



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 867 Newsy Stuff

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

August 7 2012



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USA, N.J., BLOOMSBURY, JULY 24 2012. TRACTOR-TRAILER HITS TANKER TRUCK IN BLOOMSBURY TRAVEL CENTER CAUSING ACRYLIC ACID SPILL



Workers look over the trailer of a truck that was struck as it was refueling early Monday morning at the Pilot Travel Center in Bloomsbury. The trailer was carrying acrylic acid.

A tractor-trailer crashed into a tanker truck early this morning, spilling a non-hazardous coolant at the [Pilot Travel Center](#) on Route 173 in [Bloomsbury, New Jersey](#). [State Police](#) at Perryville report. Initial reports indicated the tanker truck leaked a hazardous material, but police said the crash did not puncture the part of the tanker containing its load of acrylic acid. A coolant used to maintain the material's temperature spilled from the tanker's outer shell, police said. No one was hurt and the adjacent [Interstate 78](#) was unaffected, police said. The spill was contained, police said. Authorities at 6 this morning were waiting for the company that owns the tanker to offload the fluid from the damaged truck, which had a

"slight leak" after the 3:49 a.m. incident, police said. The truck from Tamaqua, Pa.-based Trimac Transportation was still at the Pilot as of 10:20 this morning but it looked as if the off-loading would soon begin, police said. The service plaza was closed until just before 11:30 this morning. Several 55-gallon drums sat near the silver-colored tanker, which had damage to the right rear. The tractor-trailer struck the tanker when its driver attempted to drive around the vehicle as it was fueling at the pumps, police said. No charges have been filed. Warren County's hazardous materials crew was onsite at 10:44, as were the fire marshals from Warren and Hunterdon counties. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had also arrived. State police and the state police emergency management team also responded. A company called Williams was cleaning up the spill.

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/hunterdon-county/express-times/index.ssf/2012/07/tractor-trailer_hits_tanker_tr.html

ENGLAND, WALES, NEWPORT, JULY 27 2012. NEWPORT OIL TANKER CRASH SHUTS A48 SOUTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD



4.00pm

The SDR is now fully open.

2.51pm

All oil from the overturned tanker has now been siphoned off into another tanker. Firecrews are still at the scene monitoring the tanker being righted with airbags. Once this is complete, they can go. The latest estimate is that the closed stretch of the SDR between Nash junction and the Balfe Road roundabout will re-open at around 4pm.

10.41am

Gwent police said the driver of the overturned lorry, a 54-year-old man from Newport, was taken to the Royal Gwent Hospital with minor injuries. Police said that they were called to the incident on the SDR in Newport at around 7.45am this morning. They said the tanker had overturned and some oil had spilled onto the

carriageway. They confirmed the SDR has been closed between the Nash junction and the Balfe Road roundabout while emergency services are at the scene. Diversions are in place but motorists are advised to avoid the area.

10.27am

AN eyewitness to this morning's lorry crash has described hearing screeching and seeing the tanker slide along the road. The Eco Oil tanker overturned at around 7.48 on the Southern Distributor Road, close to Spyty retail park. Eye-witness, Michael Francis, 51 from Spyty, told how he was out walking his dogs when he saw the crash, just yards from where a lorry had previously overturned just a month ago. Mr Francis, said: "I left to walk my dogs at about 7.20am and was returning to my house when I heard a loud screeching noise. I turned to my left and I've seen the lorry on its side sliding along the road. It



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must have slid for about 20 yards." Being a lorry driver himself, Mr Francis recognised the sign on the back of the lorry warning that it contained hazardous chemicals, in this case oil, and called the fire brigade. He also believed smoke to be coming from the tankers tyres and said the windscreen of the driver's cab was hanging out. Mr Francis and his friend, Les Smith, 55, also from Spytty, who was a fellow eyewitness said they believed the driver to have been up and out of the cab, but described him as having bad scratches across his back. Mr Smith, last month lost 50 ducks he and his wife cared for in a similar incident where diesel from an overturned lorry on the same section of the A48 polluted a local ree. Two fire engines and an environmental health vehicle from South Wales Fire and Rescue remain on the scene, where they are attempting to siphon the oil from the stricken taker to another one, and the South Wales and Gwent police helicopter is also attending the scene. The road remains closed in both directions with local diversions in place.

http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/9831638.SDR_shut_after_oil_tanker_overturns/?ref=mmssp

CANADA, B.C, VANCOUVER, JULY 24 2012. HAZARD ALERTS FIREFIGHTER KILLED IN EXPLOSION INVOLVING FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS

 **Document** [Firefighter killed in explosion involving flammable liquids](http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/posters.asp?reportID=36889)

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/posters.asp?reportID=36889>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, MACKAY, JULY 24 2012. DIESEL TANKER ROLLOVER >> POLICE LOOK FOR CAUSE

peter holt



The diesel tanker rollover near Mackay showgrounds on Tuesday morning has renewed calls to fast-track a ring road.

Mackay police were still investigating Tuesday's diesel tanker rollover late yesterday afternoon. A police spokesman said "traffic accident specialists" had conducted inquiries into the crash. The B-double diesel tanker came off the Bruce Hwy near the showgrounds early Tuesday morning. The incident caused commuter chaos throughout the day. Police said the tanker had been righted about 6.30pm Tuesday and towed to Mackay Heavy Towing's car yard on Munbura Rd. Mackay mayor Deirdre Comerford said the crash had wide-reaching implications for the Mackay community. "It brought our town to a standstill... and that's just not acceptable," Cr Comerford said. "It was a sad day, the potential for

that to have been seriously worse; 55,000-odd litres of diesel that B-double contained, just imagine if that had been a massive leak, let alone if it was petrol. "The potential for it to have been another outcome was very real and that just drives home the (importance of) the ring road." A Transport and Main Roads Queensland spokesman said it was likely the planning stage of the Mackay ring road would be completed by mid-2013. "We're currently planning for a future ring road around Mackay, from Sandy Creek in the south to Farleigh in the north and east to the Mackay Port," the spokesman said. "The \$10 million Federally-funded planning study... will take until mid-next year."

 **Related Links** [Tanker Crash May Trigger Charges](http://www.dailymercury.com.au/story/2012/07/26/police-look-for-cause/)

<http://www.dailymercury.com.au/story/2012/07/26/police-look-for-cause/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JULY 26 2012. CALTEX TO CLOSE SYDNEY REFINERY

imaduddin



Petroleum company Caltex Australia on Thursday said it would close its Kurnell refinery in Sydney with the loss of 330 jobs as it struggles to compete with larger facilities in Asia. Operations will halt in the second half of 2014 as part of a supply chain restructure, leaving the country's biggest city with no oil refineries and needing to rely on imports for its liquid fuel needs. It follows Royal Dutch Shell announcing it will shutter its Clyde refinery in Sydney next year. The Kurnell

closure will see 330 of its 430 employees made redundant with a knock-on effect on other contractors. Managing director Julian Segal said Caltex refineries were relatively small and disadvantaged in comparison to modern, larger scale competing refineries in Asia, particularly India and China. "This, combined with the challenging business environment, including the



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strength of the Australian dollar, increased operating costs and a lower Caltex refiner margin has meant that Caltex's refineries have been generating significant losses," he said. The existing storage and associated facilities at Kurnell, which have been operating for 57 years, will be converted to a fuel import hub. Caltex, which is 50 percent owned by Chevron, will continue to operate its other refinery in Brisbane. "The closure will not jeopardise Australia's energy security as Australia already imports large amounts of crude oil and finished petroleum products," Resources Minister Martin Ferguson said in a statement. "This decision will see imported supplies of crude oil being replaced by imported refined product." Caltex, Australia's leading transport fuel supplier, said it would be hit by Aus\$430 million (US\$442 million) of closure costs this year and would also spend Aus\$250 million on the conversion to a fuel import facility.

Related Links

- [Kurnell closure puts 800 jobs at risk](#)
Angry unions have accused oil giant Caltex of lies and duplicity over the closure of its Kurnell refinery, saying up to 800 jobs are at risk. Caltex on Thursday announced it would close the Sydney refinery in the second half of 2014 because of ongoing...
- [Caltex to close Kurnell refinery](#)
The global oil giant Caltex has confirmed that it will close its refinery in Sydney and sack 300 workers. Caltex executives say shutting down the aging Kurnell refinery is a commercial decision, and despite the Federal Coalition's...
- [Govt says fuel security not threatened by Kurnell closure](#)
The Federal Government says it's been preparing for the possible closure of the Kurnell refinery and is confident it won't compromise Australia's energy security. The Resources and Energy Minister Martin Ferguson spoke to our reporter,...
- [History of Kurnell Peninsula](#)
The history of the Kurnell Peninsula. - Traditionally inhabited by the Gweagal-Tharawal tribe of indigenous Australians. - James Cook first landed at Kurnell on April 29, 1770. - The first land grant was issued on the Kurnell headland in 1815.
- [Caltex Australia to close 124500 bpd Kurnell refinery](#)
Closure follows 12-month review; will convert to import hub
Costs for closure, conversion to total A\$680 mln
Caltex signs long-term supply agreement with Chevron
Caltex says refinery business lost A\$60 mln in March qtr

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/110-business-a-finance-top-news/70122-caltex-to-close-sydney-refinery-.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, JULY 27 2012. CALTEX: FEARS FOR FUEL SUPPLY AFTER REFINERY CLOSURE

david taylor



Hear

- [Listen to the Story \(PM\)](#)
- [Paul Howes speaks to PM](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Hundreds of jobs expected to be cut after Kurnell refinery closure](#)

Map: [Kurnell 2231](#)



Australia's peak motoring body fears Caltex's decision to shut its Kurnell site has left the country exposed to fuel supply risks and price volatility. Caltex will shed more than 330 jobs as the Kurnell site in Sydney is transformed into a simple fuel import facility over the next two years. The closure follows a recent decision by Shell to shut its refinery at Clyde. It will leave Sydney without an oil refinery. Serious questions are now being asked about the security of Australian fuel supplies and the potential flow-on effects at the bowser. Australian Automobile Association executive director Andrew McKellar says the closure could hit



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consumers hard. "We need to ensure that we have adequate reserves in place but also that we're encouraging and developing alternative sources of supply," he said. "We need to ensure that there is adequate account taken of the impact that that sort of outcome can have on consumers and on the Australian economy." Caltex currently supplies around 30 per cent of all transport fuels in Australia. To ensure an uninterrupted flow of petrol into Australia, Caltex has teamed up with Chevron. Under the agreement, Chevron will procure and supply to Caltex imported product from Singapore at market-based prices. Fat Prophets Resources analyst David Lennox says that is cold comfort for motorists now even more reliant on imported products to fuel their engines. "If there's a blockage in the supply chain somewhere outside of Australian shores then we would be impacted no matter what happens," he said. "Australia is not self-sufficient in crude supply, and while that is the case then we will always be susceptible to those types of blockages."

Fuel Security

The NRMA agrees, with director of motoring and services Graham Blight saying Australia has not done enough to invest in alternative fuel sources like biofuels. "The real issue is about fuel security in Australia," he said. "We are not meeting evidently our international obligations on fuel reserves in Australia, so we're in a very vulnerable position and unfortunately there's 52 other countries in the world who are a block ahead of us." But the body that represents independent service stations says petrol prices and supply should not be affected. Colin Long, head of the Service Station Association, told the ABC the mega refineries in Singapore and India would easily be able to meet Australia's fuel supply needs. Mr Long says that in the short term motorists will not be affected. "Like Shell they will be bringing in the refined product all ready to go into Australia through their tanks and out to the distribution of service stations," he said. "So the public and the service stations will notice no difference, so there's no actual threat as to supply in that scenario."

Economic Decision

Caltex says its decision to close the Kurnell refinery is based purely on economics. "I'll just point out to you that last year we lost \$208 million in our refining operations. That's a situation that cannot continue," said chief executive officer Julian Segal. "We believe this decision puts Caltex on a much more sustainable path going forward. We will continue to invest in our supply chain and marketing operations to further develop our proven growth platform. "Concurrently we will stem the losses at our refining operations by converting Kurnell to a major import terminal." The terminal will take in and distribute fuel to the Sydney metropolitan basin. That has been the role of the Kurnell refinery for the past 57 years, but Caltex says it was small in scale, producing only 100,000 barrels of petrol a day. It was competing with new facilities in Asia which pump out more than 1 million barrels a day.

Further Redundancies

Caltex maintains its refinery at Lytton in Brisbane will continue to operate as normal. It is even getting a modest upgrade. But with refineries at Kurnell and Clyde gone, it leaves just six refineries remaining in Australia. The Federal Government has downplayed the impact, saying most of the oil refined at the Kurnell site was imported. "The independent national energy security assessment established excess refinery capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, and already 80 per cent of the crude oil refined at Kurnell is imported," said Resources Minister Martin Ferguson. "There are mature import channels and ample product available to meet our needs and I am confident there will be no problems, difficulties in terms of the supply of fuel to Sydney or any other place in Australia." Caltex will now incur significant costs as it closes the Kurnell refinery totalling around \$430 million. It will also pump \$250 million into converting and expanding the current import facilities. The closure of the Kurnell site is expected to be completed in the second half of 2014. Unions, meanwhile, are calling on the Federal Government to lobby Caltex to prevent the closure. Australian Workers Union national secretary Paul Howes says both the State and Federal governments have neglected the Kurnell refinery. "Why aren't they stepping in here and saying, 'Chevron, if you want the right to exploit our natural resources in the form of the Gorgon project - a \$48 billion natural gas project - then you have the obligation through your 50 per cent share holding of Caltex to ensure that just a little bit of the crude oil is value-added in Australia.'"

Related Links

- [Caltex axes hundreds of jobs](#)
- [Caltex confident of Brisbane refinery's future](#)

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-07-26/fears-for-fuel-supply-caltex-refinery-closure/4157396?WT.mc_id=newsmai



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ENGLAND, LONDON, JULY 27 2012. FIRST MEETING FOR OIL DISTRIBUTION FORUM [UKDODF]

The first meeting of the reconvened UK Downstream Oil Distribution Forum (UKDODF) has been formally opened by Edward Davey, secretary of state, for energy and climate change. The forum, last active in 2007, has been reconvened as part of the proposals agreed between Unite union and haulage companies employers following the dispute in April. Davey had formally requested both Cogent Sector Skills Council and Skills for Logistics Sector Skills Council to reconvene the forum to review of best practice in health and safety and driver training standards. Cogent and SFL have appointed an independent chair Brian Worrall, recently retired from the downstream sector, to lead the forum. SFL chief Mick Jackson said: "Skills for Logistics has been raising the awareness within government of logistics as a pivotal business function and the importance of raising skills levels within our sector. We are, therefore, pleased to be involved in the Downstream Oil Industry Forum, which will play a positive role in addressing tanker driver skills and training issues."

<http://www.logisticsmanager.com/Articles/Article.aspx?liArticleID=18920>

BELGIUM, BRUSSELS, [CONCAWE], JULY 27 2012. EUROPEAN DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY SAFETY PERFORMANCE STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF REPORTED INCIDENTS – 2011

PDF Document [European downstream oil industry safety performance - statistical summary of reported incidents – 2011](http://www.concawe.be/DocShareNoFrame/docs/2/IJEHBINAMHKMLICOMEHDCKALVEVCWY919YBYP3B6ANC3/CEnet/docs/DLS/Rpt_12-5-2012-03368-01-E.pdf)

http://www.concawe.be/DocShareNoFrame/docs/2/IJEHBINAMHKMLICOMEHDCKALVEVCWY919YBYP3B6ANC3/CEnet/docs/DLS/Rpt_12-5-2012-03368-01-E.pdf

MALAYSIA, LABUAN, JULY 27 2012. MAN DIES IN TANKER FIRE - 3 EXPLOSIONS: 1,000 EVACUATED FROM VILLAGE, FACTORIES STOP OPERATIONS

roy goh



Firemen battling the fire on the MT Bunga Alpinia at the Petronas Methanol Labuan jetty in the Pulau Enoe industrial area of Labuan yesterday.

One sailor was killed while four others were reported missing after three explosions rocked the ship they were on early yesterday. Nineteen other crew members escaped unhurt. They were on the Port Klang registered MISC ship MT Bunga Alpinia, docked at the Petronas Methanol Labuan (PML) jetty in the Pulau Enoe industrial area. Eyewitnesses said they heard two explosions from the ship at 2.30am. A third blast occurred about 7am and could be heard 8km away. Following the third explosion, more than 1,000 residents of the nearest village, Kampung Ranca-Ranca, were evacuated. Nearby factories also stopped their

operations. Labuan police chief Superintendent Saiman Kasran said the dead sailor was identified as Shahril Azmi Baharuddin, 28, from Malacca. The four missing were Muhammad Nazrin Khamsani, 20, from Kuala Lumpur, Mohd Hanafi Khalil, 24, from Malacca, Zahari Hassim, 46, from Negri Sembilan, and Colanggoy Errol Calaluan, 22, from the Philippines. Saiman said the cause of the fire had yet to be determined. Eyewitnesses said there was a thunderstorm when the first two explosions were heard. It was learnt that the ship was being loaded with methanol through a pipeline at the time. The ship was bound for Kobe and Kawasaki, Japan. Labuan Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency chief coordinator Nor Azmi Mohd Dahin said the ship arrived here three days ago with 29 crew members and was due to leave tomorrow. Five of the crew were out on the island as it was their day off while the others remained on board. "The 25,000-tonne ship was 180m long and 32m wide. It had the capacity of 12,000 tonnes of methanol," Nor Azmi said. The ship was about 150m from the PML plant at the time of the fire. He said three people were also injured. "One of them was a worker at the nearby Petronas plant, another at a nearby flour mill, while the third was a crew member identified as Ridzuan Ramatullah." Labuan Fire and Rescue Department director Zainal Madašin said the vessel was towed by a tugboat away from the jetty while the firefighters worked on containing the fire. The fire was put out at 2.30pm. A check with the Labuan Nucleus Hospital showed the injured were given outpatient treatment there.

Related Links

- [1 Dead, Others Missing After Chemical Tanker Explosion](#)



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A chemical tanker off the Labuan island coast suffered from an onboard fire earlier today. The blaze impacted operations at a delivery plant at the giant methanol production facility owned by Petronas on the island. Officials are blaming a lightning...

- [Tanker inferno claims one life, 4 still missing *updated! Namelist added!](#)
fire engulfing the chemical/palm oil tanker at a terminal in Labuan which claimed the life of a crew member. — Bernama photo LABUAN: A fire on board a tanker of the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation (MISC) here early...
- [1 killed in tanker fire](#)
A fire broke out early today on board a chemical/palm oil tanker of MISC Berhad here, causing a loud explosion which rocked Labuan, and has claimed one life as of now. Three people were injured in the fire, which occurred...
- [Five missing after Malaysian chemical tanker fire](#)
Five crew members went missing after a Malaysian tanker caught fire in the South China Sea early Thursday. The accident occurred at a methanol terminal run by national energy firm Petronas on the island of Labuan off the Malaysian portion...
- [Tanker explosion in Labuan leaves one dead, four missing](#)
An explosion ripped through a tanker carrying methanol and berthed at Labuan early Thursday, leaving one crewman dead and four missing. Police believe a lightning strike started the fire on board the...
- [1 dead in Malaysian tanker explosion, 4 missing](#)
An explosion ripped through a chemical tanker off the coast of Malaysia today, killing one crew member while four others were reported missing. The explosion occurred when a fire broke out on board the Malaysian...
- [One dead, others missing in ship explosion](#)
A man died while four others remain missing after a ship they were on exploded and burst into flames yesterday morning. There were 19 other crew members on board the Port Klang registered MISC ship MT Bunga Alpinia berthed...

<http://www.nst.com.my/top-news/man-dies-in-ship-fire-1.113471#>

MEXICO, COAHUILA STATE, PIEDRAS NEGRAS, JULY 27 2012. COALMINE BLAST IN MEXICO KILL 7 OF FAMILY



At least seven miners, all from the same family, were killed in a gas explosion at a coalmine in northern Mexico, officials said, blaming poor safety conditions for miners. The officials said the explosion due methane gas release occurred in northern Mexican state of Coahuila Wednesday. Rescue workers retrieved the bodies of the miners, who worked in the mine in Muzquiz and were aged between 20 and 39 years. Explosions caused by methane gas are one of the main dangers in small-scale mining. In 2006, 65 miners died in an explosion at a mine in Pasta de Conchos, also in Coahuila. Juan Antonio Ibarra, an emergency services official in the coal-mining state of Coahuila, said "these mines don't have the appropriate security measures". A pocket of gas may have caused the explosion that occurred 246 feet underground, Ibarra said. He said the rescue operation, involving some 50 people, had moved slowly because they had to ventilate the mine first to prevent another explosion. Police official Francisco Martinez also said "all

indications are that the explosion was caused by a pocket of accumulated gas". The Mexican labour ministry in a statement said that the mine, owned by El Progreso mining company, had been fined over lax security in the past. The statement said that the mine had been inspected 16 times since 2009 and access restrictions were in place since June this year after inspectors found it lacked emergency exits. "The government pledges to continue inspections of high-risk mines across the country," the statement said. According to relatives of Pasta Concho, a pressure group founded by relatives of mining victims, 30 people died in accidents in Coahuila's coal mines in 2011. At least 50,000 people work in Coahuila's coal mines, many of which are unregulated and lack the necessary security measures, the group said.

<http://www.bignetwork.com/index.php?sid/207752142/scat/b8de8e630faf3631/ht/Coalmine-blast-in-Mexico-kill-seven-of-family>



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USA, ID, BOISE, JULY 27 2012. IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY UNVEILS FREE ONLINE COMPLIANCE TRAINING FOR UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK OPERATORS AT IDAHO.GOV

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has launched TankHelper, a new online training and compliance tool developed in the Gem State for owners and operators of Idaho's fueling facilities. The free service is available at <http://idaho.gov/>, the state's official Web site. "In order to assist underground storage tank facility owners and operators meet the Environmental Protection Agency's August 8, 2012, training deadline, DEQ is pleased to introduce this convenient training program," Kristi Lowder, DEQ's Underground Storage Tank Program Manager said. "TankHelper provides convenient, no-cost, site-specific Class A and B owner/operator training, as well as a management plan that details the facility's equipment and testing schedules." Facilities include sites such as gas stations, airports, and hospitals that house tanks or pipes that could potentially leak chemicals into soil or water. After the operator completes the training, TankHelper generates a training certificate as well as a customized, printable management plan. This plan guides facility operators through the actions required to stay environmentally safe and in regulatory compliance, based on their individual storage tank system. Facility owners are able to log-on and designate operators for each of their facilities. They can also view the training status for each of their designated operators. DEQ implemented TankHelper to meet the requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which dictates that owners and operators of underground storage tank facilities be fully trained by August 8, 2012. TankHelper is the result of an alliance between state government and the private sector. It was developed cooperatively and is supported by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and Idaho.gov, a wholly owned subsidiary of eGovernment provider NIC [EGOV +1.68%](#). For more information about TankHelper, call DEQ in Boise at 208-373-0502.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/idaho-department-of-environmental-quality-unveils-free-online-compliance-training-for-underground-storage-tank-operators-at-idahogov-2012-07-26>

USA, WASHINGTON, JULY 27 2012. SENATE COMMITTEE APPROVES TOUGHER CHEMICAL REPORTING BILL

michael hawthorne



Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., has brought versions of the Safe Chemicals Act to Congress since 2005.

Chemical companies would need to provide more health and safety information about their products and regulators would have more authority to force harmful substances off the market under legislation approved along party lines Wednesday by a Senate committee. With research increasingly linking toxic chemicals to cancer, learning disabilities and other health problems, the vote represented a symbolic victory in a decades-long effort to keep troublesome compounds out of furniture, toys, cosmetics, electronics and other household products. The Safe Chemicals Act would be the first overhaul of federal chemical law since 1976, but majority Democrats acknowledged the bill likely will not advance further without at least some bipartisan support. Every Republican

senator on the Environment and Public Works Committee opposed the measure. Sponsoring Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., has introduced versions of the legislation every year since 2005. Democrats revived the bill following a Tribune investigative series published in May about toxic flame retardants, many of which remain on the market despite studies that link them to health problems. In an attempt to garner more votes, Lautenberg pared back several of the bill's toughest provisions. One of the biggest concessions was language allowing chemical companies to keep putting new products on the market without thorough safety testing, though the Environmental Protection Agency would get more authority to screen chemicals and require studies of potential health effects. If research raised concerns about a chemical, the legislation would make it easier to force companies to stop making the product. "Too many toxic chemicals end up in everyday consumer products, and too many of our children are born with untested industrial chemicals in their bodies," said Lautenberg, citing support from more than 300 groups of physicians, scientists, public health advocates and environmental organizations. "This legislation establishes a strong but practical system for guaranteeing the safety of chemicals, and that will protect American families." Republicans said that calling for a vote now disrupted behind-the-scenes negotiations on a new version of the bill. Industry lobbyists have suggested some changes in those meetings but have stopped short of going through the bill line by line as Democrats urged them to do. Opponents declined to submit alternatives publicly, other than a short amendment that Democrats said would tangle the EPA in bureaucratic knots and lead to further delays in chemical screenings. That proposal failed on a party-line



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vote. "Everybody agrees we need ... reform," said Sen. David Vitter, R-La., who has been negotiating with Lautenberg for months on a potential compromise. "But I think this is a step backward." After the vote, the American Chemistry Council, an industry trade group that spent \$10.3 million on lobbying last year, issued a statement calling the bill "fundamentally flawed in many critical areas." The group opposes the proposed safety standard for chemicals and said provisions requiring more public information about compounds would "undermine long-standing protections of trade secrets, seriously hampering innovations in new products and technologies." Lautenberg's bill would revamp the Toxic Substances Control Act, a 1976 law that gives the government little power to assess or limit dangers from industrial chemicals. Citing loopholes in the law, the EPA acknowledges that it knows little, if anything, about the safety of most of the 84,000 industrial compounds in commercial use in the U.S. Neither regulators nor consumers can tell what specific substances are used in many products, meaning it can take years for independent scientists to identify chemicals, track them in the environment and determine if they cause harm. "EPA has not been living up to what the American public expects," James Jones, the agency's top chemical safety official, told the Senate panel at a hearing Tuesday. "But a good deal of that has to do with the challenges that the law creates for us." A growing list of critics — including the nation's leading group of pediatricians and the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress — have called for a dramatic overhaul. "A lot of folks have worked hard to find middle ground," said Richard Denison, a senior scientist at the nonprofit Environmental Defense Fund who has been working on the issue for years. "This bill is an important step that places the burden on chemical companies to prove their products are safe, rather than on the EPA to prove they are unsafe."

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/watchdog/flames/ct-nw-chemical-law-20120726,0,6803166.story>

CANADA, ALTA, THORSBY, JULY 27 2012. SMALL PIPELINE SPILL NEAR THORSBY, ALBERTA, BEING CONTAINED BY CREWS

A family that lives next door to a pipeline found to be leaking southwest of Thorsby, Alta., say they could smell the problem days earlier. Calgary-based Ravenwood Energy says they received a call about the spill on Wednesday afternoon from a man contracted to mow the grass around the pipeline. Greenpeace says it also got a tip Wednesday reporting the leak. The Blatz family lives next door to the pipeline and is very worried about the spill and its ramifications. Patrick Blatz says he could smell the oil for a week before the spill was reported and had even gone to the hospital on Wednesday. He says they are worried about ground water contamination. The Energy Resources Conservation Board and a Ravenwood Energy representative say the spill has been contained and crews are on site cleaning it up using vacuum trucks and a backhoe. "Immediately, I was very concerned about our water, and I was concerned that the aquifers got contaminated," says Gabby Blatz, Patrick's daughter. "It was kind of a concern that you could smell it in the air and you weren't sure what would happen because we have animals out here and what would happen if they breathed in all of the fumes coming from the spill," says Shayla Blatz, another of Patrick's daughters. David Beckwermert of Ravenwood Energy says it appears about 40 barrels of oil escaped. On Wednesday, the ERCB had estimated it was 25 barrels. Beckwermert says 75 to 80 percent of the spill had been cleaned up by Thursday morning. He points out they were lucky because the spill happened in a low lying area. The company now needs permission from the ERCB to dig up the affected pipe to find out what happened. Beckwermert says the company did an emergency break line drill three or four weeks ago. This is the fourth reported oil spill in Alberta within the last two months.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Small+pipeline+spill+near+Thorsby+Alberta+being+contained+crews/6997626/story.html>

CANADA. B.C, VANCOUVER, JULY 27 2012. B.C. PREMIER WANTS NORWAY OIL SAFETY, BUT SOME SAY PIPELINES DON'T COMPARE

vivian luk

Calgary-based Enbridge (TSX:ENB) has offered improvements to its Northern Gateway pipeline to boost safety beyond "state-of-the-art," but British Columbia Premier Christy Clark is looking at a standard much further afield. Clark said that Norway, one of the world's largest exporters of crude oil, is a model for rigorous safety standards and is perceived to have among the highest spill management capacities in the world. "We're looking to those models and saying, 'They've minimized the risk, they've figured out how to do this, maybe we can do the same,'" Clark said earlier this week. According to Norway's independent regulatory body, the Petroleum Safety Authority, safety standards are authored and strictly enforced by oil companies, unions and the government. The organization's website states that while petroleum operations are never fully secure, the risks of a pipeline spill can be mitigated by training workers, designing quality facilities and regulating safety standards. Key to Norway's success, the authority said, is collaboration between government and the oil companies.



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Environmental advocates in B.C., however, contend that comparing the Enbridge pipeline to those in Norway is like comparing apples to oranges. Pipelines in Norway pump crude oil from offshore rigs, whereas the Northern Gateway project would carry diluted bitumen from the Alberta oilsands to northern B.C., where the oil will then be shipped off to Asia. Environmentalists maintain that bitumen is heavier and more difficult to clean up from waterways. Extracting oil from oilsands is a relatively new technology, and there are no existing response mechanisms that can clean up that kind of spill, argued Karen Wristen, with the Living Oceans Society in B.C. "There's nothing Ottawa can do in the case of an oil spill, there's nothing anyone can do," she said. Unlike conventional crude spills — where the oil spreads out across the surface of the ocean — the heavier chemical compounds in oil from the sands sinks to the bottom where it can persist and affect wildlife, she said. "[In the case of a surface spill], they put a (containment) boom around it to keep it in place, and then they try to sop it up or suck it up," she said. "If it's not going to stay on the surface, you can't use that technology." Enbridge doesn't consider that an issue. The company says that spilled bitumen does float initially, and in that scenario it would promptly dispatch a response team with equipment to contain "the direct effects of a spill." "Northern Gateway acknowledges that, in certain conditions, some fraction of the oil may become entrained in the water column, submerge, or sink in both freshwater and marine environments," the company's spokesperson Todd Nogier said in an email. "This is the case irrespective of whether the oil is dilbit, synthetic crude or conventional crude oil." The Pipeline Safety Trust, a non-profit organization in Washington state, said the difficulties of removing diluted bitumen was apparent during a pipeline spill in Michigan two years ago. Executive director Carl Weimer said response crews used various techniques to trap what was on the surface of the river, and disposed of vegetation that was contaminated with oil. They also stirred the river bed so the oil that had sunk to the bottom would float back up. But not all of the crude could be captured. "That surprised people who thought they were ready to clean up," Weimer said. "Over years, different microbes will break (oil) down, but it does a lot of harm in the meantime." Earlier this month, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board criticized Enbridge's response to the Michigan spill. Millions of litres of crude containing diluted bitumen spilled into the Kalamazoo River on July 25, 2010, affecting more than 50 kilometres of waterways and wetlands. The safety board concluded that Enbridge did not fix a defect on the pipeline that was discovered five years earlier, and that control room staff continued to pump oil after Line 6B ruptured. The scathing report was followed by Enbridge's announcement last week that it will invest another \$500 million in safety improvements to the Northern Gateway pipeline. The new measures include increasing the thickness of the pipe walls at major river crossings, increasing the number of remotely-operated shut-off valves, and stepping up the number of inspections. Weimer said thicker walls can absorb more impact, while more shut-off valves can cut off a potential spill earlier. However, without a rigorous monitoring system, the safety measures will be inconsequential, he said. "If you don't have a leak detection system that's going to find a leak within a few hours, the thick pipes and the valves haven't done you any good," he said.

<http://theyee.ca/CanadianPress/2012/07/26/Northern-Gateway-Safety-19535897/>

ENGLAND, LONDON, JULY 27 2012. GREENERGY SEALS DEAL FOR FAILED OIL TERMINAL

karen dent

Fuel supplier Greenergy has outlined its ambitious plans for the North East after buying the former Petroplus oil storage terminal on Teesside out of administration. The London-based business is part of a consortium that also acquired the Coryton refinery in Essex in June, which was part of the administration when Petroplus collapsed in January. Greenergy has already invested in the Vopak site next to Petroplus at Seal Sands, converting the former chemical works into a modern fuel manufacturing facility. It also has sites in Cardiff, Plymouth and West Thurrock on the Thames. Greenergy chief executive Andrew Owens said: "The North East is an important hub in our UK fuel infrastructure platform and an area where we have significant sales volume. We will continue to manufacture fuel and supply our customers from the Vopak facility. "Once it has been developed, this new site will be integrated into our existing North East system to give additional product and manufacturing capability." Greenergy supplies more than 10 billion litres of petrol, diesel and biofuel – around a fifth of the road fuel sold in Britain – to major oil companies, supermarkets, fuel resellers, bus and logistics companies. It has big plans for Teesside, including the construction of a new rail head from the existing link to create a new hub for its UK rail distribution network. The terminal will remain closed while the detailed plans are drawn up and the 20 staff on site – whose jobs have been secured as a result of the deal – will be part of the development process.

<http://www.nebusiness.co.uk/business-news/latest-business-news/2012/07/27/greenergy-seals-deal-for-failed-oil-terminal-51140-31482594/>



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USA, MA, LACONIA, JULY 27 2012. NITRIC ACID SPILL CAUSES NEIGHBORHOOD EVACUATION IN LACONIA

 **Watch the Video** [Nitric Acid Spill](#)

Firefighters in [Laconia](#) were busy Tuesday trying to secure a local neighborhood after an electronics company reported a nitric-acid [spill](#), according to [The Boston Globe](#). The spill happened at ABC Fabricators just after 5 a.m. when a tank heating the acid became too hot and caused 275 gallons to spill inside the business. No one was inside at the time, but several streets were evacuated as a precaution. According to the Fire Chief the tank "had a pressure valve on it that relieved some of the pressure, but the fumes tripped the fire alarm." Due to the strong fumes firefighters went house to house to warn residents. The concern was that the acid could react with the wood structure and cause a fire that could affect the air in the neighborhood's. The Central New Hampshire Haz-Mat Team responded to the spill, along with 30 firefighters. Six firefighters were taken to the hospital as a precaution after breathing in the fumes. A manager with the company said the spill was under control and being cleaned up.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/nitric-acid-spill-causes-neighborhood-evacuation-laconia>

MALAYSIA. LABUAN, JULY 27 2012. LABUAN SHIP EXPLOSION: 2 MORE BODIES FOUND: 4 IN TOTAL



Two bodies believed to be the remains of four missing crew members of the ship that exploded and burst into flames were recovered afloat not far from the scene. Fire and Rescue Services department director Zainal Madasin said the first was recovered at about 12.57pm while the second was spotted within a few minutes later by members of the joint search and rescue effort in the vicinity of the MISC vessel MT Bunga Alpinia. "There were injuries on the bodies," he said when met at the Marine police jetty before the remains were sent to the Labuan Nucleus Hospital for post mortem. Meanwhile, Baharuddin Yaakub, 58, the father of the deceased, Shahril Azmi Baharuddin, 28, claimed his son's remain at the hospital and is due to fly to Melaka this afternoon. "This is god's fate (takdir tuhan)," he said at the hospital where he was with his wife and a few MISC officials. "I spoke to my

son on Wednesday night around 10pm on the telephone and there was nothing unusual. He told me his four hour duty shift was about to start and he spoke to his mother. That was the last we spoke to him." The deceased was his second of five children.

Related Links

- [Tanker fire death toll rises to 3](#)
The death toll in the tanker tragedy here has risen to three after the bodies of two crew members of the MT Bunga Alpinia were found floating not far from the wrecked tanker today. The tanker owned by the Malaysian ...
- [Malaysia tanker fire toll rises to three](#)
Malaysian authorities have found the bodies of two more crew members missing after the fiery explosion of a tanker, raising the confirmed death toll to three. The accident happened early on Thursday as the vessel was being loaded with methanol on the...
- [Cooling efforts onboard tanker ongoing: MISC](#)
The fire on board a tanker of the Malaysia International Shipping Corporation (MISC) Bunga Alpinia in Labuan, Sabah has been contained, and further cooling efforts are ongoing. MISC said in a statement today that the ...

<http://www.nst.com.my/latest/labuan-ship-explosion-br-two-more-bodies-found-1.113611#>

USA, KS, KANSAS CITY, JULY 28 2012. ELECTRO-COATINGS OF IOWA, INC., TO PAY \$19,171 CIVIL PENALTY FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE VIOLATIONS IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

Electro-Coatings of Iowa, Inc., a chrome, nickel, and zinc plating operation, has agreed to pay a \$19,171 civil penalty to the United States to settle a series of Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) violations in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In addition to paying the civil penalty, the company will spend a minimum of \$110,000 to install technology that will reduce the amount of hazardous chrome waste generated at the facility as a supplemental environmental project. According to an administrative consent agreement and final order filed by EPA Region 7 in Kansas City, Kan., an EPA inspector conducted an inspection at the company's Cedar Rapids facility in May 2011, and noted several violations of the federal act which regulates



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hazardous waste. "Facilities that generate hazardous waste must ensure that the proper procedures are followed in the handling, storage, and management of the waste stream," EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks said. "Proper management practices reduce the risk of harm to human health and the environment in the event of an accidental release." Electro-Coatings of Iowa, Inc., generates a large quantity of hazardous waste, over 1,000 kilograms per month. The violations included storage of hazardous waste for longer than 90 days without a RCRA permit, hazardous waste container management violations, emergency equipment violations, training violations, RCRA contingency plan violations, universal waste management violations, operation of a hazardous waste facility without a RCRA permit, and failing to comply with hazardous waste generator requirements, including failure to label waste containers, failure to date waste containers, and failure to keep waste containers closed. By agreeing to the settlement with EPA, Electro-Coatings of Iowa, Inc., has certified that it is now in compliance with the RCRA regulations.

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/rcra/index.html>

USA, AR, JACKSON CO, JULY 28 2012. HWY 67 REOPENS AFTER TANKER OVERTURNED, CAUGHT FIRE



An 18-wheeler that overturned on Highway 67 between Swifton and Alicia temporarily shut down the highway Friday morning. According to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, the tanker appeared to overcorrect causing the tanker to overturn and spill its load catching fire. Police say the tanker was hauling 7,900 gallons of ethanol. The driver of truck was taken to Harris Hospital by ambulance, where firefighters say he was being treated for minor injuries. Highway 67 was shut down in all directions while crews worked to stop the leaking tanker and put out the fire. Around 3:45p Friday all lanes of Highway 67 were back open, and the truck removed.

<http://www.kait8.com/story/19129760/tanker-overturms-on-hwy-67-catches-fire-closing-highway>

BANGLADESH, BARISAL, JULY 28 2012. SUNKEN OIL TANKER AN ECO HAZARD: EXPERTS



Environmental experts have called for immediate steps to prevent eco disaster anticipated due to the sunken tanker spilling oil in the Meghna River. The Jamuna Oil Company (JOCL) tanker, MT Meherjan, carrying 700,000 litres of petrol and diesel sank in mid-river after a collision with a cargo vessel, Fazlul Haq-3, on Wednesday night at Mehendiganj upazila in Barisal. The oil tanker was on its way to JOCL's Barisal depot. Local fishermen said they saw oil bubbling on water surface on Thursday evening. Oil slicks were also reported to have been formed around the accident site on Friday morning. Environmentalists said the spilling might have disastrous impact in Meghna and nearby rivers if it is not stopped immediately. Not only fishes or other river water lives, but also crop fields and

trees adjacent to the rivers were likely to get affected by the pollution, they said. Paribesh Bachao Andolon Chairman Abu Naser Khan said: "The most important work to be done at this moment is to control the oil spill as much as possible and then rescue the tanker. If the entire 700,000 litres of oil spills out, it will spread fast downstream polluting the entire area and endangering the lives of the people." The pollution would have disastrous impact on public health if it spread from rivers to canals, he added. Mehendiganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Reaz Hossain, quoting JOCL's Barisal depot officials said oil could be spilling through the tanker's engine pipes. The officials, however, did not reject the possibility that there might have been a leak in the tanker as well. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) Chairman Abu Bakar Siddiqui said: "The sunken tanker has already been traced. A rescue ship is on its way to pull the tanker up." He said the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and the BPC were working in coordination to pull up the tanker. International Union for Conservation of Natures (IUCN)'s Advisor in Bangladesh Dr Ainun Nishat said spill oil could be prevented from polluting water by encircling the place where the spilling was taking place. "Once the place is encircled, the spilled oil would have to be sucked out from the water. Water current is the most important point to be considered beforehand," said Nishat. Barisal zone BIWTC Deputy Director Hafizur Rahman said the fear of environmental disaster could be allayed if steps were taken to pump oil out of the tanker, which was about 150 feet below, through pipes. According to him, it would be difficult to pull up the tanker and its cargo weighing over 800 tonnes with rescue ship MV Hamza having the capacity of handling only up to 60 tonnes. According to BIWTA port official Alamgir, it would take until Saturday for



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the rescue ship Hamza to reach the spot. He said the two rescue ships Hamza and Rustam combined had the capacity to uplift 120 tonnes, which was not enough even to pull up the 200-tonne tanker. OC Reaz, however, said the tanker-owner was trying to hire private rescue ships. BPC Chairman Siddiqui said the tanker-owner would have to compensate for the loss. An employee of the tanker, Nizam Uddin, has been missing since the accident. Master and Sukani of the cargo vessel with which the tanker collided fled after the accident.

Related Links

[Sunken tanker spilling oil in Meghna](#)

Officials were alarmed on Friday as a sunken tanker continued to spill oil in the Maghna river. The Jamuna Oil Company (JOCL) tanker, MT Meherjan, carrying 700000 litres of petrol and diesel had sunk in mid-river after a collision ...

<http://bdnews24.com/details.php?id=229074&cid=2>

UK, JERSEY, JULY 28 2012. JERSEY GAS TANK TO BE DE-COMMISSIONED AFTER FIRE



Nearby homes, schools and businesses have been evacuated.

Work to take the gas tank that caught fire in central St Helier out of action is to finish next week. Jersey Gas said the holder would be out of service by the end of Wednesday with no gas then stored in central St Helier. Thousands of people had to leave their homes, businesses and schools for up to 24 hours during the fire in Gas Place. Workers were doing maintenance on the cylinder when it caught fire at the beginning of the month. The firm has worked with health and safety experts and the fire service to decide the safest way of taking it out of action. The remaining gas will be removed on Wednesday by what is called a controlled flaring

operation. The gas company says it is a safe process but could be noisy and create a heat haze.

Related Links

- [Fire started during leak repair](#)
- [Jersey community spirit praised](#)
- [People home after Jersey gas fire](#)
- [Hundreds stranded by gas blaze](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-jersey-19006052>

USA, WI, WASHINGTON CO, JULY 28 2012. JACKSON GASOLINE CLEANUP IMPINGES ON FAMILY HOMES

Watch the Video [Contaminated Water Forces Evacuations after Leak in Gasoline Pipeline](#)



Contractors excavate the properties of neighbors Patrick McComis and John Fenton on Thursday in the Town of Jackson. A petroleum pipeline that broke earlier in the month has contaminated the water of at least three water wells in the area.

When Patrick McComis visited his home Thursday morning, much of his side lawn was already gone, and more was targeted for removal. Workers were preparing to dig within a hundred feet of the residence, and a red stripe had been painted on his yard to mark the final edge of an ever-widening pit being excavated in the wake of a fuel pipeline break last week. That was too much for McComis, who said he had not been told the digging would be so extensive. "This was supposed to be our sanctuary," he said of the rural residence. "Now it's been torn up." West

Shore Pipe Line Co. estimates 54,600 gallons of gasoline spilled out of the pipe in just a few minutes July 17, spreading into the soil of McComis' lawn and a hayfield at neighboring Sweet Dreams farm, owned by John and Susan Fenton. Both homes were evacuated the next day. Since then, McComis and his family have been staying at a nearby hotel as contractors dig more and more soil, edging closer to the McComis home. The pit now is several hundred feet wide, straddling both properties east and west of the pipeline. It is 4 to 5 feet deep, the depth of shallow dolomite bedrock beneath the surface. On Thursday, two large backhoes steadily dug into the dirt, filling dump trucks waiting in line along a gravel road built by West Shore on the Fentons' field. One of the large shovels pointed toward the McComis home, just 100 feet away. Tempers flared shortly after 8



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a.m., when contractors asked McComis to step away from the pit, for his own safety. He loudly reminded them they were on his property. When McComis threatened to kick all workers off the property, John Fenton stepped into the group. He walked his neighbor away from the contractors, giving McComis a bear hug and a broad smile, defusing the confrontation. Soil cleanup work will continue at least through the end of this week, said Scott Ferguson, spills coordinator for the state Department of Natural Resources in Milwaukee. The Fentons are already back home. As for the McComis family, Patrick checks the property every morning and evening, but the hotel appears to be home for now.

Wells Contaminated

There is no estimate yet of the volume of soil being trucked to a state-licensed landfill for disposal. At least 66 truckloads had been hauled away as of Thursday morning, said Patrick Hodgins, West Shore's director of health, safety, security and environment. An environmental engineering contractor is probing the soil around the pipeline break, one-third of a mile north of Western Ave., to find remaining pockets of contamination, Hodgins said. Digging will continue as long as the probes detect gasoline in the dirt. "When we're done finding it, that's when we're done," he said. Fuel also seeped through the porous dolomite bedrock, contaminating at least three private water wells: at the McComis and Fenton residences in the 1800 block of Western Ave. and at the Curtis and Wanda Beeler property to the north, in the 1800 block of Mill Road. The pipeline was built in the early 1960s and rests atop the dolomite only a few feet beneath the surface. Water from at least 20 private wells is being tested in a radius of up to half a mile from the location of the break, Ferguson said. Though not all testing has been completed, Ferguson said Thursday that he will ask West Shore to expand the search for gasoline in the groundwater to the wells of even more distant homes. Ferguson will not be able to confirm the company's estimate of how much gasoline leaked out of the pipe until all well water testing is completed, he said. The company is providing the three families with bottled water, Ferguson said. He is also reviewing residential water treatment systems capable of removing gasoline components, including benzene, from their wells. The company would pay to install such systems, Ferguson said. McComis complained that West Shore Pipe Line Co., based in Arlington Heights, Ill., is providing little information to property owners affected by the spill. He was not told that contractors for West Shore would be digging up so much of his lawn to remove contaminated soil, McComis said. And he was not immediately informed of the levels of contaminants in his well water when the pollution was disclosed Wednesday. "I was told there were solubles in the water," he said. "What is that?" Ferguson confirmed that the concentration of benzene in each of the three wells exceeds the federal safe drinking water standard of 5 parts per billion.

Stayed Away

Sally McComis said four of their five sons are staying at the hotel with them. The family was told they could return home last Saturday, after the pipeline break had been repaired. They did not. "I'm glad I trusted my instincts and stayed away," she said. At that point, the extent of the soil contamination was not known, and the water contamination had not been detected. Water from the McComis and Fenton wells was being collected and tested each day, but no gas or its components were showing up. Around 11 a.m. Wednesday, a company representative called Patrick McComis and said the house had to be evacuated because of the finding of a pocket of contaminated soil close to their home. Though his family was not at the home, McComis did alert a worker hired to remodel the basement and asked him to evacuate. Later Wednesday, each of the three families was notified of the well contamination, based on samples taken the day before. "You don't realize how stressful these things are until it happens to you," McComis said Thursday. He had been pressing the company to find out what exactly was in the water. At midday, he got his answer. The well water contained 69.9 parts per billion of benzene - nearly 14 times the standard for safe drinking water.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/ozwash/jackson-gasoline-cleanup-impinges-on-family-homes-1h68ool-163949236.html>

CHINA, JIANGSU, SUZHOU, JULY 28 2012. POISONOUS GAS KILLS ONE, INJURES FOUR AT APPLE SUPPLIER FACILITY >> POISONOUS FACILITY SUSPENDED

An Apple supplier has suffered a gas poisoning accident resulting in the fatality of one person and four staff in hospital. The accident, which occurred at a subsidiary of Catcher Technology, a Taiwanese company that builds casings for electronic devices, has been described as a result of "improper operation" by Chinese authorities. The waste treatment facility, based in Suzhou, China, said the accident was an isolated event and not "directly related to any manufacturing process, factory or materials". The Suzhou Industrial Park Administrative Committee added that the accident had led to the poisoning of five workers while they were working at the facility. Following the accident, the workers were sent to the hospital. Of the four remaining workers, one has been transferred to normal hospital care, while the three others are still seeking treatment. The future of the factory now lies with the authorities, which have closed it down and are carrying out investigations about what



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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

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caused the poisoning. Early findings suggest the poisoning was from hydrogen sulfide, a highly toxic and flammable gas known to collect in poorly ventilated areas such as basements and sewer lines. Despite no signs that the gas has filtered through to nearby residential areas, authorities have said they will continue to scrutinise the situation carefully. Last year, Catcher Technology was ordered to suspend operations at a subsidiary factory after those living in neighbouring areas complained of a foul odour.

<http://news.techeye.net/hardware/poisonous-gas-kills-one-injures-four-at-apple-supplier-facility>

USA, MI, GRAND RAPIDS, JULY 28 2012. FIREWORKS DAMAGE IN GRAND RAPIDS SO FAR THIS YEAR: \$105,269

The number of fires related to fireworks during the first 6-plus months of 2012 was more than quadruple the amount of fireworks fires in the city over the previous two years combined, according to a review by Grand Rapids Fire Department. Firefighters through July 18 of this year had responded to 28 fire alarms related to fireworks. There was one such alarm last year and five in 2010. In each of the last three years, at least 75 percent of the fireworks-related fires took place between June 18 and July 18, the data shows. The fire department also reports that fireworks have caused \$105,269 in fire damage so far this year, compared to \$700 during the previous two years. The department itself has incurred \$8,053 in costs responding to those fires, after spending a combined \$453 over the past two years. Fire equipment has been deployed for 40.3 hours in response to fireworks-related blazes this year, up from 2.3 hours during 2010 and 2011. "Look at the apparatus hours, the mitigation costs, the number of alarms," Mayor George Heartwell said. "It seems pretty compelling. The common good is not being served (by the state's new fireworks law)." Heartwell has been [outspoken in his criticism](#) of a state law that took effect this year, making "consumer fireworks" like bottle rockets legal for sale and use in Michigan. Grand Rapids, like some other area cities, has [passed an ordinance prohibiting the use of those fireworks](#) on all but 30 days – 10 national holidays and the day before and after each – during which the use of consumer fireworks is protected by the new state law. The data in Grand Rapids has "proven that the legalization of consumer grade fireworks has had an impact on the city of Grand Rapids, as well as its citizens," according to a memo from Deputy Fire Chief Jerry Salatka. "As the availability of these items expands it is foreseeable that the citizens of Grand Rapids will be put at greater risk," he wrote. "If a kitchen appliance or other household product was responsible for 28 fires in six-and-a-half months it would certainly be recalled and production stopped." Salatka said [dry weather has combined](#) with "a lack of common sense by the users of consumer grade fireworks" to create a safety problem. Grand Rapids [got some rain today](#) but remains in a severe drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. City police also reported an increase in fireworks complaints in [a midyear crime update](#). The department in June took as many complaints as it did all of last year, and Police Chief Kevin Belk said ["we've tried to step up enforcement."](#) Police had taken 605 complaints this year through July 11, up from 201 in all of 2011. Fireworks complaints in 2009 and 2010 totaled 328 and 343, respectively, according to the report.

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/07/fireworks_damage_in_grand_rapi.html

USA, WA, CLE ELUM, JULY 28 2012. CREWS WORK TO CLEAN UP CLE ELUM GAS SPILL



The state Department of Ecology is overseeing the effort to clean up a fuel spill at the 76 gas station on East First Street in Cle Elum. A DOE spokeswoman said about 550 gallons of gasoline spilled when a delivery driver overtopped a 9,500-gallon, above-ground storage tank early Monday morning.

A fuel truck driver overtopped an above-ground fuel storage tank at the 76 gas station in Cle Elum early Monday morning, spilling about 550 gallons of gasoline. The state Department of Ecology is overseeing the cleanup operation at the gas station at 1001 E. First St., in Cle Elum. DOE spokeswoman Joye Redfield-Wilder said it wasn't the gas station operators who caused the spill, but a truck driver for R.E. Powell Distributing Co. of Grandview. "It overtopped, meaning it was left unattended and spilled over the top," Redfield-Wilder said. "They're estimating

550 gallons spilled to the ground." The base beneath the 9,500-gallon above-ground tank is gravel and the gasoline seeped into the ground and has reached the groundwater, she said. A cleanup crew is working to capture as much gasoline as it can. R.E. Powell is charged with cleaning up the spill, Redfield-Wilder said. A message left for the company by the Daily Record was not immediately returned. The spill happened between 1 and 2 a.m. Monday morning. "It wasn't reported to us until much later," Redfield-Wilder said. A cleanup firm was contacted Monday. DOE was notified of the spill on Tuesday. Some type of



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enforcement action could be considered, Redfield-Wilder said. The first stage is determining how much fuel spilled and how far it went into the ground, she said. It could be localized to the immediate area, but groundwater moves. Until DOE knows the extent of the problem, officials won't know how long cleanup will take. In the meantime, the gas station and convenience store remain open. Everyone near the spill is on city water so there isn't a concern of fuel getting into people's water, Redfield-Wilder said.

http://www.dailyrecordnews.com/top_story/crews-work-to-clean-up-cle-elum-gas-spill/article_954f091c-d812-11e1-8b0c-001a4bcf887a.html

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH, JULY 28 2012. POTENTIAL DANGER WITH PETN BASED PERIMETER EXPLOSIVES

 **Document** [Potential Danger with PETN Based Perimeter Explosives](#)

A worker inspecting the development heading after a recent firing found a length of 'unfired' perimeter explosive in a drill hole.

http://www.resources.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/439264/SA12-04-Potential-danger-with-PETN-based-explosives.pdf

ENGLAND, YORKSHIRE, MAPPLETON BEACH, JULY 28 2012. MAPPLETON BEACH'S REMAINING MUNITIONS DESTROYED

 **Watch the Video** [Remaining Munitions Destroyed](#)



The shells were discovered by a dog walker on Saturday at Mappleton beach. Further controlled explosions have taken place at an East Yorkshire beach destroying hundreds of munitions exposed by a landslip. The shells were discovered by a dog walker on Saturday at Mappleton beach. The beach, near Hornsea, was used as a bombing range by the military during WWII and in the 1970s. Bomb disposal experts from RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire carried out between four and eight controlled explosions at about 15:00 BST. The detonations were aimed at ensuring all the munitions had been made safe, an RAF spokesman said. He added that "99.9%" of the shells and rockets were spent ordnance and posed no threat to the public. The first set of controlled

explosions took place on Monday. Most of the munitions found on the beach are thought to date back about 40 years. It is expected that the beach will remain sealed off for some days while the clean-up operation is completed.

Related Links

- [Controlled explosions at beach](#)
- [WWII beach munitions destroyed](#)
- [Landslip exposes 'WWII munitions'](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-18988562>

USA, N.Y, DOWNSVILLE, JULY 28 2012. DEP SUCCESSFULLY DRAINS TWO FUEL TANKS BURIED IN THE PEPACTION RESERVOIR

The fuel tanks discovered underneath the floor of the Pepacton Reservoir have both been drained. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection's contractor, Moran Environmental Recovery, removed 2,600 gallons of diesel fuel from one tank and 600 gallons of gasoline from the other. Divers used an underwater camera to ensure that all of the fuel had been removed and then sealed the open standpipes. Inspection of the immediate area found no other unexplored standpipes. As a precautionary measure containment booms will remain in place for the time being. DEP officials said the leaks posed no threats to public health and the reservoir's water quality will continue to be monitored on a regular basis. Diversions from the reservoir to Rondout Reservoir resumed on Sunday, July 22. The leaks were discovered in May during routine surveillance and investigation led to the discovery of the tanks, believed to have been buried when the reservoir was built in the 1930s.

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2012/July/26/Pepacton_tank_drain-26Jul12.html



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