gallons-of-diesel>

#### FRANCE, PARIS, MARCH 24 2012. EXXON MOBIL TO SELL SOME EUROPE GAS STATIONS – PAPER

Exxon Mobil Corp has put 78 French gas stations on the block, part of a wider effort to sell out of such activities in Europe following similar moves in the United States, financial daily Les Echos reported on Friday. The newspaper quoted Esso France Chief Executive Francis Duseux as saying there could be an agreement on the sale of the French service stations within weeks. Exxon Mobile operates 680 gas stations in France under the Esso brand name, the paper said. A European steering committee devoted to examining the likely sale of gas stations in Italy, Belgium, Germany and Britain will meet on Wednesday, the paper said, citing an internal source. Such gasoline distribution activities are seen as too unprofitable to justify tying up Exxon Mobil's capital, the paper said. The stations will likely be sold to operators who would continue to operate under the Esso brand and be supplied through long-term contracts. In addition to independents, potential buyers for the service stations include Russia's Lukoil and Israel's Delek, the paper said. Exxon Mobil was not immediately available for comment.

<http://www.euronews.com/business-newswires/1451200-exxon-mobil-to-sell-some-europe-gas-stations-paper/>

#### THAILAND, BANGKOK, MARCH 24 2012. THREE INJURED IN GAS TRUCK FIRE

 **Photo Gallery** [LPG Truck Explodes, 3 Hurt](#)



Three people were injured when a gas truck carrying about 4,000 litres of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) crashed in Bangkok's Phatthanakan area yesterday. The accident took place around 5.30am when the 10-wheeled LPG gas tank crashed into Khlong Ban Pa Bridge near Khlong Sakae community on Phatthanakan Road, between Phatthanakan Soi 20 and Soi 22. LPG leaked from the tank and caught fire, with the flame shooting up 10 metres. The windows of nearby shop houses broke, and the roof of a wood trading company, Taihua Kha Mai Co, was damaged. More than 10 fire engines were sent to the scene. People living in the area were evacuated and the road was closed. The truck collided with a water pump installed along the road, which sent water pouring into the area and helped control the blaze. Three people were injured. One of them, Buaphan Suwansaen, 66, a worker at the wood trading company, sustained burns over his body, and is

now in intensive care at Petcharavej hospital. Five houses nearby were damaged, Wanlop Suwandee, deputy Bangkok governor said. The gas tank driver fled the scene and police are looking for him, Pol Lt Col Klitsada Khansoda, an investigator at Khlong Tan police station, said. The accident paralysed traffic on Phatthanakan Road for hours. Deputy Transport Minister Chatchart Sithipan said he was told the accident took place because the gas tank driver had fallen asleep at the wheel. "We might have to check the driver's licence and the condition of the gas tank. The Land Transport Department should look into it," the deputy minister said. He also told the Land Transport Department to study the feasibility of the installation of GPS devices on all vehicles for public transportation and vehicles used to transport harmful substances in a bid to prevent future accidents. Pol Maj Gen Worasak Nopsithiporn, Metropolitan Police Bureau deputy chief, said better safety measures might be needed, such as speed limits for gas trucks, and curbs on the hours which drivers can spend at the wheel. Weerapol Chirapraditkul, the director-general of the Department of Energy Business at the Energy Ministry, said staff would call in transport business operators to discuss safety measures.

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/285730/three-injured-in-gas-truck-fire>



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#### **MALAYSIA, JOHOR, KOTA TINGGI, MARCH 24 2012. SHIP CAUGHT DUMPING FUEL**

A tanker registered in Batam, Indonesia was discovered disposing solid fuel waste illegally in the waters of Pengerang, here recently. Southern Region Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) in a statement said the MT Fortune tanker was located 3.4 nautical mile south of Tanjung Stapa at about 11pm. Its enforcement chief Maritime First Admiral Adon Shalan said a patrol team boarded the tanker and found 11 Indonesian crewmen cleaning the tank. "We also found between 300 and 400 gunny sacks of solid fuel waste. The captain also failed to furnish any documents to permit scheduled removal of solid fuel waste. "We believe that operation was carried out at night to elude authority," said Adon. The case is being investigated for anchoring without permit and unannounced arrival in local waters. Adon said the case had also been referred to the Johor Department of Environmental to be investigated under Environmental Quality Act and Regulations 2005.

<http://www.nst.com.my/streets/johor/ship-caught-dumping-fuel-1.64584>

#### **USA, TX, CORPUS CHRISTI, MARCH 24 2012. FUMES ESCAPE FROM REFINERY TANK**

*courtney francisc*

Total refinery says heavy rains are to blame for exposing a highly flammable product into the air. No evacuations have been called and Total is still monitoring the air quality after receiving reports Tuesday of a suspicious odor in the air. That smell was coming from a tank that exposed naphtha to the open air when rain on the tank's lid caused it to tilt. Naphtha is used in gasoline, and it can be dangerous to breath in if enough gets out in the open. Total says they have been closely monitoring the air, and people who live nearby say they always have to be prepared for these situations. The smell of refineries is nothing new to Mark Spell whose home sits right outside Total, but this week he smelled something different. "I was driving the kids to school, and I smelled it that morning," says Spell. "The smell, it's a different kind of smell." Total says reports just like that started coming in at 9:30 Tuesday morning after heavy rains. Total says the tank that exposed the product inside has a floating roof. When heavy rains sat on top of that roof it tilted, and fumes escaped. Port Neches Groves School District Superintendent Dr. Rodney Cavness says Groves Elementary went on lock down when the principal smelled the fumes. They were given the all clear later that day after Total and the Port Arthur Fire Department decided the air quality wasn't dangerous. "You're living in this area, and it's inevitable you're going to be around it," says one resident, Curtis Roberts. "It doesn't make a difference whether you're a kid of you're 99 years old." While Total works to drain the tank, the emergency response team is monitoring the air and spraying fire suppressant foam on the tank. The public hasn't been asked to take action, but Spell says he stays prepared. "You never know when one of them is going to explode so we stay cautious all the time," says Spell. Total says they have the situation under control, and its main priority is the safety of employees and the community. There is a way to make sure you get notifications about emergency situations if evacuations are ever needed. You can go to your city web site and sign up for the emergency notification system to get a phone call notifying you if you ever need to take action.

<http://www.kiiitv.com/story/17242975/fumes-escape-from-refinery-tank>

#### **AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, MARCH 24 2012. TRAWLER CAPTAIN OVER THE LIMIT**

*peter rolfe*

Map: [Melbourne 3000](#)

- oil and fuel slick that is 500m long
- oil response crew is heading to the site
- 30,000 litres of diesel fuel, 300 litres of hydraulic fluid and 500 litres of commercial lubricant on board.



*The semi-submerged trawler off Point Nepean.*

A fishing trawler captain has allegedly tested positive for drink-driving after his vessel ran aground in Port Phillip Bay. The 42-year-old captain and his five crew were rescued by Water Police when a 27m fishing trawler, the Lady Cheryl, ran aground in 10 to 15m of water near Point Nepean at 1.20am this morning. Water Police Sergeant Andrew Lilly said the "experienced" captain had returned a blood alcohol reading above the legal limit of 0.05, but he could not reveal the level while investigations continued. The crash has caused an oil and fuel slick that is 500m long. Authorities are working to contain the slick, which is heading south towards Bass Strait. "There was a



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maximum of 6m swells, so weather and conditions obviously played a part and alcohol played a part," Sgt Lilly told AAP. "We can't establish which was the major part at this stage, but between alcohol and weather conditions the vessel has run aground." An oil response crew is heading to the site to try to clean up and contain the oil slick before tides turn and push it back north towards dolphin sanctuaries and marine parks in the area off Point Nepean. The sunken vessel's stern is visible above the water and tugboat Kira is en route to try to salvage the trawler and its navigational equipment for police investigations. The trawler was heading out for a five to 10-day fishing trip off Victoria's west coast and had 30,000 litres of diesel fuel, 300 litres of hydraulic fluid and 500 litres of commercial lubricant on board. Sgt Lilly said it ran aground in an area littered with rocky seabed. Port pilots rescued the uninjured crew safely and police have released the alleged drink-driving captain, pending further investigations.

#### **Related Links**

[Trawler sinks in The Heads](#)

A fishing trawler, which sank last night, is in danger of dumping 30000 litres of diesel into Port Phillip Bay. The Environmental Protection Authority is at the scene where an exclusion zone has been set up. Police and clean-up crews are...

[Skipper over limit as boat runs aground in bay](#)

The captain of a fishing trawler has allegedly tested positive for drink-driving after his vessel ran aground in Port Phillip Bay. The 42-year-old captain and his five crew were rescued by water police when a 27-metre fishing trawler, the Lady Cheryl,...

[Sunken trawler captain tests positive](#)

A fishing trawler captain has allegedly tested positive for drink-driving after his vessel ran aground in Melbourne's Port Phillip Bay. The 42-year-old captain and his five crew were rescued by Water Police when a 27-metre fishing...

[Boat sinks in Port Phillip Bay](#)

A fishing trawler captain has allegedly tested positive for drink driving after running his vessel aground in Port Phillip Bay. The 42-year-old captain and his five crew were...

[Boat sinks in Port Phillip Bay](#)

A commercial trawler carrying 30,000 litres of diesel has sunk in Port Phillip Bay early this morning.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-03-24/boat-sinks-in-port-philip-bay/3910076?section=vic>

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/trawler-sinks-in-the-heads/story-fn7x8me2-1226308815635>

#### **AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, MARCH 24 2012. DIESEL LEAKING FROM STRICKEN TRAWLER**

 **Watch the Video** [Skipper over .05 as boat runs aground in bay](#)



*A diesel slick stretches for hundreds of metres in Victoria's Port Phillip Bay after a trawler ran aground.*

Authorities are trying to contain a diesel slick stretching for hundreds of metres in Victoria's Port Phillip Bay after a trawler ran aground early this morning. Police say the 42-year-old captain of the commercial fishing boat will face charges after he was detected with a blood-alcohol reading above 0.05. The man from Warrnambool and his five crew had to be rescued from the stricken boat. Water pollution experts say the boat's diesel spillage has not impacted Melbourne's beaches and the waters are safe for swimming. The leakage is a light sheen that is breaking up and not spreading beyond the Point Nepean area, south of Melbourne. Victoria's Marine Pollution Controller, Donovan Croucamp, says crews are working to anchor the boat and minimise further water pollution. "There was a slick of about 500 metres

that went out through the heads out to sea, but the rough water agitated and weathered that slick quite nicely. That's also breaking up into a very light sheen," he said. Mr Croucamp says the trawler's tank has not ruptured which has minimised the amount of leakage. "The vessel itself is intact. It's partially submerged and its being secure so they can salvage the vessel," he said. "At this stage, there's no indication that there's any severe structural damage to the vessel so that's a good sign." The trawler was carrying 30,000 litres of diesel and large quantities of hydraulic fluid and commercial lubricant. The 27-metre boat hit an object at the heads and punctured its hull at 1:30am (AEDT). The Queenscliff port pilots were able to rescue the crew,



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none of whom were injured. The crewmembers were taken to Queenscliff where they are being interviewed by police. The vessel is currently submerged on the Point Nepean side of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay.

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-03-24/boat-sinks-in-port-phillip-bay/3910076?WT.mc\\_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-03-24/boat-sinks-in-port-phillip-bay/3910076?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

#### USA, WA, ANACORTES, MARCH 24 2012. CLEANUP OF PETROLEUM LEAK AT TESORO REFINERY

Cleanup is under way for a leak of about 27,000 gallons of petroleum at the Tesoro refinery in Anacortes. The Washington Department of Ecology says the fuel spilled from an above-ground storage tank into a containment basin on Friday morning. The cause of the spill is under investigation. Ecology officials say it has not affected surface water in the surrounding area. The containment basin rests on highly compacted soil. Crews will drain the basin and recapture as much of the petroleum as possible. The rest of the water will go into the refinery's wastewater treatment system. The soil also will be cleaned.

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2017827059\\_apwatesoroleak.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2017827059_apwatesoroleak.html)

#### USA, PA, PITTSBURGH, MARCH 24 2012. WOMAN LOSES PART OF HAND IN FIREWORKS ACCIDENT >> VICTIM BURNED, SEVERELY INJURED IN ALLENTOWN EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video** [Woman Loses Part of Hand in Fireworks Accident](#)

A woman suffered burns and severe injuries Thursday night after a firework exploded in her hand at a home on Eureka Street in Allentown. "I thought it was a shotgun. I thought somebody got shot at first," said Andre, a neighbor, who did not give his last name. "It's a quiet neighborhood, and all of a sudden, you hear this gigantic boom." Pittsburgh police said the victim was visibly intoxicated and had attempted to set off a firecracker in her clenched fist. Witnesses said the woman lost fingers in the blast. "I brought her some towels and stuff to help put pressure on, and as I went over to give towels, you see the young lady's hand missing. Like, it's missing fingers and everything, like something out of a horror movie," Andre said. The woman was transported to UPMC Mercy hospital for treatment. She has not been publicly identified yet.

<http://www.wtae.com/r/30743448/detail.html>

#### USA, CO, FAIRPLAY, MARCH 24 2012. CRASH, HAZMAT SPILL CLOSES U.S. 285 IN MOUNTAINS >> 10,000 POUNDS OF AMMONIUM NITRATE

*david mitchell*

U.S. 285 was closed about 10 miles south of Fairplay in Park County Friday night because a truck's trailer crashed and then spilled its load. A 2002 Dodge pickup truck was heading north on Hwy. 285 shortly before 6 p.m. when the trailer detached and overturned, according to Colorado State Patrol spokesman Sgt. Mike Baker. The trailer spilled about 10,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate. The substance is often used in fertilizer and it can act as an irritant if inhaled. The spill has not endangered any water supplies and it has not required any evacuations. "A hazardous-materials crew from the Colorado State Patrol is en route to the scene from Golden," Baker says. "The Colorado State Patrol, the Colorado Department of Transportation, Park County Sheriff's Office, and local authorities are working together to ensure public safety as they contain the incident, investigate the crash, and clear the highway." Clean-up crews expected the highway to be shut down in both directions for several hours. The pickup truck driver, 37-year-old Michael Martin of Buena Vista, was not hurt.

<http://kdvr.com/2012/03/23/crash-hazmat-spill-closes-u-s-285-in-mountains/>

#### SCOTLAND, SHETLAND, MARCH 25 2012. OIL SPILL FROM TAQA BRATANI'S TERN PLATFORM OFF SHETLAND

A large spill of oil happened at a platform off Shetland this week, BBC Scotland has learned. Twenty-three tonnes of oil was discharged from the Tern platform, 100 miles from Lerwick, on Tuesday. It is not being treated as an ongoing incident as the spill is understood to have been dispersed by rough weather in the area. The platform is operated by Taqa Bratani, a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi National Energy Company. The Department of Energy and Climate Change said the incident was being attributed to process problems rather than drilling and did not involve a deep-sea installation. A spokesman said investigations into the incident were taking place. Labour's Shadow Energy Minister Tom Greatrex said the department must ensure there was no lasting environmental damage. He added: "It is concerning that news of the spill is only coming to light now, four days after the incident happened. The government must be fully transparent about what caused the spill, and the steps it has taken to resolve the matter."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-17493694>



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#### USA, MA, FAIRHAVEN, MARCH 25 2012. ACCIDENT AT FAIRHAVEN GAS STATION CAUSES LEAK

brian boyd



*A collision between a pickup truck and SUV damaged gas pumps at a Getty station in Fairhaven on Friday.*

A traffic accident heavily damaged the gas pumps at a Route 6 gas station Friday afternoon, causing a fuel leak. No injuries were reported and the gasoline was quickly contained by firefighters. The accident occurred just after 4 p.m. at the Getty station at 371 Huttleston Ave., the Fairhaven Fire Department said. A pickup truck driven by William Thomas of Marion was heading east on Route 6 when it veered off the road and struck a sport utility vehicle driven by Charlene Charette of Fairhaven at the pumps, according to a news release. A station attendant who was pumping gas at the time of the accident was able to escape without injury. The station had to be closed for the rest of the night while repairs were made, according to the release.

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120324/NEWS/203240327/-1/NEWS10>

#### INDIA, MUMBAI, BUTCHER ISLAND, MARCH 25 2012. 1 DEAD, 6 INJURED IN EXPLOSION ON MERCHANT SHIP

 Watch the Video

- [Minor explosion on ship 'Royal Diamond'](#)
- [Fire aboard boat 'Royal Diamond' off Mumbai coast, 3 injured](#)



*Police boat patrols near the chemical tanker 'Royal Diamond 7'.*

An explosion on board the chemical tanker 'Royal Diamond 7' killed a South Korean crew member and injured six, including two foreigners and four Indians, on Saturday morning near the Mumbai coast. The Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) has ordered an inquiry into the matter as there was another explosion in the same storage area of the vessel just a week ago. There were no casualties or injuries then. "It is slightly surprising that there was an explosion in the same storage area. We have ordered an inquiry," Satish Agnihotri, Director General of Shipping, told The Hindu on Saturday. Munhyeon Seok (57), who was the bosun on the vessel, succumbed to the burns while he was being shifted from J.J. Hospital to Masina Hospital on Saturday afternoon. "The South Korean Consulate has been informed of the unfortunate incident," a press note issued by the Mumbai

Port Trust stated. The names of the injured include South Korean national Kim Song Hun (29) and Filipino Alota Artar Durka (34). Both the crew members are undergoing treatment at the state-run J.J. Hospital. The four Indian workers who suffered injuries are Shobhnath Jagannath Yadav (36), Rajesh Yamuna Raut (36), Sunny Bholanath Rawat (35) and Tirath Matadin Rawat (35), the police said. The case is being handled by the Yellowgate police station. According to the police, the Marshall Island-flagged Korean chemical tanker was anchored at Tanker Anchorage-1 of Butcher Island near the Mumbai coast when the incident took place. "The ship was in front of jetty no.4," said a police official who conducted the panchnama. "At 11.25 a.m today [Saturday], the tanker reported to the Mumbai Port's Vessel Traffic System/Control Station that an explosion had occurred and that three crew members have been injured. Immediately, a tug was despatched to bring the injured to shore," the press release stated. "When the crew and other labourers were cleaning the area near a gas pipeline carrying toluene liquid, the explosion took place. The four Indians injured in the explosion are local labourers hired by the company," a senior police official said. Naval boats patrolling the area rushed to the spot. According to Navy officials, soon after the explosion, some of the crew members jumped into the sea. Two of them were picked up by Naval boats while the others were picked up by the marine police. Port Trust officials said the fire caused by the explosion was brought under control immediately and the situation was restored to normality by 1 pm. The senior management of the port later visited the chemical tanker and assessed the situation. "It has now been decided to shift the tanker to Outer-Anchorage," the MbPT press note stated. There was an accidental fire on-board the vessel on March 17 when it had discharged a consignment of 2000 tonnes of toluene imported by



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Aegis Chemicals Limited at New Pir Pau Pier of the Mumbai Port Trust. The fire was immediately brought under control then and the chairperson of the port had appointed the deputy chairperson to conduct an inquiry. The vessel was anchored at Tanker Anchorage-One at Mumbai harbour since March 19, the port authorities said.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/other-states/article3220880.ece>

### USA, MI, NAPOLEON TWP, MARCH 25 2012. FIRE INVESTIGATOR SAYS GAS FUMES IGNITED IN AUTO SHOP, CAUSING THURSDAY BLAZE

danielle salisbury



*A fire Thursday afternoon destroyed a building containing three businesses at 3405 Brooklyn Road in Napoleon Township. Scott Wellhoff of Concrete Solutions lost much of his equipment.*

Long after the tanker trucks pulled away, what was their livelihood is a heap of wet wood and metal. Only a few still-standing remnants of framing, black from fire, give form to the structure that, until Thursday, housed four businesses. "I've had it for over forty years," Bill Dixon, 73, said his building at 3405 Brooklyn Road, who was contemplating claims on the insured property and a possible re-build. "It doesn't give you much to celebrate." While two men were lowering a gas tank on a Ford Focus, Michigan State Police Spc. Sgt. Todd Pelletier, a fire investigator, said gasoline fumes in the east-end auto shop ignited, causing the blaze that injured one and wrecked the building. Pelletier did not know what kindled the fumes. "No one saw

where the fire started," he said. Workers were welding earlier in the day, but not at the time of the fire, he said. They had a front bay door open to try to dissipate some vapors. There is no suspicion of foul play or criminal activity. He was there Thursday night and Friday and his investigation is complete, he said. It was an accidental fire, he said after interviewing the three men who were in the auto shop at the time. David Williams III, co-owner of D and D Auto, went to Allegiance Health, but was released Thursday night, Pelletier said. He was OK, said the other owner, Derek Rutan, 31. They did not have renter's insurance and Rutan was unsure what he would do.

[http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2012/03/fire\\_investigator\\_says\\_gas\\_fum.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2012/03/fire_investigator_says_gas_fum.html)

### USA, ORE, SALEM, MARCH 25 2012. SOUTH SALEM FIRE UNDER INVESTIGATION >> BLAZE DAMAGES GARAGE CONTAINING DRUMS OF VEGETABLE OIL

tim collins

 **Photo's [7]** [Thought to be a Biodiesel Storage Operation](#)



*Salem firefighters work to extinguish a fire in a building off Rural Street SE.*

A blaze that damaged a South Salem garage containing methanol and a large amount of vegetable oil remains under investigation today by Salem fire officials. Fire Department Division Chief Reed Godfrey said the cause of Friday's fire had not been determined, but the garage housed an undetermined number of 55-gallon containers of fuel and several cars, possibly used for racing. Salem Public Works and a hazardous materials crew were called to contain liquid leaking from the garage, which was thought to be a biodiesel storage operation. The incident began shortly after 10 a.m. when fire crews responding to a call at 860 Rural Ave. SE found a detached garage engulfed in flames. Residents were home at the time, and no one was injured. They refused to talk to the Statesman Journal. Connie Conner, a neighbor, said she heard three loud booms that "sounded like explosions." "I went out my front door, and there were flames going higher

than the trees," she said. "Then what seemed like all the fire trucks in Salem showed up." Salem police closed Rural Avenue SE and Electric Street SE from Raynor to Winter streets SE, and PGE shut off electricity because a power line was knocked



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down by the fire. Salem Fire Marshal, Jim Stewart said initial reports indicated methanol was stored in the garage and vegetable oil, for use in the production of biodiesel. "Both are fine as long as they are contained properly" Stewart said. "It's not uncommon to be able store up to five gallons of flammable liquid inside, and 10 gallons outside." The investigation is ongoing and it could be Monday or Tuesday before investigators release results. Salem city inspectors will determine whether the garage is safe or needs to be torn down. Stewart said he would consult the Oregon Fire Code for guidance in determining whether the residents would be cited. David Phelps, principal at nearby South Salem High School, said students and staff went about business as usual while the fire burned virtually across the street.

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20120324/NEWS/303240011/South-Salem-fire-under-investigation?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CNews>

#### ZAMBIA, MONGU, MC 25 2012. MONGU-BOUND JET A1 CARRIER CATCHES FIRE

*maluba jere*

A fuel tanker carrying an undisclosed amount of Jet A1 fuel to ZAF Mongu yesterday burst into flames after colliding with a Scania truck in the Kafue National Park. The accident happened around 16:00 hours when the tanker was on its way to deliver fuel to Zambia Air Force in Mongu. Both the driver of the truck and that of the tanker survived the accident but sustained serious injuries and were rushed to Kaoma for treatment. Central Province police commissioner Dr Solomon Jere said the accident involved a Scania truck registration number ALD 907 belonging to Bet Transport of Ndola. Dr Jere said the driver of the truck had been identified as Peter Musonda, adding that the cause of the accident was a tyre burst which happened just after the Hook bridge.

[http://www.postzambia.com/post-read\\_article.php?articleId=26168](http://www.postzambia.com/post-read_article.php?articleId=26168)

#### ITALY, ROME, MARCH 25 2012. COSTA CONCORDIA: WORK TO REMOVE FUEL COMPLETED >> IT IS EXPECTED TO TAKE ABOUT A YEAR TO REMOVE THE SHIP ITSELF.

##### Watch the Video's

- [Captain ordered back on boardWatch](#)
- [Coastguard: We still have hopeWatch](#)
- [Divers describe scene in shipWatch](#)
- [Are cruise ships too big?Watch](#)
- [Lifeboat panic caught on filmWatch](#)
- [Aerial video shows hull gash](#)

##### Photo's [Cruise ship runs aground off of Italy](#)



Work to remove fuel from the wreck of the Italian cruise ship Costa Concordia has been completed, the Italian authorities announced. More than 2,000 tonnes of fuel and sewage were drained from the ship which capsized after hitting rocks off the Tuscan island of Giglio on 13 January. There had been fears that pristine waters in the area might be polluted. Thirty people died in the disaster and a further two remain missing, presumed dead. The ship was carrying 4,200 passengers and crew when its hull was torn open by rocks. Captain Francesco Schettino faces charges of causing the incident by steering the Costa Concordia too close to the island's shore, charges he denies. The next stage of the salvage operation will involve cleaning up the sea bed and the area around the ship's hull before work begins to lift the

wreck. The removal of the Costa Concordia itself is expected to take up to a year.

##### Related Links

- [How diving thieves stole Costa Concordia's bell](#)  
Of all the images that emerged after the Costa Concordia ran aground and partially sank off the coast of Italy on Jan. 13, the photo of rescue divers swimming past the ship's bell has...
- [5 more bodies found in Concordia wreck](#)



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The luxury cruise ship Costa Concordia ran aground off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy. Photo / AP Search crews have found five more bodies in the wreck of the Costa Concordia cruise ship, which struck a reef off an Italian island in January,...

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17501681>

#### **USA, CA, MARTINEZ, MARCH 25 2012. TWO UNION PACIFIC EMPLOYEES INJURED AFTER MATERIAL SPILL IN MARTINEZ**

*chris de benedetti*

Two Union Pacific employees were treated at a hospital for respiratory problems Friday night after possibly being exposed to hazardous materials, police said. The incident occurred shortly before 6:55 p.m., when the employees were loading materials at the Union Pacific train yard at 274 Embarcadero Street, Sgt. Bryan Dodd said. While working near two tank cars filled with alpha-picoline, an organic liquid used in the production of herbicides and insecticides, some of the material spilled onto the side of the car, authorities said. The employees began having respiratory problems and they were transported by private vehicle to the Contra Costa Regional Medical Center, where they were treated and released, Dodd said. All train traffic in the area stopped as multiple public safety agencies, including Martinez and Union Pacific police, arrived at the scene to investigate. Hazardous materials teams from Union Pacific and the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office inspected rail cars and determined they were structurally sound, police said. The material vaporized after being exposed to sunlight, authorities said. Union Pacific conducted an on-site cleanup of the tank car, and train traffic reopened, police said.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_20247696/two-union-pacific-employees-injured-after-material-spill](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_20247696/two-union-pacific-employees-injured-after-material-spill)

#### **USA, TX, EL PASO, MARCH 25 2012. 65-YEAR-OLD WORKER DIES IN WESTERN REFINERY ACCIDENT**

*alex hinojosa*

A 65-year-old man died after an accident at Western Refining on Friday, officials said. The victim was identified as Herbert Casias, who was working for a contractor at the refinery. He died at University Medical Center. Details of the accident were sketchy, and officials said only that a pipe had fallen on Casias. Officials said he was not an employee of Western Refining. Officials said the accident occurred about 9 a.m. at the refinery, 212 N. Clark St. El Paso police spokesman Javier Sambrano said officers and emergency crews responded to the industrial accident at 9:15 a.m. Officials from the El Paso Police Department and from Western Refining are investigating the cause. "Safety is one of our core values, and we take it very seriously," said Gary Hanson, spokesman for Western. "It's a very tragic situation when something like this occurs. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of this man." Hanson said it was the first serious accident at the refinery this year.

[http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci\\_20245154/western-refining-accident-leaves-one-man-dead?source=most\\_viewed](http://www.elpasotimes.com/ci_20245154/western-refining-accident-leaves-one-man-dead?source=most_viewed)

#### **ENGLAND, LONDON, MARCH 26 2012. ARMY TRAINING TO DELIVER FUEL IN CASE OF STRIKE ACTION**

Army drivers are being trained to deliver fuel to petrol stations in case of a possible strike by tanker drivers. The Unite union is balloting on industrial action, saying there have been "unrelenting attacks" on drivers' terms and conditions. Cabinet Office minister Francis Maude said the government had "learnt the lessons" of the past and stood "ready to act" in case of a walkout. Unite said the government should be putting pressure on oil companies. Len McCluskey, Unite's general secretary, said: "For over a year we've been desperately trying to bring about some stability in the sector and urging government ministers to persuade contractors and oil companies to engage in meaningful discussions with us. "Unfortunately it's proving difficult to get them to respond. That leads to frustration as workers feel that no one is listening to them." The vote closes on Monday and any agreed strike could be held next month. This means any industrial action could possibly be over the Easter weekend. Mr McCluskey said a positive result was expected on the ballot. "We'll need to analyse the turnout and feeling of members before deciding whether to take any industrial action, but we always hope that negotiations can resolve the situation," he added. The 2,000 drivers being balloted account for 90% of those supplying petrol to UK forecourts. Ministers say the training of army drivers will begin next week as part of contingency plans being drawn up to avoid major disruption to fuel supplies.

##### **Call for Agreement**

Mr Maude said the government had learnt lessons from the fuel blockades of 2000 - which caused chaos and almost brought the country to a standstill. "We are calling on the trade union Unite and the employers involved to work together to reach an agreement that will avert industrial action," he said. "Widespread strike action affecting fuel supply at our supermarkets, garages and airports could cause disruption across the country. "The general public should not and must not suffer from this



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dispute, and strike action is manifestly not the answer. "Although we are pushing for an agreement, we have learnt the lessons of the past and stand ready to act to minimise disruption to motorists, to industry and, in particular, to our emergency services, in the event of a strike." The Petrol Retailers' Association represents around 5,500 forecourts and its chairman, Brian Madderson, said he did not think the government was prepared for a strike. He told the BBC: "We have had no word from the Department of Energy and Climate Change whatsoever. "So we have not been asking our members to keep their stocks at a high level. "We just haven't heard anything from the Department of Energy at all."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17502973>

#### SCOTLAND, ABERDEEN, MARCH 26 2012. GAS LEAK AT TOTAL PLATFORM IN NORTH SEA



*Non-essential staff were taken off the platform located 240km from Aberdeen.*

Efforts are continuing to control a gas leak from a platform in the Elgin field of the North Sea. Operators Total E&P UK said "a well control problem" occurred on the wellhead platform in the Central Graben area, 240km off Aberdeen, at 12:15. Total said all personnel had been accounted for and no injuries had been reported. Aberdeen Coastguard co-ordinated the evacuation of 209 non-essential personnel to safety. The non-essential Elgin PUQ staff were transferred to neighbouring installations and all personnel from the Rowan Viking drilling rig were also evacuated. Coastguard watch manager Kevin Brown said: "Emergency procedures have been activated. We are working closely with Total E&P UK Limited." Mr Brown said three rescue helicopters and four civilian helicopters had been involved in the evacuation process.

##### 'Learn from It'

"Work is ongoing to control the release," he added. Jake Molloy, regional organiser of the RMT union, told BBC Scotland he understood it was a serious well problem. He said: "If you evacuate that many that quickly that reflects the seriousness. "I would hope that the industry will share openly everything that has gone on here so we can learn from it."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-17505448>

#### CYPRUS, LARNACA, MARCH 26 2012. PETROL STATION OWNER REMANDED OVER PUMP RIGGING

*poly pantelides*

A petrol station owner in Larnaca was remanded for six days yesterday in connection with rigging pumps to give drivers less fuel than they paid for. Another petrol station owner in Nicosia is also under investigation while the police plan to look into others, Larnaca police spokesman Christos Andreou said. The head of the petrol stations owners' association Stefanos Stefanou yesterday told CyBC radio that the two station owners under investigation are siblings. They are both supplied by the same fuel company, which had noticed that the Larnaca petrol station turned in a higher profit than expected, given the amount of fuel it sold. The police and commerce ministry discovered that drivers were sold less than what the fuel pump monitor showed and arrested the petrol station owner on Friday in relation to fraud. Police investigator Constable Costantinos Consolos told Larnaca court yesterday that the fuel pump system was wired onto a computer via a modem. When the system got switched on, drivers would get 5.0 per cent less fuel than what the fuel pump monitor showed. So drivers would end up paying for more fuel than they got, "losing 1.0 litre every 20 litres," Consolos said. When the 28-year-old petrol station owner saw the officials coming in to investigate, he rushed into a room and switched off the mechanism, Consolos said. The petrol station owner however has denied knowledge of the suspicious mechanism and has denied involvement in any scam. The police think people were allegedly scammed at the Larnaca petrol station from May last year. It appears that petrol station owners were at least vaguely aware of foul play. "There was talk but suspicion is one thing and having facts is another," Stefanou said yesterday. He added the petrol station was often cheaper by 2.0 or 3.0 cents making the association "think something dodgy was going on". "We know the profit margin for petrol stations, we know the cost and prices," Stefanou said. Different petrol stations' fuel prices usually vary by only 1.0 cent because petrol stations make their profit on a surcharge varying between 1.0 and 4.0 cents per litre, Stefanou said. He added it was "unthinkable for someone to be able to sell fuel 2.0 or 3.0 cents less than his competitors" and still run a viable business. The court granted the police's request for a six day remand to allow them to ascertain how much money drivers lost and who installed the fuel pump monitors. "This is about a gang getting money from the unsuspecting public," Consolos said. Stefanou said the petrol stations under investigation are not



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part of the association. The petrol station owners' association said cheating from customers is "condemnable" and any one guilty of such practices should be punished.

<http://www.cyprus-mail.com/petrol-station/petrol-station-owner-remanded-over-pump-rigging/20120325>

### SCOTLAND, ABERDEEN, MARCH 26 2012. NAKED FLAME AND MASSIVE GAS LEAK, BUT TOTAL CLAIMS RIG IS SAFE

frank urquhart



*Total's Elgin PUQ platform in the North Sea.*

Fears of a devastating explosion on Total's abandoned Elgin platform have intensified following revelations that the flame on a giant flare stack has been left burning less than 200 yards from the source of an uncontrolled release of highly flammable gas. The French oil giant was condemned for its failure to disclose the presence of the naked flame, burning above the main platform, following earlier assurances that power to the platform had been turned off to minimise the risk of igniting the gas cloud shrouding the platform. However, the company's health and safety boss insisted that there had been no cover-up and claimed there was no "immediate risk" of a potentially catastrophic ignition of the gas cloud – as the prevailing wind was blowing the condensate plume away from the flame. Union leaders expressed their incredulity at the failure of Total to reveal the presence of the burning flare on the now

unmanned Elgin production, utilities and quarters installation. The installation is linked to the Elgin wellhead platform – the source of the gas leak – by a 90-metre-long metal access bridge. Jake Molloy, the regional organiser of the RMT union, said it was "beyond comprehension" that the flare was still burning in a situation where there was the potential for "catastrophic devastation". "To the layman it's almost as if they are assessing the likelihood of an ignition based on wind direction," he said. Mr Molloy said he was "extremely disappointed" at Total's response to the emergency and the information being made public. He continued: "Having been told that the platform was in total blackout and all ignition sources extinguished and to find this out now is, to say the least, disappointing. "It smacks of hypocrisy – given the industry's so called commitment to openness and transparency after what happened with the [BP] Deepwater Horizon and more recently the Gannet oil leak." Wullie Wallace, the Unite regional officer, said: "The presence of this flame obviously poses a potential risk. You would have thought the flare would have been extinguished when they took everybody off the platform. "It seems to me quite bizarre that would be left there when you have a gas leak. If the cloud was to catch light it could blow up the whole installation." Alison Johnstone, the Green MSP, said: "This is a deadly serious situation and Total need to be clearer about what's going on. "To be told one day the situation is stable only to discover the next there's still a flare burning is shocking. Sadly, oil and gas multinationals have a terrible track record when it comes to being transparent." Richard Lochhead, Scotland's environment minister, said: "It's critical both Total and the UK government ensure absolute transparency, with all information placed in the public domain." But David Hainsworth, the health, safety and environment manager at Total, insisted that the flare did not pose an "immediate risk". Asked why it was left, Mr Hainsworth said: "It is an essential part of the platform safety system. In an emergency you use it to evacuate all the gas from the platform. It was used in the incident to do that task and it performed that task perfectly. "We believe that the flare doesn't pose an immediate risk because it has been designed to take into account the prevailing wind direction," he said. "The gas basically is blowing completely away from the flare. And the weather forecast, going forward, is that the gas will continue to blow in that same direction."

#### Related Links

[North Sea oil rig evacuated after gas leak](#)

AN OIL platform in the North Sea has been completely evacuated following the discovery of a gas leak.

[Shutting down North Sea gas leak may take entire summer](#)

OIL giant Shell has shut down production on its Shearwater platform as it was revealed that it could take up to six months to quell the uncontrolled leak of toxic, volatile gas at the nearby Total Elgin installation.

<http://www.scotsman.com/the-scotsman/scotland/naked-flame-and-massive-gas-leak-but-total-claims-rig-is-safe-1-2199846>



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