



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 872 Newsy Stuff

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

August 25 2012



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SCOTLAND, EAST LOTHIAN, AUGUST 9 2012. OIL SPILL IN NORTH BERWICK



Tom Brock on the West Beach at North Berwick where there has been an oil spill. The alarm was raised after a diesel oil spill at North Berwick's west beach, which is a popular destination for visitors during the summer. Officials from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Water and environmental protection officers from East Lothian Council were called in to investigate the slick, following a report from the harbour master on Monday morning. Around five gallons of diesel oil were washed up on the beach at the Firth of Forth – which has islands with thousands of seabirds including gannets and puffins, as well as seals. Signs were put up warning the public not to go in the water, and a boom was installed across the harbour mouth to stop the fuel getting into the harbour. Staff at the nearby award-winning Scottish Seabird Centre were on stand-by to help care for affected birds, and countryside rangers were also on hand to deal with potential

wildlife issues.

<http://www.eastlothiannews.co.uk/news/local-headlines/oil-spill-in-north-berwick-1-2456135>

USA, PA, MILLVALE, AUGUST 9 2012. PA. FIREFIGHTERS AVERT EXPLOSION AT FUEL TANKER BLAZE

taryn luna

Watch the Videos

- [Hazmat Crews Contain Fuel Spill after Tanker Truck Fire in Millvale](#)
- [Fuel Truck Catches Fire near Homes in Millvale >> Driver Jumps from Cab before Explosion](#)

Photo's [11] [Truck Explodes Feet from Millvale Homes](#)



Millvale firefighters prevented a disaster Tuesday night when they extinguished an engine fire on a tractor-trailer carrying 9,000 gallons of fuel.

Millvale firefighters prevented a disaster Tuesday night when they extinguished an engine fire on a tractor-trailer carrying 9,000 gallons of fuel. "Their quick response and quick suppression diverted a catastrophe," said Alvin Henderson, acting chief of Allegheny County emergency services. Firefighters were able to put out the fire before it spread from the truck's engine to the trailer. No one was injured. The driver of the Sunoco tractor-trailer carrying gasoline told firefighters he noticed smoke coming from under the hood and began to lose power shortly after he left a gas station at Butler Street and 40th Street in Lawrenceville. The tractor-trailer

broke down on Evergreen Road and Friday Street in Millvale around 8:45 p.m. Then the engine compartment caught fire, fire officials said. Seven homes on Evergreen were evacuated and residents were displaced for several hours. One homeowner, Shannon Case, 29, who lives on Evergreen said her cell phone started ringing and she could hear a commotion outside her home. When she finally answered her phone, she understood why. "They said, 'Are you home? Are your kids home? Get out!'" she explained. "I looked outside and saw billowing smoke and fire." The tractor-trailer was stopped feet from her door. Ms. Casey took her sons, ages 2 and 5, down the street to Sidelines Bar and Grill, where she tends bar. Employees there quickly evacuated patrons and were preparing to leave when Millvale firefighters arrived. Firefighters attacked the blaze and were able to put it out within three minutes of arriving on scene, officials said. Crews from four other departments also responded to the fire. A hazmat crew contained diesel fuel leaking from the tractor. Emergency crews waited as a second Sunoco tractor-trailer arrived on scene to transfer the fuel to a new tanker. Millvale Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Grimpe said the fire was likely the result of a mechanical failure.

<http://www.firehouse.com/news/10756917/pa-firefighters-avert-explosion-at-fuel-tanker-blaze>



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AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, ELIZABETH, AUGUST 9 2012. SOLVENTS FOUND IN ELIZABETH CONTAMINATION CHECK



Map: [Elizabeth](#)



Holden said it no longer used the solvents and was doing all it could to deal with the issue.

Groundwater and soil testing near Holden's plant in northern Adelaide has found evidence of two solvents. Holden has been testing since contamination was found near the Elizabeth plant and in the surrounding residential area last year. The company has now sent letters to 95 properties in the area and will do soil tests at 20. Environment Protection Authority (EPA) manager of site contamination, Andrew Pruszinski, said the vapour found is thought not to be a health risk. "Solvents that were used in the past for all sorts of industrial purposes were volatile in nature, that means they give off a gas," he said. "When it goes down into groundwater, the gas can then come back up through the soil profile to the

surface. The results we have to date do not suggest that there's a risk to health. This is a precautionary measure to make sure that that's the case. "GMH have their consultant and the auditor determining whether or not there is a risk." Holden corporate affairs manager Sean Poppitt said the company had not used the solvents for years now. "This is a legacy issue that we take very seriously and we are investigating very closely with the EPA, very closely with our independent auditors and I promise you we do have the community absolutely utmost in mind and will continue to gather data as is the responsible thing to do and we'll keep everyone updated," he said.

Related Links

- [Groundwater contamination prompts EPA warning](#)
- [Chemicals spread beneath Holden plant](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-09/solvents-found-in-groundwater-testing-near-holden/4187344?section=sa>

USA, WI, JACKSON TWP, AUGUST 9 2012. GASOLINE CONTAMINATION SPREADS IN TOWN OF JACKSON >> PIPELINE BREAK TAINTS AREA OUTSIDE FLUSH-ONLY ZONE

don behm

 [Watch the Video Gasoline Contamination Spreading, Flush-Only Advisory Area may Expand in Jackson](#)



A plume of gasoline from a July 17 fuel pipeline break continues flowing in groundwater away from the spill, and has pushed farther east and northwest in the last week, a West Shore Pipe Line Co. representative said Wednesday. The spreading plume of contamination now extends outside a state-designated restricted water use area where residents are warned to use well water only for flushing toilets. There should be no skin contact with well water within this zone, and it should not even be used to water lawns or plants. State environmental and health officials are evaluating whether to expand the flush-only advisory area, and a decision will come Thursday or Friday, said Stephen Ales, private water section chief for the Department of Natural Resources in Madison. The flush-only advisory area extends from the Prairie Meadows Estates subdivision along Wildflower Lane north of Mill Road to the subdivisions along Mockingbird and Hummingbird Drives

south of Western Ave. The western boundary is the block of Maple Road between Mill Road and Western Ave. The area extends a few hundred yards east of the pipeline break in the 1800 block of Western Ave. On Wednesday, contractors for West Shore were using vacuum trucks to remove contaminated groundwater from several wells that had been drilled around the spill in the 1800 block of Western Ave., said Scott Ferguson, DNR spill coordinator in Milwaukee. Vacuum trucks will be deployed there the rest of this week. Much larger volumes of tainted groundwater will be removed beginning next week as part of a remediation plan aimed at halting the spread of the plume. In the next few days, the company will install a mobile treatment plant on the Patrick and Sally McComis property immediately west of the spill, Ferguson said. The plant will be



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contained within two large trailers parked on a concrete slab in the northeast corner of the family's yard. One trailer will house a facility to separate much of the gasoline from water. Remaining gasoline-contaminated water will be piped into the second trailer, where contaminants will be blown through carbon filters in a process called air stripping. Clean groundwater that meets state standards will be discharged into an unnamed creek north of Mill Road, Ferguson said. West Shore plans to begin using the treatment plant by Sunday, Patrick McComis said. It will draw water from at least one large-diameter well completed this week on the McComis property. Gasoline from the spill is moving through fractures in dolomite bedrock to the groundwater. The pipeline sits atop the bedrock only a few feet beneath the surface. An estimated 54,600 gallons of gasoline spilled out of the pipe, according to West Shore. Benzene has been detected in 21 private wells in the town since the pipeline break. Benzene levels in 16 of the wells exceed the federal drinking water standard of 5 parts per billion, said Martin White, district right of way agent for Buckeye Partners L.P. The company operates the pipeline for West Shore. Each of those wells has been provided a water filtration system capable of removing gasoline and its components, including benzene. As of noon Wednesday, the company had installed a total of 58 water filtration systems in the flush-only advisory area. Twelve additional units are being installed Wednesday and Thursday in residences just outside the area as a precaution, White said.

Benzene Levels Rise, Fall

While the plume of contamination is expanding in groundwater, tests of the McComis family's well show that benzene levels are fluctuating wildly. Benzene levels rose to 2,610 parts per billion - 522 times more than the safe standard - on July 27 and steadily dropped after that until Sunday. Benzene levels skyrocketed to 24,900 ppb Sunday - nearly 5,000 times the standard - and climbed even higher the next day, to 29,600 ppb, according to test results provided to Patrick McComis. West Shore has asked McComis to remove the pump from the well so that a contractor can study this unexpected spike in contaminant levels, he said. Pipeline representatives on Wednesday told McComis that his well might be used for extracting large volumes of contaminated groundwater for treatment if tests show a pocket of gasoline has moved into the dolomite aquifer there. The McComis family has not returned home since being evacuated July 18. West Shore has agreed to lease the family a home for one year in Cedarburg so that they can stop living out of hotels, Patrick McComis said Wednesday. On July 31, the DNR issued a drinking water advisory for a large area of the town and designated the flush-only zone within that area. Residents of the larger drinking water advisory area are urged not to use water from private wells for drinking, cooking and food preparation. West Shore is providing everyone in the larger area with bottled water. This area extends from Jackson Drive on the west to Center Road on the east, from Sherman Road on the north to Spring Valley Road on the south. "We're going to stay here as long as it takes for the advisories to be lifted and for all residents to be provided with a safe drinking water supply," said White, of Buckeye Partners. West Shore Pipe Line Co. of Arlington Heights, Ill., owns the 10-inch fuel pipeline that runs from the Chicago area to Milwaukee and north to Green Bay. The line crosses beneath Western Ave., midway between Maple Road and county Highway G.

<http://www.jononline.com/news/ozwash/gasoline-contamination-spreads-in-town-of-jackson-5k6dvv9-165507306.html>

UK, MERSEYSIDE, HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE, AUGUST 9 2012. LIST OF HSE FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

- [RR937 – Flammable vapour cloud risks from tank overfilling incidents](#)
This report documents research undertaken in 2007 and 2008 to examine the important factors affecting the production of flammable vapour in incidents where large storage tanks of volatile liquids are overfilled.
- [RR936 – Buncefield investigation: Liquid flow and vapour production](#)
Blast and fire damage at Buncefield followed ignition of an extensive low-lying cloud rich in hydrocarbons. This cloud developed during overfilling of a tank with unleaded petrol. The purpose of this report is to explain the connection between the loss of containment and the generation of a combustible cloud.
- [RR923 – Investigation of relationship between saturated vapour concentration and real exposure to vapour](#)
This study was designed to provide information to better assess levels of risk and the potential for human exposure to low volatility chemical substances.

<http://links.govdelivery.com/track?&type=click&enid=ZWfZPTEmbWfPbGluZ2lkPTlwMTlwODA3Ljk1OTgwMTEmbWVzc2FnZWIkPU1EQ11QUkQkQlVMTlwMTlwODA3Ljk1OTgwMTEmZGF0YWJhc2VpZD0xMDAxJnNlcmhhbD0xNzEwODA4OCZlbWFr bGlkPWVybkbBoYXptYXQuY29tLmF1JnVnZVZJpZD1kb25AaGF6bWF0LmNvbS5hdSZmbD0mZXh0cmE9TXVsdGl2YXJpYXRl SWQ9JiYm&&102&&http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/funded-contracts.xls>

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USA, MD, ANNE ARUNDEL CO, PASADENA, AUGUST 9 2012. RITCHIE HIGHWAY SHUT DOWN AFTER TANKER LEAKS GAS ON ROAD

 [Watch the Video Tanker Leaks Gas on Road](#)

Ritchie Highway is shut down after an accident involving a tanker. According to officials, a tanker truck holding 8,000 gallons appeared to be making a left turn onto southbound Ritchie Highway from Route 10 around 3 p.m. Tuesday. The trailer came unhitched, fell onto the road and began leaking gasoline. Ritchie Highway is shut down from West Pasadena Road a little before Jumpers Hole Road. Northbound lanes have reopened; southbound lanes could be closed up to four hours. Drivers are asked to avoid the area if possible. The Department of the Environment is on the scene and is assisting crews.

<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2012/08/07/ritchie-highway-shut-down-after-tanker-leaks-gas-on-road/>

USA, N.Y, UTICA, AUGUST 9 2012. DEC COMPLETING SPILL CLEANUP IN NORTH UTICA

steve hughes



The lot next to Nicky Doodles on North Genesee Street is the site of a current oil cleanup. A spill happened there nearly 25 years ago. A contractor and a member of the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Spill Response Team are completing the cleanup on an oil spill that is more than two decades old. For the past two days, crews have been excavating 63 N. Genesee St., next to Nicky Doodles. As of Wednesday morning, the pit was more than 10 feet deep and 30 feet wide. An oily pool of ground water covered the bottom of the pit and the smell of oil filled the site. Steve Litwhiler, the regional spokesman for the department, said there was a gasoline spill on the property on Oct. 9, 1987. "There was a spill, because of the location of the gasoline storage tank, some of the gasoline seeped under the building," he said. "The building came down recently so we went in and finished the cleanup." The spill was due to equipment failure, which means the storage tank began to leak. Litwhiler was not sure how much gasoline was spilled

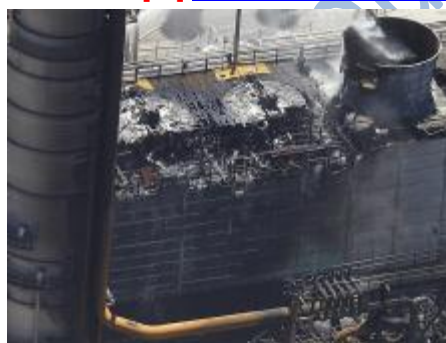
or how long the remainder of the cleanup would take. The oil is not related to the pollution cleanup of nearby Harbor Point. The site used to belong to Rochester-based Associated Textile Rental, which left Utica three years ago. Its current owner, Dominic Pavia, bought the site two years ago under ISYH I, LLC., for \$150,000. The site is assessed at \$40,000. Pavia could not be reached for comment. The contaminated dirt likely will be brought to a landfill and used as cover.

<http://www.uticaod.com/news/x1519323486/DEC-completing-spill-cleanup-in-North-Utica>

USA, CA, RICHMOND, AUGUST 9 2012. QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT CHEVRON'S HANDLING OF GAS LEAK THAT SPARKED MASSIVE BLAZE

matthias gafni & denis cuff

 [Photo's \[37\] Fire blazes at Chevron refinery in Richmond](#)



Firefighting crews continue to pour water onto a unit after Monday's fire at the Chevron refinery on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, in Richmond, Calif.

Federal, state and local agencies descended Wednesday on the site of Chevron's massive refinery fire, as questions deepened about whether the company could have prevented the accident by shutting down a crude unit that began leaking hours before the eruption of the blaze. The lingering fire was finally extinguished Wednesday afternoon, but the company acknowledged that the damage is so severe the plant's ability to produce refined petroleum is limited -- a situation that is pushing up gas prices here and across the Western United States. No timetable has been set for repairs to be complete; in fact, even the investigations may not begin in earnest until Friday, after state officials declare the site safe. At least five separate investigations, including one by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, will target a pipe that burst after two hours of monitored leaking, sparking the fire. "Any time you lose containment of hydrocarbons, it's a critical situation," said Jeff Clark, field representative for United Steelworkers



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Local 5, which represents about 600 operators and mechanics at the Richmond plant. "And obviously from our point of view, the majority of the time, shutting down the unit is the safest thing to do." The San Ramon-based oil giant said shutting down the plant is a difficult call. "To do an unplanned shutdown of a plant is fairly dangerous," said Mark Ayers, the refinery's chief of emergency services. "While we were looking at our options, the leak got worse and the fire broke out." Meanwhile, Western Contra Costa residents raised a new round of questions on how to best coexist with their toxic neighbors. About 1,700 had visited county hospitals since Monday evening, said Pat Frost, director of Contra Costa's Emergency Medical Services. More than 1,000 residents filed claims against Chevron -- so many that the company's hotline was often busy. Contra Costa had its own phone issues, as the county's hazardous materials chief said warning calls to area residents went out too slowly through the automatic phone system. Frost plans to beef up the system's capacity.

The Leak

The Richmond No. 4 crude unit is the starting point of the refining process at Northern California's largest such facility, which processes up to 240,000 barrels of oil feedstock a day. In the processor, crude oil is heated to between 700 and 800 degrees, sometimes chemically treated, to create jet fuel, gasoline, diesel fuel and other byproducts. The leak found Wednesday was in a pipe that separates the diesel-like mixture. Originally about 20 drips a minute, the leak suddenly "broke loose" as refinery employees attempted to take off the insulated aluminum shield around the pipe, said Randy Sawyer, Contra Costa County's chief environmental health and hazardous materials officer. Crews evacuated, and the vapor caught fire so quickly that a Chevron fire truck was destroyed in the blaze. Chevron officials pushed the notification button 10 minutes after the fire started, Sawyer said, automatically sounding sirens and alerting authorities. He said that was a reasonable response time. The No. 4 crude unit was the site of a major 2007 Chevron fire, but Sawyer said the two incidents were in different areas. Keeping production flowing is often a driving force in decision making at all refineries, Clark said. "Any disruption in production affects profits," he said. "As far as the overall industry goes? Yeah, we have concerns that sometimes decisions are made to fix things without disrupting production." Chevron representatives said Wednesday safety is top priority. While a controlled burn smoldered Wednesday morning, a leak from a valve above the first fire dripped onto the burn and caused a small secondary fire near the upper valve, a Chevron spokesman said. Chevron called Richmond firefighters, and they combined to extinguish the controlled burn and secondary fire. The company said there still was a risk a small fire could break out in the lines, so they are monitoring the site.

Environmentalists Fume

Some critics said Chevron is part of an oil industry responsible for too many toxic releases, and that they happen because too much emphasis is placed on profit. Many previous refinery accidents around the country could have been prevented if plant operators had shut down production equipment rather than continue its operation while trying to fix a problem, critics said. "If Chevron had shut down that unit when they first discovered the leak, the fire wouldn't have happened," said Denny Larson, executive director of the Global Community Monitor, an environmental watchdog group. "By not shutting down, Chevron had effectively lost control of that equipment when the fire started." In 1993, Larson noted, the refinery in Rodeo then operated by Unocal had a leak of a chemical called catacarb for 16 days before public and regulatory complaints spurred a shutdown. Hundreds of people sought medical treatment for the pollution.

Community Alert System

What was clear during Monday's fire was the inadequate automatic phone notification system, Sawyer said. Calls went out to 18,800 residents alerting them to shelter in place, but it took from 6:39 p.m. until 11:58 p.m. for all the calls to go out. "We need that to be two times or three times faster," Sawyer said. The outside company that manages the automatic calls has a limited number of lines and limited system capacity, he said. Industrial companies in the county pay for the system. Sawyer said more sirens should have sounded, as well. "We were most concerned about people most around the refinery," he said. "Looking in hindsight, maybe we could have sounded more alarms ... that was my decision." Meanwhile, Chevron's 24-hour, seven-day-a-week hotline intended to compensate community members for medical and property expenses incurred from the fire had capacity issues of its own, as many callers got busy signals. "We have heard those complaints and are in the process of adding phone lines," said Heather Kulp, a Chevron spokeswoman. The claims number is 866-260-7881. The company also plans to open a Richmond office to allow residents to file claims in person.

Related Links

- [How an oil refinery can pollute the air \(infographic\)](#)
- [Richmond Chevron refinery fire health facts](#)



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- [Tests reveal safe toxics levels near Chevron refinery fire, but airborne particulates data not available](#)
- [Barnidge: After the Chevron fire, a search for accountability](#)
- [Gasoline prices jump 5 cents in one day following Richmond refinery fire](#)
- [Documents: Air quality analysis after the Chevron fire](#)
- [Contra Costa Times editorial: Time to finally fix county's emergency warning system](#)
- [Oakland Tribune editorial: Time to finally fix county's emergency warning system](#)
- [Wind patterns keep Richmond refinery smoke out of Marin](#)
- [Richmond: Air quality determined safe after Chevron refinery fire](#)
- [Richmond: Furious crowd confronts Chevron refinery, government officials at town hall meeting](#)
- [Audio: Richmond refinery fire 911 call from Chevron](#)
- [How the public was notified of Chevron fire](#)

http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_21264773/small-fire-flares-up-at-same-site-major

USA, TN, CLARKSVILLE, AUGUST 10 2012. CLARKSVILLE FIRE RESCUE RESPONDS TO TANKER FIRE ON WILMA RUDOLPH BOULEVARD

 **Photo's [7]** [Tanker Fire](#)



Clarksville Fire Rescue put out a tanker fire early this morning on Wilma Rudolph Boulevard

On August 9th, 2012, around 6:15am, Emergency personnel responded to a tanker fire in the area of Wilma Rudolph Boulevard and Center Pointe Road. The empty liquid nitrogen tanker caught on fire and was quickly extinguished by Clarksville Fire Rescue. There was no damage to the tractor or injury to the driver. The reason for the fire is still under investigation, but initial responders believed the braking system may have been a contributing factor. Wilma Rudolph Boulevard was closed for approximately one hour.

<http://www.clarksvilleonline.com/2012/08/09/clarksville-fire-rescue-responds-to-tanker-fire-on-wilma-rudolph-boulevard/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, KIAMMA, AUGUST 9 2012. CONTAMINATED PETROL SHUTS KIAMA BOWSER

glen humphries



Alert: A broken pipe let water seep into fuel at Addison's Corner Garage in Kiama.

A failed underground pipe allowed water to seep into fuel at Kiama's only petrol station, causing damage to at least 10 cars which refuelled there on Saturday. An NRMA spokesman confirmed that the motorists' organisation had responded to 10 call-outs in the Kiama area from members reporting problems "related to the type of fuel that they'd just filled up with" at Addison's Corner Garage. Kiama real estate agent Anthony Langlois, who was among those who called the NRMA, vented his unhappiness on Facebook over the weekend. "I made it 500 metres away from the petrol station I reckon, before it [my car] died," Mr Langlois said. "So I rang the NRMA and when they came the NRMA guy said, 'You didn't happen to fill up at Addo's this morning did you?' 'I told him, 'As a matter of fact I did'." The NRMA

mechanic took the injectors off the car's engine and had Mr Langlois turn the key over while he pumped the fuel-water mix into a plastic bottle. Mr Langlois described the bottle's contents as "50 per cent water, 50 per cent juice". He said he told staff at Addison's Corner Garage of the problem but wasn't happy with the response he got, claiming that an "out of service" sign was only put up on the faulty bowser the following day. An Addison's Corner Garage spokesman denied the claim, saying that not just the pump but the entire unleaded system was shut down by lunchtime on Saturday. He said that when the NRMA mechanic notified the garage that he had had three call-outs to cars with fuel problems that Saturday morning, garage staff tested the pump. "It proved clean after an hour of testing [and] we put it back in service," he said. The spokesman said the actual problem - a faulty pipe underneath the concrete driveway - was difficult to discover on the Saturday. "When [the NRMA



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mechanic] called us to say he'd got another car that conked out, that's when we shut down the whole unleaded system, because we didn't know what was going on and we couldn't get anyone in here until Monday morning." On Monday the faulty pipe was discovered. The pump will remain closed as the site is due to undergo an upgrade in several months. The Addison's spokesman said that of the 10 motorists affected, every one bar Mr Langlois had been happy with the garage's response, which included plans to reimburse all people for any damages.

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/news/local/news/general/contaminated-petrol-shuts-kiama-bowser/2646654.aspx>

USA, FLA, MIAMI, AUGUST 10 2012. 1,000 GALLONS OF FUEL SPILLED ON MIAMI BEACH STREETS

Watch the Videos

- [Crews Clean Up 1,000 Gallons of Fuel from Miami Beach Intersection](#)
- [1,000 Gallons of Fuel Spilled on Miami Beach Streets](#)



Sand is spread on the cascading gas leak at the Chevron on 1800 Alton Road in Miami Beach.

Hazmat crews are cleaning up after a gasoline leak at a South Florida gas station. Miami Beach Police and fire rescue responded to the Chevron Gas Station at 1880 Alton Road, just before 5 a.m. Thursday. Crews capped the leak within 10 to 15 minutes. A station attendant said there could have been too much pressure of the pipes, which caused the spill. However, gallons of gasoline had already spilled into the streets and spread 200 feet from the station, forcing authorities to shutdown Alton Road and West Avenue from Dade Boulevard to 20th Street. By noon, the intersection of 18th Street and West Avenue was blocked off "It could've been pretty catastrophic. Gasoline will ignite very easily, it travels very easily and evaporates and can go into buildings," Miami Beach Fire Rescue Chief Javier Ortero said. "Certainly, it could've been pretty bad." Crews placed foam and kitty

litter on the gasoline to absorb the fuel on the street and keep it from spreading. An employee who works at South Beach Finest car wash behind the gas station said he could not come in to work. "It is directly behind the Chevron, so my work's closed today," said Michael Barone. "At least it's definitely delayed, which is really unfortunate because it's costing a lot of money." The U.S. Coast Guard checked to see if any spilled into the water and Miami Beach Public Works is checking to see if any spilled into the sewage system. But, officials reported, none of it made it into any waterways whatsoever. Residents should not be concerned about their drinking water because it did not get into the water system, city officials said. Chevron officials continue to investigate what went wrong to cause this spill.

<http://www.wsvn.com/news/articles/local/21008221211595/1-000-gallons-of-fuel-spills-on-to-miami-beach-streets/>

USA, CA, RICHMOND, AUGUST 10 2012. CHEVRON DELUGED BY THOUSANDS OF CALLS, OPENS CENTER FOR FIRE-RELATED CLAIMS

daniel m. jimenez

Photo's [8] [Claims Rise after Fallout from Chevron Fire](#)



A large sign in front of the law offices of Nicholas Haney attracted hundreds of residents. Tensions between residents of the Richmond area and Chevron were high as people sought legal advice and neighbors of the Chevron refinery questioned their options in the wake of the recent smoky fire.

With more than 2,200 people having called a phone hot line already, Chevron will open a help center Friday for any residents who wish to file claims related to Monday's refinery fire and resulting smoke in person. The center will be located at the Nevin Community Center, 598 Nevin Ave. It will be open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. At least one speaker at a town-hall meeting with Chevron officials Tuesday night suggested the center. Company spokeswoman Heather Kulp announced the plans to open the center Wednesday afternoon. The center will stay open as long as needed, Chevron said.



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

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The company is continuing to take claims by phone 24 hours a day and seven days a week at 866-260-7881. A spokeswoman said Thursday afternoon that the company had taken at least 2,200 calls at that number. Chevron officials also said that some people in the community have reported receiving calls from individuals offering to help them make claims. The company has not called anyone with such an offer, according to a statement, and those people are not Chevron representatives. Richmond police also passed along a warning Thursday that others were handing out fake claim forms to residents in an attempted scam. Company officials have previously said the company would pay any legitimate health costs or property loss caused by the fire. A spokeswoman Wednesday also noted that businesses forced to close early or workers who could not go to their jobs because of the fire might be eligible for compensation.

Related Links

- [Chevron California refinery repairs seen taking 1-3 months: sources](#)
Repair work at the fire-damaged crude oil unit of California's second largest refinery may keep the unit shut for up to three months, refinery sources said on Thursday as regional wholesale gasoline prices rose to their highest since May.
- [Claims rise after fallout from Chevron fire](#)
Friends hugged, Wednesday August 8, 2012, as they waited for information from a local attorney about legal actions against Chevron. Tensions between residents of the Richmond area and Chevron were high as people sought legal advice, and neighbors of...
- [Chevron opens refinery fire claim center](#)
Chevron Corp. officials have opened a claims center in Richmond to help residents in the aftermath of Monday's refinery fire. Residents can talk to representatives at the Nevin Community Center at 598 Nevin Ave. in...

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_21275340/chevron-open-richmond-center-fire-related-claims

USA, TX, HOUSTON, AUGUST 10 2012. VALERO SUES FOUR COMPANIES OVER HOUSTON REFINERY EXPLOSION

olivia pulsinnelli



[Valero Energy](#) has sued four companies over an explosion at its Houston refinery in 2008. [The San Antonio Express-News reports](#) that a Valero partnership named Houston-based KBR Inc., KBR-owned BE&K Inc., Houston-based Mustang Engineers and Constructors LP and Corpus Christi-based Berry Contracting LP, also known as Bay Ltd., in the lawsuit filed Thursday. In the suit, San Antonio-based Valero alleges that the Aug. 4, 2008, incident resulted from defects in the design, engineering and construction of the sulfur tank facilities, the Express-News reports. Valero estimates the incident has cost the company more than \$5 million so far. It is seeking unspecified damages in the breach-of-contract and negligence suit, the Express-News reports. The [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#) said in a previous enforcement action that the event was "avoidable" and "caused by a sulfur plug in the air sweep system," the Express-News reports. "Valero is hopeful this matter can be resolved with a settlement," company spokesman Bill Day told the Express-News. None of the companies named in the suit responded to the Express-News' requests for comment.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/news/2012/08/09/valero-sues-four-companies-over.html>

CHINA, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHENZHOU, AUGUST 10 2012. 200 KG OF CRUDE LIQUID BENZENE LEAKS INTO RIVER IN CHINA

About 200 kg of crude liquid benzene leaked into a river in central China's Hunan Province, sparking pollution concerns among public. The leak occurred when a valve on a storage tank belonging to Xingkesheng Chemical Co Ltd failed due to metal fatigue, authorities in the city of Chenzhou said. Emergency treatment measures are being undertaken, including sealing the tank and erecting barriers on the Baoyuan River to intercept the leak, official Xinhua reported. No casualties have been reported so far. Crude liquid benzene is not water-soluble. It can affect people's brain, skin, lungs and nervous system, the Xinhua report said.

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/200-kgcrude-liquid-benzene-leaks-into-river-in-china/42541/>



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USA, N.Y, GREENE CO, CAIRO, AUGUST 10 2012. IMPROPER MARKINGS ON TANKS COST TOWN >> BOARD AGREES TO PAY \$2,400 FINE FOR FUEL STORAGE INFRACTIONS

susan campriello

Cairo officials have agreed to pay a state-imposed fine concerning improper markings on fuel storage tanks and inadequate overflow protection. The Town Board voted Wednesday evening to allow Town Supervisor Ted Banta to sign a consent order from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and pay an approximate \$2,400 fine for the infractions. Last year, the state alleged that ports on two fuel storage tanks on town property were improperly color-coded; that one tank lacked proper means of preventing spills and a valve was missing on certain lines, according to official documents. It was also alleged that the town had removed a tank without properly notifying state officials. According to Banta, the state issued Cairo a violation notice at the end June 2011. The state claimed that Cairo had not responded, and issued the order about 10 months after the initial violation notice, according to Banta. Banta said Cairo's highway officials immediately sent the state information and documentation needed to complete a state-issued compliance schedule. Robert Hempstead, superintendent of the town's highway department, said Wednesday evening that the state was "beating up on" the town for what called a "clerical error." "We thought we'd done everything we needed to do," he said. Wednesday evening, Cairo Town Attorney Tal Rappleyea explained that, in his opinion, the state's position was that the town had completed the work but had not provided the correct paperwork. He advised that the fines could increase if the town did not respond to the order. According to Banta and Rappleyea, the state initially asked for a fine of about \$3,200. However, Rappleyea worked with the state to lower the final amount due. "We were still disappointed that we were going to get fined," Banta said Thursday. "They were kind enough at least to reduce the fine."

<http://www.thedailyemail.net/articles/2012/08/10/news/doc50249cf95e7d1775949943.txt>

NIGERIA, ETHIOPE WEST, IDJERHE, AUGUST 10 2012. OIL SPILL - DELTA COMMUNITY LOSES FISH PONDS WORTH N445 MILLION

kola niyi-eki



No more fish in Ogoniland.

The people of Idjerhe in Ethiopie West Local Government Area of Delta State have said that they had lost fish ponds worth N445 million to the pollution of River Ethiopie through the activities of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and SPDC. The traditional ruler of the community, Erhiekevwe I, who spoke to journalists yesterday on behalf of the people, disclosed that they have petitioned relevant authorities to come to their aid as the oil companies that allegedly caused the spills have refused to clean up the river. As it were, River Ethiopie is the only source of drinking water for the people who are said to have lost six persons as a result of the polluted water in the past few days. Leadership gathered that the

people depend on the river for other forms of commercial activities such as fishing and transportation which explained why the monarch was appealing to the relevant authorities to come to their aid and save the lives of the people. While lamenting that many of his people were currently admitted in hospitals, the monarch said that their source of drinking water had been contaminated including the fishes. Leadership investigation revealed that the entire river has been covered with crude oil leaving hundreds of fish dead. But officials of the oil companies who did not want their names in print said that efforts were being made to address the problem.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201208100306.html>

USA, MO, ST. LOUIS COUNTY, AUGUST 10 2012. OLD CHEMICAL SPILL WORRIES RESIDENTS IN ELMWOOD PARK

patrick m. o'connell

An industrial chemical spill more than 20 years ago is now causing ripples of concern after recent tests showed elevated levels of a contaminant in several nearby homes. The 1988 spill at a metal facility at 9970 Page Avenue in Overland contaminated groundwater in the Elmwood Park neighborhood of unincorporated St. Louis County, according to environmental, health and housing officials who addressed a Thursday night meeting for residents. EG&G Missouri Metal Shaping operated the plant at the time of the spill; another company currently operates the facility. Tests by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources showed three occupied homes owned by the Housing Authority of St. Louis County had elevated levels of trichloroethylene



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(TCE), a liquid solvent used as a degreaser at the plant. The chemical contaminated the local groundwater, then evaporated in the ground, causing harmful vapors to seep into basements, environmental officials said. Company efforts to contain the chemicals evidently failed, they said. The Missouri DNR and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will be conducting additional tests this month to see if other residences are affected. Seven homes and three apartments near the facility have been tested so far. Most residents of Elmwood Park, which is near Page Avenue and Dielman Road between Overland and Olivette, first heard of the issue this week, when they received fliers about the meeting. "I'm just concerned that we've had this type of contaminant in the ground since the '90s and no one brought it to the residents' attention," said Valerie West, who has lived in a home down the block from the contaminated area since 2000. West said she's worried the chemicals caused her 25-year-old's recent heart problems. "I wouldn't have purchased a home in this area if I would have known about the contamination," West said.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/metro/old-chemical-spill-worries-residents-in-elmwood-park/article_aa9379a3-fe7e-5447-a853-e8d6f5502e4e.html

USA, CA, UKIAH, AUGUST 10 2012. TANKER CRASH SPILLS 500 GALLONS OF DIESEL INTO CREEK

A hazmat team was still working Thursday to clean up a large diesel spill after a tanker truck overturned and hit a tree on Orr Springs Road just before noon Wednesday, according to the California Highway Patrol. The tanker crashed at 11:42 p.m. Aug. 8 and spilled 500 gallons of diesel into Ackerman Creek west of Montgomery Woods Wednesday, closing Orr Springs Road for three hours while authorities responded, according to CHP spokesman officer Steven Krul. Driver William Pipes, 68, of Redwood Valley, was hauling 1,800 gallons of diesel west on Orr Springs Road when, for reasons still under investigation, the truck ran off the south edge of the road, rolled and hit a tree, causing the fuel spill, according to CHP spokesman officer Steven Krul. CalFire extricated Pipes, who was flown to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital with moderate injuries. He was treated and released, Krul said Thursday morning. A hazmat team responded to clean up the diesel spill, and the cleanup effort was ongoing Thursday morning, according to Krul.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_21278987/tanker-crash-spills-500-gallons-diesel-into-creek

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, AUGUST 10 2012. RENA SALVORS RESUME CLEAN-UP AFTER STORMY SEAS



Hear:

- [Black Tide: The Story Behind the Rena](#)
- [Rena owners charged](#)
- [Politics with Barry Soper](#)



The wreck of the container ship Rena.

A window of calm after stormy weather at the wrecked ship Rena has allowed clean-up crews to resume work removing shipping containers from the seabed. Clean-up contractors Braemar Howells yesterday used a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) to carry out container preparation work on the seabed near Astrolabe Reef, off the coast of Tauranga, where the container ship ran aground last October. Braemar Howells operations manager Neil Lloyd said the ROV was able to pre-rig four containers, getting them ready to haul to the surface. "The better weather has also allowed us, under instruction from Rena's owners and insurers, to begin a visual look with the ROV at the seabed around the aft section of the wreck." Mr Lloyd said shoreline clean-up work was focussing on

plastic beads in particular. The beads had washed up on Waihi Beach, where 100 bags and flotsam had been recovered, and on 38 beaches along the Coromandel Peninsula. "The beads aren't clumped together in large masses, but they are spread over a very wide area." All the beaches required different recovery methods and the clean-up teams were coming up with innovative solutions, including a large vacuum system called a "billygoat". The billygoat was effectively a vacuum on wheels with brushes that could be driven along the high tide line, sucking beads into a collection bag at the back. Staff were also continuing to use smaller portable vacuum units that had drums attached to a 15m hose. "All this equipment has increased our bead recovery rate," Mr Lloyd said. The recent stormy weather had not stopped patrols of the wreck site, which have continued amid concerns about unauthorised vessels approaching the Rena. The Tauranga harbourmaster was continuing to



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deal with breaches of the two-nautical mile exclusion zone. The oil spill response has been scaled back from a national to regional level, with all queries now directed to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Related Links

- [Unauthorised vessels approaching Rena wreck](#)
- [Salvage work on Rena's bow to begin](#)
- [Waste from Rena to be turned into fuel](#)
- [Rena recovery equipment to be upgraded](#)
- www.maritimenz.govt.nz

0800 OIL SPILL (0800 645 774)

Report sightings of oil

0800 333 771

Report sightings of oiled wildlife

0800 333 771

Report sightings of containers or container debris

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10826076

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, KONJIC, AUGUST 10 2012. AS WILDFIRES THREATEN BOSNIAN AMMUNITION FACTORY, 1 SETS OFF EXPLOSIONS IN OLD MINEFIELD



A Bosnian man looks at the raging wildfires near the Bosnian town of Konjic, 40 kms south of Sarajevo, Bosnia on Thursday, Aug 9, 2012. As firefighters tried to contain two wildfires near an ammunition factory in southern Bosnia on Thursday, one of the blazes began setting off explosions in a minefield left over from the country's war in the 1990s, officials said.

As firefighters tried to contain two wildfires near an ammunition factory in southern Bosnia on Thursday, one of the blazes began setting off explosions in a minefield left over from the country's war in the 1990s, officials said. No one was injured, but the risks of entering the minefield and heavy winds were making it difficult for the firefighters and several military helicopters assisting them to battle the two blazes in the populated area. Both fires were threatening the Igman ammunition

factory on the outskirts of Konjic village from opposite sides, with one of them burning in the heavily mined forest. "We are doing our best but with the heat and the wind the fires are spreading fast and there is not much we can do about it. It's all in the minefields," said Fadil Tatar, commander of Konjic civil protection. Tatar, who is in charge of coordinating the rescue services and firefighters, said several explosions could be heard Thursday morning as the fire set off some of the mines. This summer has been one of the hottest on record in Bosnia, and it hasn't rained in the country for two months. The ammunition production at the factory is located in underground tunnels, which could decrease the danger that the fires were presenting, authorities said. They did not say how much ammunition was being stored there. One of the two fires was raging just 500 meters (yards) from people's houses. Further south, several villages were evacuated because of other fires that have been raging around the southern city of Mostar. In eastern Bosnia, near the town of Gorazde, another wildfire was burning in a minefield, but the blaze was not close to people's homes and didn't appear to be setting off explosions, officials said. Bosnia's 1992-1995 war turned it into one of the world's most mine-infested countries.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/wildfires-threatening-bosnian-ammunition-factory-firefighters-hampered-by-mines/2012/08/09/ce66c80a-e22d-11e1-89f7-76e23a982d06_story.html

USA, CA, RICHMOND, AUGUST 10 2012. REGULATORS DETECT POLLUTION FROM CA REFINERY FIRE

Air quality regulators say they were wrong about pollution caused by the Chevron refinery fire in Richmond. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District originally said that air samples taken during Monday's fire showed that toxic air contaminants were below levels considered safe by federal health officials. On Thursday the district said its "initial statement was incorrect." In one of eight samples taken throughout Richmond, levels of the toxic compound acrolein were above the federal standard. The air district also says the refinery fire generated smoke containing particulate matter that is the likely source of health complaints by Richmond residents. After the fire erupted and sent plumes of black smoke into the sky Monday night, hundreds of people showed up at local hospitals complaining of respiratory problems.

<http://www.mynews4.com/news/story/Regulators-detect-pollution-from-CA-refinery-fire/CK5wxOljEk6FFSBUQrDYfg.csp>



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USA, LA, BAYOU CORNE, AUGUST 11 2012. EXPLOSION MONITOR IN BAYOU CORNE SINKHOLE AREA 'GOES OFF'

deborah dupre



Bayou Corne and Grand Bayou waters percolating with chemicals as residents told

A community monitor went off in Assumption Parish's Bayou Corne sinkhole area, now the [size of a football field](#) Thursday, reaching an explosive limit of 25.2%, [reports](#) WAFB. After a community monitor went off on Thursday, detecting an explosive limit of 25.2%, authorities say they are "suspicious of the alarm and are investigating for criminal mischief." It was revealed Thursday that Department of Natural Resource and industry authorities have been [hiding documents and data](#) for over a year that shows Texas Brine's storage cavern near the sinkhole has had failure problems for a year and is storing radioactive materials. The breached cavern where the sinkhole is located is [1500 feet from a butane-filled cavern](#).

not to worry

Related Links

- [Bayou Corne sinkhole disaster](#)
- [Bayou Corne oil and gas disaster](#)
- [Government Cover Ups](#)

<http://www.examiner.com/article/explosion-monitor-bayou-corne-sinkhole-area-goes-off>

USA. FLA, ST. AUGUSTINE, AUGUST 12 2012. TRUCK DRIVER CHARGED IN ST. AUGUSTINE GAS STATION EXPLOSION >> BP WORKER FACES 1 COUNT OF MISDEMEANOR CULPABLE NEGLIGENCE

sheldon gardner

Watch the Videos

[St. Augustine Gas Station Explosion: Man Shoots Cell Phone Video](#)

[St. Augustine BP Gas Station Fire](#)

[Gas Station Explosion In St. Augustine, FL](#)

[Gas Tank Explodes Friday In St. Augustine](#)



The State Attorney's Office has charged David Cowles with culpable negligence in the State Road 16 BP gas station explosion on Aug. 19. Cowles was delivering thousands of gallons of fuel to the BP station for Florida Rock and Tank Lines when the explosion occurred. The explosion severely injured Cowles, destroyed businesses and dumped thousands of gallons of fuel in the nearby marsh. The negligence charge stems from a report by the State Fire Marshal's office that claims Cowles left a tanker unattended while it was off-loading fuel. The charge is a second-degree misdemeanor and is punishable by a maximum of six months of probation and carries a maximum of 60 days in the county jail, according to State Attorney's Office spokeswoman Klare Ly. Cowles, of Fort McCoy, was severely burned in the explosion at the 5th Wheel BP gas station on Masters Drive. The station is owned by Coomes Oil, a company owned by J.B. Coomes. The burns caused permanent damage to Cowles' hands and left arm, his attorney Stuart Ratzan said. Cowles is able to move now but can't work, and he is dealing with "a lot of post-traumatic stress," said Ratzan. In May, the State Fire Marshal's office finished its investigation into the explosion and subsequently filed a complaint

affidavit with the State Attorney's Office for culpable negligence against Cowles, said State Fire Marshal's Office spokeswoman Deborah Cox. The Fire Marshal's report came after the Occupational Safety and Health Administration cited Florida Rock and Tank Lines and Coomes Oil and Supply with failing to provide a way for delivery drivers to determine how much gas was in the above-ground tank at the gas station. Cowles has since sued Coomes Oil, and J.B. Coomes' and his attorney have appealed the citation and filed counter-claims. The State Attorney's Office formally charged Cowles with



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culpable negligence recently. He has pleaded not guilty, and is scheduled for a pretrial hearing on Sept. 4. Ratzan said that Cowles is not to blame for the accident, and that the Fire Marshal's report did not sufficiently investigate Coomes' accounting practices. "The charges stem from the Fire Marshal's report which is something that I think we're going to prove ... (was) insufficiently investigated and reached an irresponsible conclusion," Ratzan said on Friday. Ratzan also said Cowles was not 59 feet away from the truck when it was off-loading fuel, as the Fire Marshal's report alleged. He also said that Coomes failed to properly figure the amount of gasoline in the tank and ordered too much for that day. "Mr. Cowles is supposed to pump when the customer orders fuel," he said. "It's not David Cowles' job to manage the inventory." Coomes' Attorney Michael Stevens, said that the accident would not have happened if Cowles had not walked away. He also said that fuel gauges were on the tanks and that Coomes physically checked the levels on the gasoline tanks every week.

<http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2012-08-11/story/truck-driver-charged-st-augustine-gas-station-explosion>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, ROMA, AUGUST 12 2012. FUEL TANKER ROLLS IN ROMA

Firefighters are still on the scene of a petrol tanker rollover at a fuel depot in Roma. Authorities were called to the BP fuel depot on Raglan St at 8.38am today. The fuel has not caught alight but firefighters are working to remove all the flammable liquids from the rolled tanker as safely as possible.

<http://www.thechronicle.com.au/story/2012/08/11/fuel-tanker-rolls-roma/>

USA, CA, RICHMOND, AUGUST 12 2012. INVESTIGATOR: CHEVRON'S RICHMOND REFINERY FIRE 'NEAR DISASTER' FOR WORKERS; PIPE SAFETY IN QUESTION

matthias gafni & sean maher

 **Watch the Video**

- [Chevron Oil Refinery Fire, in Richmond, California](#)
- [Chevron Richmond CA Refinery Toxic Fire 08/06/2012](#)
- [Richmond Refinery Fire Video](#)
- [Chevron Oil Refinery Fire, Burning in Richmond, California](#)
- [Time-Lapse of Chevron Refinery Fire in Richmond](#)

 **Photo's [42] Fire blazes at Chevron refinery in Richmond**



Firefighting crews continue to pour water onto a unit after Monday's fire at the Chevron refinery on Tuesday, Aug. 7, 2012, in Richmond, Calif.

More than a dozen workers were nearly killed when the vapor cloud that sparked Monday's massive Chevron refinery fire engulfed them as they worked on a leaky, four-decades-old pipe that the oil giant had not replaced during a round of maintenance last year, federal investigators said Saturday. The team of U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigators painted a frightening picture of the seconds after the pipe released a 600-degree "gas-oil" liquid that created a highly flammable vapor cloud that quickly engulfed Chevron employees who were examining the pipe. In revealing these new details, they called it one of the worst refinery accidents in recent years and noted that it was rare for so many employees to be in harm's way. "These workers might have been killed or severely injured had they not escaped the cloud as the release rate escalated and the cloud

ignited, shortly thereafter," said team leader Dan Tillema. Five Chevron workers had minor injuries. "Monday's fire was a near-disaster for refinery personnel," said Dr. Rafael Moure-Eraso, the chemical board's chairperson. "The circumstances warrant a full and independent federal investigation to determine the root causes. Although fortunately no workers were killed, the overall impact of the incident ranks it as among the most serious U.S. refinery incidents in recent years." A 12-inch pipe adjacent to the leaky pipe, which dates to the 1970s and is original to the No. 4 crude processing unit, was reportedly replaced during maintenance last year after it was found to be corroded, but not the 8-inch one that failed just before the fire, said Dr. Daniel Horowitz, chemical board spokesman. Investigators have asked for that inspection report from last year. "One of the key issues for us will be to understand what condition the 8-inch pipe was in during the inspection," Horowitz said. To have left the pipe in place would mean Chevron employees believed it could last another five years before the next mandatory inspection,



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he said. On Monday, workers found the old pipe leaking at 20 drips a minute and took two hours before deciding to remove the pipe's fiberglass insulation while the unit was still processing crude, causing the leak to accelerate and quickly ignite. The large fire sent black smoke billowing across the East Bay, leading to more than 5,700 residents seeking medical treatment for symptoms ranging from anxiety to respiratory distress, according to the Contra Costa health department. Federal investigators plan to evaluate what procedures and industry practices exist when responding to a combustible material leak at a running unit. Critics have questioned why Chevron did not shut down the crude processing unit while investigating the leak. The oil company's officials have said shutting down the plant can cause other dangers and is not always the best course. "We agree that this is a serious incident that warrants thorough investigation," Chevron spokesman Justin Higgs wrote in an e-mail Saturday. "We are cooperating with all regulatory agencies and are committed to better understanding the root cause of this incident." Chevron employees are safe, Higgs wrote, "because of the professionalism of emergency responders and their strict adherence to emergency procedures in evacuating the area when it became clear that the situation was escalating." Asked how old the pipe in question was, why it hadn't been replaced and what standards the refinery uses for maintaining its pipes and infrastructure, Higgs said the company is not publicly disclosing that information and that investigators have yet to see the leaky pipe's testing records. Given its age and the condition of the pipes around it, corrosion remained a possible cause for its failure, he said. "As soon as the investigation concludes, we fully intend to make that information public," Higgs said. The Chemical Safety Board investigators have already conducted witness interviews and reviewed documents, and plan to let their structural and industrial safety experts visit the fire site Monday once the area has been deemed safe. They will do independent testing of the leaking section of the pipe to determine how it failed, as well as review the county's emergency notification system, which has been criticized for spotty siren sounding and tardy phone notifications. Pipes from the 1970s and earlier remain throughout the No. 4 crude unit and the rest of the 110-year-old facility, the oldest refinery on the West Coast which began processing crude oil before Richmond became a city, said Randy Sawyer, Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Program director. "If there was no source of corrosion, they could be there for a very long time," he said of the network of pipes. Even if the refinery had followed a strict inspection plan in search of corrosion, pipes could still fail, said Richard Kuprewicz, a pipeline safety consultant. "Just because a pipe is old doesn't mean you have to replace it," he said, adding that technology and equipment on units that process crude oil have not changed much since the 1970s. Most refineries pipes are made of carbon steel, wrapped in fiberglass insulation and an aluminum shield and are inspected for thinning or fatigue through human inspection, ultrasounds, X-rays and dye testing. Performing maintenance on a running unit is dangerous, as evidenced by the 1999 Tosco refinery accident in Avon, north of Concord. Workers attempted a risky operation to replace a leaky pipe around a crude-processing unit while it was still operating. Employees cut out part of the pipe, and hot petroleum spewed out and ignited, killing four workers and severely burning a fifth. Two company mergers later, Tesoro now operates the Avon refinery. "When do you make the decision to shut down and go in when the unit is cold and you've removed the hazardous materials?" Horowitz asked rhetorically. "Or when is it OK to go into it with a running unit?" Industry experts say leaks are common at refineries, but national regulators warn of the inherent risks. "That's not an acceptable posture saying there will be leaks at refineries," Horowitz said. "That wouldn't be tolerated at a nuclear plant." And local leaders are concerned as well. Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia, of Richmond, wants to know why Chevron did not replace the pipe in November when the unit was shut down and every pipe inspected. "In order to prevent these type of accidents in the future we need to know why that pipe was not replaced at the last turnaround," he said. "This is what you classify as a near miss."

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USA, N.J. READINGTON, AUGUST 12 2012. MINOR FUEL SPILL REPORTED AT READINGTON EXXON STATION WHERE STORAGE TANKS ARE BEING REPLACED

frank mustac

A few gallons of fuel was spilled on Aug. 7 at the Exxon gas station at 414 Route 22 west, near the Kings supermarket. No Hazmat team was called because of the minor nature of the incident, and crews already at the gas station working on replacing underground storage tanks there performed the cleanup, said Peter Enea of the county Health Division. The health division responded to the incident after a call was initially placed with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The station recently went through a change of ownership, and as part of the sales agreement, the new owner is replacing four single-wall underground storage tanks with four double-wall storage tanks, said DEP spokesman Bob Considine. Being removed from the site are two 10,000-gallon unleaded gasoline underground storage tanks, one 8,000-gallon gasoline tank and one 6,000-gallon light diesel tank, which are all registered with the DEP, Considine said. On-site supervision of the tank replacement is being done by a licensed site remediation professional, he said.

http://www.nj.com/hunterdon-county-democrat/index.ssf/2012/08/new_owners_of_exxon_gas_station.html

USA, OK, ELK CITY, AUGUST 12 2012. EVACUATIONS ARE ORDERED AFTER ELK CITY EXPLOSION >> 2 INJURED

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Flames and heavy, black smoke shoot from a fire at a trucking company in Elk City, Oklahoma

Two people were injured and about 100 people were evacuated after an explosion and fire Saturday at Hodges Trucking in Elk City, in western Oklahoma. About a hundred people were evacuated from their homes after an explosion Saturday at a commercial oil-field building in Elk City. Two people were injured during the blast at Hodges Trucking, 2491 S Merritt, according to Elk City Emergency Management. Area firefighters spent several hours fighting a massive blaze at the business, which is located in a rural area about 3 1/2 miles south of Interstate 40. The cause of the explosion is being investigated, Elk City

Emergency Management Capt. Roger Poole said. Poole said two men were either loading or off-loading fluid onto a truck when the fluid ignited, but investigators did not know what caused the ignition Saturday evening. "It is more of an oil-field or an industrial site over there. Everything north of the (explosion), we evacuated mainly due to the smoke because we weren't sure what was in the smoke and what it was burning," he said. Hodges Trucking is an affiliate of Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake Energy. Its website says it provides trucking services for the oil-field industry. A Chesapeake spokesman told The Associated Press the company is investigating the blast. Witnesses reported feeling the explosion up to three miles away.

<http://newsok.com/two-injured-scores-evacuated-after-elk-city-building-blast/article/3700274>

BULGARIA, PETRICH, AUGUST 12 2012. 5 TONNES OF NITRIC ACID LEAK IN SW BULGARIA

An incident has caused 5 tonnes of corrosive nitric acid to leak nearby southwestern Bulgarian town of Petrich Saturday. A 5-tonne stationary container burst, causing almost the entire content to leak out. Local residents saw flames and fumes rising, which nevertheless quickly subsided. The cystem is located just next to Petrich's greenhouses, but its elevation is lower than that of the agricultural facilities, decreasing hazards of poisoning the soil. According to reports, a Firefighter has slightly suffered from inhaling gases during the managing of the incident. Presently there are no hazards for the health of the local population and the quality of vegetables grown in the greenhouses, stated a local police spokesperson.

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=142224



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