



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 874 Newsy Stuff

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August 29 2012



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USA, WA, BELLINGHAM, AUGUST 17 2012. SPILLS PLAGUE OIL CONTAINMENT BARGE WORK NEAR BELLINGHAM



The Arctic Challenger is a containment barge designed to capture oil spilled during drilling.

Minor oil spills have plagued construction of an oil spill containment barge Shell Oil will use to drill exploratory wells in the Arctic Ocean off Alaska. Hydraulic systems leaked on July 24, Aug. 4 and Aug. 6, each releasing about a quart of oil into Whatcom Waterway, the Washington state Ecology Department said. The department sent a notice of violation to Superior Energy Services, which is building the Arctic Challenger, The Bellingham Herald reported Thursday. "They're a quart at a time, but every time there's a spill, there's more environmental damage," Ecology Department spokeswoman Katie Skipper said. The department also is investigating a spill of less than 20 gallons of diesel fuel

from a small work boat into the waterway. All of the spills were held within a containment boom. Crews may be working in haste to finish the barge so Shell can start drilling, the spokeswoman said. "We know they're going fast, but they have to be responsible for protecting the water and following our laws," Skipper said. The department is requiring Superior to plug deck drains, set up barriers to catch spray from hydraulics, and lock equipment so it is only running when supervised. Superior is following the steps. "Superior takes spills seriously, and it's a corporate priority to ensure that we complete the project safely, efficiently and without harm to the environment," said spokesman Greg Rosenstein. The delay with the barge has set back Shell Oil's plan to drill in the short season when Arctic water is ice-free. Drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas will depend on obtaining Coast Guard certification for the spill response vessel in the next 10 to 20 days, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Tuesday during a stop in Anchorage. The Arctic Challenger will be the fourth-line of defense against a spill, along with blowout preventers, shear rams and a capping stack, said Shell Alaska spokesman Curtis Smith. The barge will carry a dome-shaped containment system that could be lowered onto a leaking well to funnel oil and gas to a barge. Shell's goal remains to complete as many wells as possible this year, Smith said.

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2012/aug/16/spills-plague-oil-containment-barge-work/>

USA, MO, ST LOUIS, VENICE, AUGUST 17 2012. OVERTURNED TANKER TRUCK IN ILLINOIS SHUTS DOWN MCKINLEY BRIDGE

joel currier

[Photo's \[5\] Overturned Tanker](#)

[Watch the Video Firefighters Douse Overturned Tanker in Venice with Foam](#)



Firefighters inspect an overturned gasoline tanker truck as others spray foam on the leaking truck on Thursday Aug. 16, 2012. The truck overturned near the entrance to the McKinley Bridge in Venice. A Venice police officer said this is the second overturned truck in the past few months at this location. He said that trucks take the turn too fast and the load shifts. The driver was treated for a head injury at the scene. The bridge was closed for hours during the cleanup.

Updated at 6:39 p.m. with bridge opening.

- The McKinley Bridge was closed to traffic in both directions for much of Thursday after a tanker truck toppled near the Illinois entrance to the bridge. The bridge reopened shortly after 4 p.m. to allow workers to drain gasoline from the truck before turning it upright. After the crash Thursday morning, Venice Asst. Fire

Chief Fred Miller said the truck's driver appeared to be uninjured, but he was being evaluated by paramedics at the scene. The



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driver had a bandage on his head. He told a reporter that the tanker suddenly flipped on its side but he didn't know why. The crash happened at about 9 a.m., and the Piasa Motor Fuels LLC truck was still leaking gasoline from two punctured tanks about an hour later. Dave Klee, assistant chief with the Madison Fire Department, said the bridge could be closed for hours. A truck used to spray a special fire-retardant foam on the leaked gasoline arrived about 11 a.m. The bridge carries traffic from north St. Louis into Venice.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/overtaken-truck-shuts-down-mckinley-bridge/article_bd12c146-e7b2-11e1-b619-0019bb30f31a.html

PERU, SANTA ROSA DE CAJACAY, AUGUST 17 2012. ANTAMINA: TOWNSFOLKS SICKENED AFTER PERU TOXIC SPILL



Cajacay, spreading toxic dust that left 42 people hospitalized for up to 11 days, the copper mine's owner, Antamina, has said little about the accident, and been silent about the slurry's chemistry.

It began with a loud pop like a tire bursting. A toxic cocktail of copper concentrate laced with a periodic-table's mix of volatile compounds then shot skyward. The pipeline that carries slurry at high pressure from Peru's most productive mine 188 miles (302 kilometers) to its desert coast had sprung a leak at a pumping station in this village of poor farmers. It was 9:15 a.m. Abraham Balabarca, who was building a house nearby, ran to the station with others to try and halt the flow. But the door was chained and bolted. The security guard had no key. By the time someone pried open the lock with a crowbar, the town was shrouded in a toxic cloud. In the next days, about 350 villagers would be treated for headaches, respiratory tract bleeding, nausea and vomiting, according to the mayor's office. At least 69 were

children. Three weeks after the leak spilled 45 tons of slurry into the town of Cajacay, spreading toxic dust that left 42 people hospitalized for up to 11 days, the copper mine's owner, Antamina, has said little about the accident, and been silent about the slurry's chemistry. Environmental protection has traditionally been lax in Peru, where mining has been the engine of a decade of average 7 percent annual growth that has made the Andean nation a darling of investors. But an anti-mining backlash has been growing in the country. In the past three months, eight Peruvian civilians have been killed in anti-mining protests that have dominated the country's political agenda, prompting the resignation of two prime ministers. Immediately after the July 25 spill, many in this community of 410 pitched in at the request of Antamina's director of community relations to help stop the slurry from reaching a nearby river. They isolated the mucky mixture using absorbent cloth provided by Antamina, using no protective gear, or masks or gloves. Balabarca said it stank like a common insecticide. "Everyone helped and got their hands dirty," said community president Hilario Moran, "without knowing the concentrate was contaminated." Nancy Damian, who is seven months pregnant, sat on the stoop of her adobe home overlooking the pumping station more than a week after the spill. She said she had spent four days in the hospital, fainting and vomiting constantly. "My head still hurts and at night my stomach tightens and it feels like the baby is going to come," she said. Her twin 7-month-old nephews and 17-month-old son, Tony, were also still sick to their stomachs. Tony, she said, has lost 3 pounds (1.4 kilograms) since the spill and now weighs 25 1/2 pounds (11.5 kilograms). "He's sleeping all the time and when he wakes up he starts acting up, biting like a dog," said Damian. The family's dog, Chocolate, was found dead on August 5 a few yards (meters) from the pipeline, beneath a stand of eucalyptus trees. A neighbor, 9-year-old Yasira Sotelo, was among those hospitalized at the private San Pablo hospital in the regional capital of Huaraz. She described splitting headaches and a nose bleed that wouldn't stop. "The nurses pressed cloth into my nostrils and asked me, 'Is blood going into your throat?' I said, 'Yes,' and they applied more and more cloth." U.S. environmental toxicologist Greg Moller of the University of Idaho said the children likely suffered chemical burns in their lungs as sulfides in the inhaled mineral dust reacted with mucous membranes to produce sulfuric acid. He said respiratory tract trauma was worse for children because they take two to three breaths for every adult breath. Dr. Juan Villena, dean of Peru's College of Physicians, visited the scene and told RPP radio that scores of children in the town had been treated, some with "serious muscular and respiratory problems, bleeding from the nose." But Health Minister Midori de Habich said Saturday in a radio interview that no one had been badly sickened at Cajacay. "There have been no serious cases," she said. "We are looking at the community to see if there's any matter for concern but happily there have been no regrettable cases." Habich also said the Fortaleza river that Cajacay's residents depend on was not contaminated. Most villagers are subsistence farmers



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who grow lima beans and raise sheep. About two in five children in the highlands region suffer from malnutrition and anemia. The town has no running water or sewage system. People treated at the San Pablo hospital said they requested but were denied results of their blood tests or any other documentation that would attest to their hospitalization, which Antamina paid. Hospital director Raul Guisse refused to discuss the cases with The Associated Press. Last week, nearly the entire village packed into a green cement building on Cajacay's main square for a nearly four-hour meeting with five Antamina executives, who arrived in late-model SUVs along with their bodyguards. The company's executive president, Abraham Chahuan, sitting on a white plastic chair in jeans and purple sweater, spoke little as the villagers unleashed a barrage of questions. He and Ricardo Morel, a vice president, referred to the spill as "the incident." Morel took constant notes. They said they were open to compensating people with health damages but that would depend on "technical and medical reports" that Morel said would be complete by Sept. 22. He did not say who was doing the studies. "In the name of the company I want to thank you for the community's active assistance during the events of last week," Chahuan said. "I only want to say that accidents occur everywhere in our daily life." Villagers also demanded an explanation for why they have not seen the promised \$10 million reservoir to provide the town with water that the company promised in 2000 as a condition of laying the pipeline. Morel said Antamina would consult with national and regional officials. Antamina is the world's third-largest zinc and eighth-largest copper mine, according to Xstrata, which along with BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining company, holds a 33.75 percent stake. It produced 334,000 tons of copper last year and 235,000 tons of zinc. Independent economist Epifanio Baca of the DESCO think tank said it earned more than \$1.5 billion. Consortium partners BHP Billiton Ltd. is based in Australia, Xstrata in Switzerland, Teck-Cominco Ltd. in Canada and Mitsubishi Corp. in Japan. Environment Minister Manuel Pulgar had demanded the company be made to pay the maximum fine permitted under law, or \$13.7 million, for negligence. His deputy, Mariano Castro, told The Associated Press his agency's investigation is not over. He declined to say whether more serious sanctions could be ordered. A 2009 law permits egregious violators to be suspended or even shut down. Antamina has not yet explained what caused the leak or why it took two hours to halt the slurry flow. Company officials did not respond to repeated telephone and emailed requests for comment, and refused to talk to reporters at the town meeting. An Antamina document obtained by the La Republica newspaper describes some of slurry's ingredients as "highly toxic" and says they include lead and arsenic, which are poisons. Castro said a government analysis of the slurry could be ready as early as next week. The government occupational health agency, CENSOPAS, took blood and urine samples from 52 villagers a week after the spill and six of the 18 children tested had unacceptably high levels of copper while one had dangerously high levels of lead. The U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry says children are especially susceptible to damage from high levels of copper, which can cause liver damage but has not been shown to be carcinogenic. CENSOPAS only tested for copper, lead and arsenic. And it did not name the villagers tested. Mayor Felipe Lazaro, who provided the AP with the report, said he asked CENSOPAS for their identities but the agency refused. Anti-mining activists say such behavior is typical. "Many times what we've seen in the past, unfortunately, is the results of this kind of investigation get lost," said Reinhard Seifert, a longtime opponent of the Yanacocha gold-mining consortium in neighboring Cajamarca state. Peru's government recently recorded 169 active social conflicts, most of them mining-related. Protests against Yanacocha's \$5 billion Conga project in Cajamarca state have twice led national authorities to impose states of emergency that suspended civil liberties. In the highlands town of Espinar, farmers have mounted protests saying contaminated runoff from a copper mine owned by Xstrata is killing their llamas, sheep and vicunas — an allegation the company denies. Espinar Mayor Oscar Mollohuanca was jailed for 15 days after a protest in which police fired on demonstrators and at least two people died. "In this country it's the mining companies who govern," he said. "At their service they have the president, the police and the bullets."

Related Links

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<http://www.voxxi.com/antamina-townsfolks-sickened-after-peru-toxic-spill/>



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MALAYSIA, LABUAN, PULAU ENOE, AUGUST 18 2012. FATAL ACCIDENT ON MT BUNGA ALPINIA YET ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT



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

The Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM) said Friday that the fire which broke out on board the Malaysian International Shipping Corporation (MISC) tanker, MT Bunga Alpinia, in Labuan, is "yet another unfortunate incident that has not only resulted in the loss of lives and damage to properties but also indirect economic losses due to disruption at the Patau-Patau Power Station." The incident involving the MT Bunga Alpinia is the [most recent Petronas-related accident](#). The oil tanker had caught fire and exploded at the jetty of Petronas Chemicals Methanol Sdn Bhd on July 26, 2012. The facility is part of the Ranche-Ranche industrial zone,

which is located on the island of Pulau Enoe, near Labuan. The 38,000 deadweight-tonne MISC tanker was loading six tonnes of methanol when a small fire broke out during a thunderstorm, The Star Online reported July 29, 2012. The fire quickly turned into a raging inferno sparking off at least three major explosions that could be felt throughout the island, the daily added. Following the incident, operations at the Patau-Patau Power Station – the only power station in Labuan – was halted for safety reasons. The power station is sited next to the terminal. MISC, a subsidiary of Petronas, confirmed July 30, 2012, through a published statement on its website, that the accident had claimed five lives, with the body of its fifth and last victim found in a holding tank of the scorched ship. "Whatever the reasons for the incident, the cause of the fire will fall into one of three possibilities: human error, faulty safety systems or a combination of both," the IEM said. The IEM also responded to local media reports about the possibility of a lightning bolt hitting the tanker and sparking off the fire, since the MT Bunga Alpinia was understood to have been caught in a storm during the time of the accident. "To solely identify lightning as the cause and at the same time label it as too challenging to manage is technically unjustifiable," the IEM said. "If freak lightning is the cause of the incident as reported, then the question that will arise is whether sufficient mitigating measures have been taken, as there are available technologies to contain the effects and dangers of lightning," the IEM added. Petronas told Rigzone Monday that "investigations are still underway." The IEM confirmed on Monday that while it is keen to be a part of the investigations relating to the MT Bunga Alpinia incident, the Malaysian government has not yet approached it for assistance. "The IEM would be keen to engage with the relevant authorities on safety issues such as this as our members and the engineering fraternity in general will learn from such incidences that will go a long way on helping build a safer Malaysia," the IEM said. The MT Bunga Alpinia incident follows closely from [another fire which blazed June 11 at the Petronas Carigali's Tukau B Platform](#) offshore Miri. In an earlier statement, Petronas said it was forced to stop production at the platform and five out of 16 persons on board were injured. Out of the five victims, the most severely affected was a technician who was reported to have suffered second-degree burns. Earlier this year, a Petronas gas process plant in the GPP Complex A in Kerteh was rocked by two explosions. A worker died on the spot, while 23 others were injured. Some 2,000 workers were at the site when the explosions occurred.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=119952

NEW ZEALAND, TAUPO, AUGUST 18 2012. WOMAN STRUCK IN HEAD BY TRUCK AT SERVICE STATION



The Mobil service station on Tongariro St where the incident happened.

A woman was seriously hurt when she was struck by a truck and trailer at a service station in Taupo early today. The truck had just finished refuelling and was exiting the service station when the 26-year-old female was struck at about 3.30am. She was transported to Waikato Hospital with head injuries and is in a serious condition. It is believed that the female pedestrian was under the influence of alcohol at the time, police said in a statement. "This is an unfortunate incident where an intoxicated person has made a poor choice resulting in them being severely injured," said Senior Sergeant Fane Troy. "People need to remember that alcohol impairs your judgement, even as a pedestrian you need to be aware of your actions and the potential risks." Taupo Police Serious Crash Unit are investigating the matter.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10827711



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USA, W.VA, HARRISON CO, AUGUST 18 2012. THREE HURT IN GAS WELL FIRE

 [Watch the Video Three Recovering After Gas Well Fire in Harrison County](#)

 [Hear Three Injured in Gas Well Fire, Explosion](#)

A spark from a natural gas drilling operation in north-central West Virginia ignited methane gas several hundred feet underground early Friday, sending up a fireball and triggering a blaze that officials said burned for about an hour on the floor of the rig. Three workers were injured, two seriously enough to be airlifted to a hospital after the fire at the Antero Resources site near Sycamore in Harrison County. The fire was quickly extinguished and the well pad was in a rural area, so it posed no danger to the public. Al Schopp, a vice president at Colorado-based Antero, said two men were flown to a burn unit in Pittsburgh, but he did not have immediate word on their conditions. The third victim was treated at a Clarksburg hospital and released. All worked for Antero's drilling contractor, Hall Drilling of Ellenboro. Officials with Hall didn't immediately return a telephone call. State Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Tom Aluisse said the crew was in the early stages of drilling a Marcellus shale gas well. The drill was about 400 feet deep when they began to withdraw it, creating a spark that ignited the methane. That created more of a fireball than an explosion at the Cottrill No. 3 well on Antero's Southern pad, he said. Aluisse said Antero voluntarily shut down the operation, and a DEP investigation is under way. Schopp said the company is also investigating, but he had no further details. The rig was damaged badly enough that a new one may need to be brought in, Aluisse said, "if and when they resume drilling." In June, another Antero drilling operation triggered several backyard geysers when workers struck an aquifer in the Sardis area and inadvertently re-pressurized a handful of old water wells. Emergency management officials and residents said some were 10- to 12-feet high. There was no interior damage in the affected homes. The residents' wells had long been disconnected from indoor plumbing because their homes are all on a public water supply. On July 31, the DEP ordered Antero to provide a detailed incident report, including a chart outlining the pressures involved, a list of the water wells that were affected and the current status of those wells. The DEP also wants pre- and post-water analyses for each of those wells, along with a map showing their locations in relation to the well pad. The letter from Office of Oil and Gas Director James Martin also demands information about any water wells that Antero drilled and a report that cites "any direct or indirect cause" and lays out what Antero will do in the future to minimize the likelihood of another incident. Schopp said at the time that workers were drilling an initial hole with just fresh water and air when the bit became stuck. Rather than turn the air flow off, the crew left it on as they tried to withdraw the drill. That recharged the aquifer and trapped the air, which then sought a place to escape. That accident happened thousands of feet above the targeted oil and gas deposits.

<http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/573120/Three-Hurt-In-Gas-Well-Fire.html?nav=515>

CANADA, SK, REGINA, AUGUST 18 2012. CO-OP'S CEO APOLOGIZES TO REGINA WORKERS INJURED IN REFINERY EXPLOSION

barb pacholik



During a press conference on Aug. 17, Steve Banda, CEO of Federated Co-operatives Ltd., apologized to those injured in an explosion at the Consumers' Co-operative Refinery in Regina on Oct. 6, 2011.

Following the release of an investigation report that showed even more workers were injured in an explosion at the Co-op Refinery Complex than previously thought, the head of the company extended an apology to them and all Regina residents. "I'm terribly sorry for what happened. If we could change the events of that day we would," Scott Banda, CEO of Federated Co-operatives Ltd., which owns the refinery, told a news conference Thursday. "Anytime there's injuries, it's a terrible outcome. And I'm sorry for that," he added. According to the Regina fire department, the series of four explosions - caused by a "catastrophic failure" of a pipe thinned by corrosion - that rocked the refinery on Oct. 6 and resulted in a

massive fireball and plumes of black smoke left 52 people injured, with 13 requiring immediate medical attention in hospital. That's higher than the 36 reported injured several days after the fire. Gerard Kay, deputy fire chief of public safety, planning and prevention, said the number climbed simply as more information became available during the investigation. "We collect the injury reports ... so there can be stuff that happens post-incident but I can't speak to specifics," said Kay. Earlier reports



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indicated that among the 13 workers requiring hospital treatment, the most serious was critically injured and required intensive care. Banda said those suffering injuries were contract workers, not Co-op employees, so he had no information on their current condition or job status. Some of those suffering more serious injuries remain off the job. Banda said the Co-op has not offered compensation since the contractors would be covered through Workers' Compensation "and that process is playing itself out." Beyond those suffering physical injury, many others also grappled with the emotional and mental stress related to the traumatic incident. The explosion and fire forced the evacuation of some 450 refinery employees and nearly 1,000 contractors. The contracted workers had been hired for a \$1.9-billion renovation and expansion to significantly up production capacity at the refinery. Banda said assistance was made available. "I can't understand - I wasn't there - what it's really like to be involved in that kind of an incident in a complex of this size and what's going on with people," he said. "There's the physical injuries and then there's also those that were there, what that meant for them and their workplace. We went through a whole lot of counselling sessions, making resources available for people to be reassured that it was safe to work," added Banda. Kay said the fire department's 10-month-long investigation found no issues or impediments with alerting workers to the fire or in how the evacuation occurred. Vic Huard, the Co-op's vice-president of corporate affairs, said alarms quickly alerted workers to the problem. "Our alarm system worked exactly as designed. There was two seconds between rupture (of the line that caused the explosion) and ignition," he said. A government spokesperson for Occupational Health and Safety said Thursday its investigation into the explosion is still ongoing and there's no timeline on when that might be completed. However, she said that while the findings of an OHS investigation may be shared with the employer, they are not released publicly.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/energy-resources/apologizes+workers+injured+refinery+explosion/7105535/story.html>

USA, MA, WAREHAM, AUGUST 18 2012. WAREHAM TRUCK EXPLOSION AND FIRE INJURES 2 WORKERS AT CAPE COD EXPRESS

caitlin russell & frank mulligan



The fire started with an explosion, firefighters said.

A truck explosion injured two workers at a Cape Cod Express warehouse at 1 Express Drive early Friday morning, and a subsequent fire heavily damaged the truck and caused minor damage to the warehouse when it set off the sprinklers. Capt. Paul Reidy said warehouse workers noticed smoke coming from the truck before the explosion, the cause of which is still under investigation. The force blew one worker back about eight feet, he said. One man suffered facial burns and another suffered neck and back pain and they were taken to Tobey Hospital. Neither man's injuries appeared to be life threatening, he said. According to Chief Robert McDuffy, one of the men has been transferred to Massachusetts General Hospital. McDuffy said, "While they were suppressing the fire we learned that there were two employees here who were injured as a result of the fire. As they explained to us, they had smoke in the back of the truck, and immediately they heard some form of explosion." The truck had been pulled up to the loading dock. The driver pulled it away from the warehouse after the explosion, Reidy said. Fire officials initially thought the truck was a total loss, but company officials said it's new and can be repaired. The damages were estimated at \$100,000 for the truck and \$5,000 for the warehouse. There were 20 people working at the warehouse when

the fire was called in at 2:24 a.m. "We experienced a mid-sized box truck about three-quarters engulfed in flames" upon arrival, McDuffy said. "Since then ... I ordered a tier one assignment from the hazmat team. The state fire marshal's office, also, the DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) is here on scene," he said. Firefighters were recalled at 8 a.m. The hazmat team was called to the site to oversee cleanup later Friday morning. Mutual aid was provided by the Onset and Carver fire departments and Wareham EMS. In all, there were 18 firefighters on the scene, and four engines, one ladder truck, and two other fire department vehicles. The fire is being investigated by the Wareham Fire Dept. Cape Cod Express is a trucking firm that ships freight throughout the area. According to its website, it handles more than 800 shipments per day for more than 3,000 customers.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/wareham/news/x1260724052/Wareham-truck-explosion-and-fire-injures-2-workers-at-Cape-Cod-Express#axzz23vDT4pOX>



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ENGLAND, LONDON, AUGUST 18 2012. EU FORCES MARINE FUEL DILEMMA FOR SHIPS, REFINERS

julia payne & claire milhench

A European crackdown on pollution from ships will require billions of dollars worth of investment by shipping firms on filter technology and by refineries on upgrades to produce cleaner fuels - burdens they can ill afford. The shipping industry is already struggling due to poor global demand and overcapacity, which have pushed freight rates to unprofitable levels for many operators. European refineries are under pressure from high crude [costs](#), cheap refined product imports and weak demand.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-08-17/business/sns-rt-us-marine-fuel-regulationbre87q0jg-20120817_1_fuel-oil-ships-low-sulphur

MALAYSIA, KUCHING, AUGUST 18 2012. POLICE SEIZE FIREWORKS WORTH AROUND RM250,000 IN RAID



Huge Bust: SAC Law looking at some of the fireworks seized by the police at the Police Field Force Headquarters in Batu Kawa.

Police seized 513 boxes of fireworks worth around RM250,000 from a house near Jalan Datuk Stephen Yong here on Thursday. The boxes were placed in a huge container and during the raid at 5.35pm, a local and five foreigners were taken by surprise. Some were lifting the boxes from the container into the house at the time. The local was a 39-year-old man and the foreigners were aged between 20 and 32. The former is being detained and investigated under Section 8 of the Explosive Act 1957 while the latter, under Section 6(1)(c) of the Immigration Act 1959/63 after they failed to produce working permits. State deputy police commissioner SAC Datuk Law Hong Soon said the house was used as a warehouse. He urged the public not to play with fireworks as they were dangerous and illegal. If convicted, the local man is facing a maximum imprisonment of seven years or a fine of RM10,000 or both. Prior to the ambush, police also seized 20 boxes of fireworks worth RM2,000 on Wednesday at 5.40pm in a market at Mile 7, Jalan Penrissen. A suspect managed to escape after noticing the police presence. At a market in Gita, police also seized five boxes of fireworks worth RM1,000 at 5.50pm, also on Wednesday.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/8/18/sarawak/11879736&sec=sarawak>

USA, CA, TREASURE ISLAND, AUGUST 18 2012. RADIATION HISTORY ON TREASURE ISLAND MORE WIDESPREAD THAN REPORTED >> CONTAMINATION FROM NUCLEAR TRAINING SHIP, GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BUTTONS FROM INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

matt smith



A fenced-off residential area on Treasure Island warns of possible radioactivity left behind by the U.S. Navy.

Radioactive contamination at the Treasure Island Naval Station, where San Francisco plans to build a high-rise community for 20,000 residents, [is more widespread than previously disclosed](#), according to a [new U.S. Navy report](#) and other documents obtained by The Bay Citizen. Although the Navy and one state agency say cleanup has been effective and remaining radiation levels are low, the state Department of Public Health expressed alarm as recently as May, saying earlier studies showing fewer radioactive sites led to a botched cleanup effort and the potential spread of contaminants both on and off the island. The findings appear likely to complicate the environmental cleanup and new construction on

Treasure Island after years of debate – much of it shielded from the public – over the island's radioactive hazards. Internal emails and documents obtained by The Bay Citizen leading up to the findings reveal [numerous new areas of concern](#) squarely in the path of the planned development. [The draft report, dated Aug. 6](#), marks the first time the Navy has fully acknowledged that the island, created from landfill in 1937, was used as a repair and salvage operation for a Pacific fleet exposed to atomic blasts during the Cold War. The report came in response to state regulators, who pressed for details after cleanup workers found radioactive waste in unexpected locations. Known potential sources of radiation on the island included a nuclear training



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ship intentionally doused in radiation and even glow-in-the-dark buttons handed out at the 1939-1940 Golden Gate International Exposition held on the island. Any radiation lingering from the discarded buttons was similar to that of a household smoke detector, the Navy told island residents in a 2007 newsletter. And the Navy in a previous 2006 report maintained that the two former locations of the dismantled training ship were free of radiation. Six years later, the draft report describes a more significant legacy. Treasure Island was a 1940s ground zero for repairing, scrapping, recycling and incinerating material from ships that might have absorbed radiation from atomic bomb tests in the Pacific. One ship repaired cannon sights containing radioactive glow-in-the-dark material. And, the Navy has acknowledged, the training ship sites might not be radiation-free after all. Since 1993, the Navy has been preparing the site for handoff to the city, which has agreed to pay \$105 million for it. To protect the city from future liability, the deal requires a signoff from state health officials. Those officials have raised questions about exposure for residents of the island. At an August 2011 meeting, a summary shows, the health department alleged that a Navy contractor might have inadvertently exposed children to radioactive dust at a Boys & Girls Club and a child development center on the island. The Navy and state Department of Toxic Substances Control, a separate agency also monitoring Navy cleanup activities, said the Boys & Girls Club and child center never were contaminated with radioactive dust. They also say that, in general, radiation levels found on the island are too low to endanger human health – only slightly higher than natural radiation found in ordinary backyards. However, in a Dec. 17, 2010 email, state public health official Peter Sapunor said Navy contractors had dug up and hauled off 16,000 cubic yards of contaminated dirt, some with radiation levels 400 times the Environmental Protection Agency's human exposure limits for topsoil. Sapunor said he believed extensive radioactive material remained in the soil surrounding those excavations. Emily Rapaport, president of Good Neighbors of Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island, a neighborhood association, has lived on the island for a decade – one of its 2,800 current residents. She's long adhered to unusual island requirements from the management company overseeing former Navy housing now rented out as apartments. Among them is growing plants in above-ground pots to avoid soil-borne chemicals, she said. But Treasure Island's complete radioactive history, Rapaport said, is something about which neighbors previously only speculated. "They should have been more open and upfront, because there would have been people who would have chosen not to live here," said Rapaport, who learned of the new Navy report from a Bay Citizen reporter.

Echoes of Hunters Point

The new report on Treasure Island mirrors complaints a decade ago at Hunters Point Naval Shipyard, where the military long had claimed it lacked information about the history of the site's Naval Radiological Defense Laboratory. A subsequent cleanup at that site contributed to the delay of a 10,000-unit housing development by a consortium led by Lennar Corp., now scheduled for groundbreaking later this year. Mayor Ed Lee is aware of the Treasure Island radiation issue, according to the deputy overseeing the development project, by another Lennar consortium. Michael Tymoff said San Francisco has urged the Navy to respond to California health officials' demands for a thorough radioactive cleanup. But he added that his office doesn't expect the latest disclosures to delay the summer 2013 groundbreaking for the \$1.5 billion housing project. In an interview, Navy environmental cleanup coordinator James Sullivan accused inexperienced state public health inspectors of making exaggerated allegations inconsistent with the Navy's ongoing commitment to safety on Treasure Island. The state's environmental management team has had a lot of turnover, Sullivan said, "and some of the history gets lost with personnel." The new historical report has a silver lining, Sullivan added: It more concretely identifies areas of the island not affected by radiation, allowing some parcels to be transferred to San Francisco more swiftly. State public health officials declined to comment on whether the Navy's new report allays their concerns, saying they would respond within 30 days through official comments on the current draft version. Officials with another state regulatory agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, said there is no health risk. "If it were a public health issue, the (toxics control department) would have been very aggressive in taking steps to address it," said Denise Tsuji, chief of the unit monitoring the Treasure Island cleanup. "The Navy is removing it, managing it and taking it to an appropriate disposal facility." State toxic substances cleanup specialist Ryan Miya said that every time the Navy has detected unexpected radiation, Navy cleanup contractors have reassessed the overall operation, in some cases halting work to test for radiation. "They've stopped work, and modifications to the work practices have been made at that time to help ensure public safety," Miya said.

Cleanup Based on Erroneous Report

Contractors hired by the Navy to rid the island of its toxic past relied on an inaccurate 2006 assessment, according to a series of memos, notices of violations and emails from the California Department of Public Health. The report stated that nuclear activity was limited mostly to 1940s-era instruction in radioactive warfare conducted in classroom facilities and on a mocked-up ship – the USS Pandemonium – where sailors also were trained in cleaning up radioactive contamination. The fake ship was



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doused with low-level radioactive material, which was washed off by sailors. Radiation in the stored wastewater dissipated within a few weeks, the Navy had reported. A classroom spill triggered a Navy cleanup in 1950, with sailors dumping 200 barrels of contaminated material off the coast, the 2006 report said. The Navy gave a clean bill of health to the sites of the ship, classroom and some other Treasure Island locations in the 2006 report, titled "Final Treasure Island Naval Station Historical Radiological Assessment." That year, the Navy said 170 acres of the island were suitable to transfer to San Francisco for development, pending state health officials' approval. But soon after, workers with private environmental contractors hired by the Navy repeatedly uncovered radioactivity in areas that were supposed to be clean. One civilian cleanup worker was ordered off the job with pay after being exposed to the maximum radiation dosage allowed under Nuclear Regulatory Commission guidelines, Sullivan, the Navy environmental cleanup coordinator, acknowledged. Then, in 2009, new radiation findings led the Navy to halt operations and reassess the contractor's work plan, according to minutes of a citizens advisory committee overseeing the cleanup. State health officials started to worry that the Navy had not gone far enough, recommending in strongly worded memos that it scrap the 2006 report and begin its radiological assessment anew. For one, the Navy had failed to fully detail what had happened to the remains of the USS Pandemonium, used to train sailors in "Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare," according to a July 2011 health department review. The Navy contractor recently dumped debris from the two training sites into an undisclosed landfill, the report alleged, then declared the training site clean without testing for radiation. "The Navy has not responded to requests for the location of the landfill," the review added. As the Navy attempted to turn over property for development, health officials applied the brakes. In October 2010, Larry Morgan, an environmental management specialist with the state Department of Public Health, told the Department of Toxic Substances Control that "the finding of relatively high level radioactive sources ... raise(s) additional unanswered questions" about assumptions related to various locations on the island. Morgan recommended a new "conceptual model" that assumed radioactive contamination could be more extensive than previously believed. Six months later, [an environmental cleanup manager for the public health department, Stephen Woods](#), wrote that "the large volume of radiological contaminated material, high number of radioactive commodities, (individual items or sources,) and high levels of radioactive contamination ... have raised concerns with CDPH regarding the nature and extent of the radiological contamination present at Treasure Island." The growing file of radiation discoveries, Woods said, undermined the Navy's continued use of the 2006 report as a basis for claims that some parcels were clear of radiation and ready for housing development. Retired San Francisco attorney Tony Gantner, an activist who opposes the planned Treasure Island development, wrote a letter to Mayor Lee last November citing the state's concerns. In it, Gantner called the 2006 report "a radiological lie."

Violation Notice Leads to New Report

Criticism from state public health officials took a legal turn in a June 2011 missive from the department's radiological health enforcement specialist, Kent Prendergast. He issued a [notice of violation](#) against the Navy's chief cleanup contractor, Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure Inc., for repeatedly digging, piling, spreading and transporting dirt from sites contaminated with toxic chemicals. Shaw had not tested that material for radioactivity, Prendergast wrote, potentially spreading radiation beyond its original location. The Navy responded with its own memo, saying: "The Navy does not concur that the entire base is radiologically impacted." Following the violation notice, Shaw obtained the proper licenses for handling radioactive material and continued with the cleanup, according to the Navy and the state Department of Toxic Substances Control. The Navy subsequently agreed to produce the new historical analysis, based on recent test results and deeper research, internal memos show. However, the Navy argued that the 2006 report remained a valid historical record. Using photographs and other archival material, civilian researchers under a Navy contract discovered that Treasure Island was a major Pacific center for ship repair and salvage during and after World War II. It included a repair shop for gun sights, which sometimes contained glowing markers made of radioactive elements. Researchers found indications that ships that berthed there could have been contaminated with radiation from Pacific nuclear bomb tests. Radiation exposure was once such a concern on Treasure Island, the researchers found, that the former Navy base had a radiological "counting room" where specialists tested Navy personnel and equipment for contamination. John Hill, a civilian in charge of the island's base closure for the Navy, said the new report will be used as a guide for further testing at some sites, such as where workers once cleaned, repaired and salvaged ships. Areas given a clean bill of health will be the first prepared for turnover to the city. However, Woods, the state Department of Public Health's environmental cleanup manager, in May accused the Navy of rushing its evaluation of Treasure Island's radioactive past and present. Even as it was producing the report dedicated to greater disclosure of the radioactive history of Treasure Island, the Navy was not being open with state regulators, Woods wrote in a memo to the Department of Toxic Substances Control. The Navy had delayed releasing sample data to state health inspectors and failed to test for



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radioactive soil at sites where it had found toxic chemical waste, Woods' memo said. As of May, contractors had transported 1,000 truckloads of radioactive waste off Treasure Island with more still in the ground, wrote Woods, adding that this volume defied assertions that Treasure Island had a negligible history of radioactive material. "That amount of radium found to date," he wrote, "cannot be explained by gauges, deck markers and decontamination activities."

<http://www.baycitizen.org/environment/story/radiation-history-treasure-island-more/>

CHINA, GUANGXI ZHUANG, BEIHAI, AUGUST 18 2012. TYPHOON KAK-TAK CAUSES OIL SPILL IN CHINA

Typhoon Kai-Tak has caused heavy damage in China's two provinces killing one person and causing economic loss running into \$315 million, besides triggering an oil spill. The typhoon, the 13th tropical storm to hit China this year, has left one person dead and two missing in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region so far and about 110,000 residents there remain threatened, state-run Xinhua news agency said. It also affected 1.74 million people in nearby Guangdong province before moving to Guangxi yesterday resulting in an economic loss of nearly 2 billion yuan (\$315 million). Also an oil ship anchored near Beihai, a coastal city in Guangxi, drifted and collided into the bank, spilling five tonnes of oil. The local government initiated an emergency response plan and sent a work team to clean up the spill and cordon off the contaminated area to prevent the pool from expanding. Clean up efforts have ended and marine authorities have taken samples of the sea water to test the pollution level around the location of the accident, the report said. No obvious effects of the spill could be seen on major sea surfaces and beaches around Beihai, as the spill occurred in a semi-enclosed small gulf, according to He Xiaolong, deputy secretary general of the Beihai government. More than 700 villagers in Qinzhou, another city in Guangxi, have been trapped in their homes by typhoon-triggered flooding, the local government said Saturday. Heavy rains have swept the city since Thursday, inundating three villages in Dazhi Township, Qinbei District.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/typhoon-kaktak-causes-oil-spill-in-china/283341-2.html>

USA, MD, PORT DEPOSIT, AUGUST 18 2012. INVESTIGATION CONTINUES IN PORT DEPOSIT TANKER CRASH

 **Watch the Video** [Port Deposit – Tanker Crash](#)

 **Photo's [16]** [Condo Damage](#)



One unit of the Tomes Landing Condominiums had a gaping hole in the garage and was supported in one corner by a temporary pole Thursday afternoon, one day after an overturned tanker truck was pulled from the building. The propane tanker crashed into the waterfront condominium on Rowland Lane in Port Deposit on Tuesday – leaving the driver trapped inside the cab of his overturned truck for two hours and forcing residents in that particular section to stay elsewhere overnight. An operation to transfer the 9,000 gallons of propane from the overturned tanker was set to begin Tuesday night, but an impending storm canceled those plans. The next morning, the entire town was evacuated as emergency services crews righted the tanker truck before transferring the propane. "Our subject matter experts on site said it was best ... more safe to remove it from the building first," Amy Crabil, deputy director of the Cecil County Department of Emergency Services, said Wednesday morning. A tow truck from

Collette's Service Center in Perryville pulled the tanker from underneath Building 500 in the complex. The transfer was safely completed afterward, and the tanker has been sent for inspection, according to Lt. Michael Holmes, spokesman for the Cecil County Sheriff's Office. County building inspectors have examined the building and posted notices that some segments of the building are "unsafe for human occupancy or use." It was unconfirmed Thursday evening whether or not any parts of the building were condemned. On Tuesday, emergency officials permitted residents of Building 500 inside their condos long enough to grab medications and overnight bags. Residents in other nearby buildings at Tomes Landing, which overlooks the Susquehanna River, were allowed to return to their condos early Tuesday night – albeit with their electricity cut off until the propane transfer operation was completed. Investigators identified the driver as Cowboy Dale Brown, a 56-year-old Maplewood, Ohio, resident who was hauling the propane for his employer, Farmers Propane, which is based in Medina, Ohio. Brown remained trapped inside his upside-down cab for two hours because, at first, emergency workers had to focus their attention on stopping or containing propane seepage from the tanker, according to Richard Brooks, director of the Cecil



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County Department of Emergency Services. Until they dealt with the slight leak, emergency workers were unable to use power tools designed to cut through metal, due to the hazard of sparks near propane, Brooks explained. It took three rotations of rescue technicians to extricate Brown because of their heavy clothing and equipment, including breathing apparatus, and the heat, Brooks reported. An ambulance took Brown to Christiana Hospital in Delaware, where he was treated for non-life-threatening injuries. The crash happened at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, after Brown missed his turn to get onto Interstate 95 while traveling on Jacob Tome Highway and instead wound up on Center Street – a steep section of road that leads into downtown Port Deposit, Holmes reported. “As he was going down the hill, he realized he lost his brakes,” Holmes said. “We know that because he was in radio contact with another driver in the company.” As the truck came into town, it rumbled across Main Street and a set of railroad tracks, police said. It overturned when Brown made a sharp right to avoid plunging into the Susquehanna River, police added. On Thursday evening, Holmes said the sheriff's office was still “actively investigating” the incident, though no citations had been issued against Brown yet. “We are absolutely still investigating this case,” he said. “We are awaiting an inspection by the Maryland State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. Upon completion of that inspection, we would make a determination of any citations or charges.” The crash forced emergency workers to shut down Main Street for more than three hours and close several nearby buildings, including the Port Deposit branch of the U.S. Post Office. Officials also suspended Norfolk Southern train service through town.

http://www.cecildaily.com/news/local_news/article_d87a1b86-e812-11e1-9546-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, N.Y, GANG MILLS, AUGUST 18 2012. TANKER LEAKS PROPANE IN GANG MILLS



Authorities respond Thursday morning to the railyard along U.S. Highway 15 in Gang Mills for a tanker car that was leaking liquified petroleum gas.

Authorities responded Thursday morning to the railyard along U.S. Highway 15 in Gang Mills for a tanker car that was leaking liquified petroleum gas. The leak was discovered around 9:15 a.m., and police and fire personnel monitored the situation until a Norfolk Southern environmental team arrived at the scene. State fire personnel and the railroad team fixed the leak around 2 p.m. The tanker was carrying 34,000 gallons of LPG. There were no evacuations because authorities determined the leak was not a threat to the public, fire officials at the scene said. Assisting at the scene were the Forest View-Gang Mills and Corning fire departments, New York State Police and the Steuben County Sheriff's Office.

<http://www.the-leader.com/news/x2038877691/Tanker-leaks-propane-in-Gang-Mills>

USA, GA, SAVANNAH, AUGUST 18 2012. DRIVER RESCUED AFTER TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS

Watch the Video's:

- [Accident at Interstate 516 And West Gwinnett Street](#)
- [Tanker Driver Injured in Rollover Crash](#)



Savannah Fire & Emergency Services firefighters had to dismantle the cab of an International tractor trailer truck Thursday morning to free the driver who was pinned during an accident. Firefighters were sent to West Gwinnet and I-516 at 9:35 a.m. when the tanker truck rolled onto its side after the driver failed to properly access the eastbound ramp to I-516 from W. Gwinnett Street. The 44-year-old driver was trapped in the cab and firefighters had to stabilize the vehicle before initiating extrication procedures. Once the truck was secure, firefighters removed the top of the truck cab to access the driver. It took firefighters about 20 minutes to free the driver, who was attended to on scene by emergency medical personnel and transported to Memorial Health University Medical Center for additional treatment. The extent of the driver's injuries is unknown at this time. At the time of the accident, the truck was traveling east on W. Gwinnett St. According



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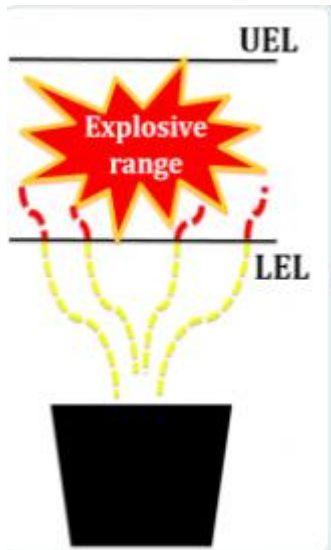
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to Nexeo Solutions representatives on scene, the driver was carrying a non-hazardous material utilized in the production of paper. The shipment was en route to a facility in Dublin, Georgia when the accident occurred. There was no discharge of the material from the 6,500 gallon tanker and no fuel spill from the truck. Company officials contacted a local environmental clean-up company to remove the fuel and tanker cargo from the truck before it was able to be righted and towed from the scene. SCMPD officers will keep the I-516 ramp closed until the scene is clear.

<http://www.thecoastalsource.com/news/local/story/Driver-rescued-after-tanker-truck-overturms/IEBKl3t-Y0ySLxRmEeiADQ.csp>

AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 18 2012. RE-USING DRUMS CAN COST YOU YOUR LIFE



Drums that have contained flammable liquids, such as fuels, solvents, paints etc, can ignite or explode when exposed to heat and/or sparks from angle grinders, plasma cutters, welding, oxyacetylene burners and electric metal cutting saws (or "hot works"). Drums may appear to be empty, however flammable vapour may still be inside the drum, even when the drum has been empty for a long period of time. Part of the reason why some fluids are designated as "flammable" is that they can easily give off vapour and it is this vapour that can ignite under certain conditions. Flammable vapour has an upper and lower explosive limit that works like a range. This means that vapour can ignite when it is below the upper explosive limit (UEL), but above the lower explosive limit (LEL). When vapour is exposed to heat (from direct or indirect flame), the vapours can reach into the range between the lower explosive limit and the upper explosive limit and subsequently ignite. This reaction can cause a fire or an explosion in the drum. This has resulted in serious, and often fatal injuries occurring from the impact of the explosion or severe burns from the resulting fire. Drums that contained toxic chemicals, such as pesticides, can also cause serious injury or even death. Incidents have occurred where workers have been overcome by toxic, or poisonous, fumes that were released when the drum was exposed to hot works. As recently as July 2012, a West Australian worker was killed when a drum that he was cutting with an angle grinder exploded. The drum had contained flammable liquid prior to this. In 2006, a Queensland high school student was killed when he was using a plasma-arc torch to convert a drum into a feed bin as part of his agricultural studies. The drum had previously contained diesel oil (which is a combustible

liquid) and the diesel oil vapours that remained in the drum exploded. In another 2006 incident, a Victorian worker was killed when he was using drums containing a flammable liquid (a releasing agent to prevent concrete sticking to formwork) as a workbench to conduct welding tasks. The heat and sparks produced by the welding caused the drum to explode. Workplace health and safety laws require a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU, such as an employer) to provide a safe workplace for employees and other relevant persons. This duty extends to the safe storage and handling of hazardous chemicals, such as flammable and toxic substances stored in drums. The first step towards managing the risks associated with these chemicals is to obtain important safety information. The manufacturer or supplier of the chemicals must provide this information to a workplace. This should be done via a Safety Data Sheet (SDS) that contains information about the hazards associated with the chemical and precautions for the safe use, transport, storage and disposal. For example, an SDS will include information such as the flammability of the substance (the temperature that will allow vapours to move into the lower explosive level and subsequently ignite.) and the toxicity (levels of exposure that are hazardous to humans through inhalation, absorption or ingestion). This is important in managing the risks with the substances themselves, and for testing to see whether the drum is safe for re-use. The drum should also be labeled in a way that can be easily read and understood. If a drum arrives at the workplace without a safety label attached (this should include the name of the chemical and a hazard pictogram and caution statement) it should be returned to the supplier. Correct labeling of drums is a vital step in managing the risks as workers can easily identify which drums are hazardous. Empty containers should be stored in a safe location, away from ignition sources, with their labels still attached. The best way to prevent an injury or fatality is to eliminate the risk altogether. This means that a ban should be placed on undertaking any form of hot works on or near a drum that had once contained (or still contains) flammable or toxic materials. The only exception to this ban would be those drums that have been cleaned free of the hazardous chemicals. Simply rinsing the drum with water is not sufficient to remove flammable vapour/toxic substances and overflowing the drum with water is not effective as vapour-pockets can be created which float to the top



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of the drum and can still ignite. It is recommended that any drum required to be re-used undergo proper cleaning by qualified persons. There are cleaning companies that specialize in proper cleaning and bung removal, gas monitoring and destruction of drums where required. Once the drum is deemed to be safe, that is, when it is completely cleaned of the hazardous chemicals and any residual vapour, the manufacturer's label can be removed and the drum could be re-used. A "Hot Works Permit" should be issued before any work involving angle grinders, plasma cutters, welding, oxyacetylene burners, or other activities that may produce heat and sparks, is undertaken. The permit should only be issued when a thorough assessment of the task is undertaken and therefore, any works being done on, or near drums containing flammable or toxic substances could be identified and restricted. It is essential that competent, experienced persons (who are familiar with the hazards associated with hot works) review all Hot Works Permits to ensure work will be conducted safely. Ensure workers are provided with adequate training about the hazards associated with conducting hot works on or near drums that contained flammable or toxic substances. The training should enable workers to understand why this could lead to injury or death, the importance of correct labels, even when the drums are empty, and the importance of obtaining, and following, a Hot Works Permit where required. In summary, avoid re-using drums that contained hazardous chemicals. Always obtain safety information about the chemicals and ensure proper labeling for all drums. Implement a ban on hot works on or near drums and ensure all workers are adequately trained to recognize the hazards and follow safety instructions provided in a Hot Works Permit.

http://www.safetyculture.com.au/news/index.php/08/re-using-drums-can-cost-you-your-life/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+safetyculture+%28Safety+Culture+OHS+News%29

NIGERIA, BAYELSA STATE, NEMBE, EWELESUO, AUGUST 18 2012. SHELL CONTROLS NEMBE OIL SPILL, LOCALS DISPUTE CLAIM



Shell said on Friday it had contained oil leaked from a failed pump within a flow station on Nigeria's Nembe Creek though local residents disputed this, saying it had spread to mangrove swamps.

"There was no oil spill, and there was no impact on the environment," said Precious Okolobo, spokesman for Shell Petroleum Development Corporation (SPDC), a joint venture majority owned by the state oil firm. "The pump was immediately shut down. However, some oil escaped from the seal into the saver pit in the flow station, with some sheen observed," he said. A Reuters reporter on the scene saw spilled oil, some of it lapping against the roots of mangroves, but Nigerian Naval officers barred access to an area behind the flow station where locals reported a large oil slick. "We observed a crude oil slick and sheen along the creek and, it continued into the Brass River," said Alabo Nengi James, an official in the Ewelesuo community of the Nembe Kingdom. "Shell has not done

any containment; no such signs at all." Oil spills from equipment failures or loading accidents are common in the swampy Niger Delta region of Africa's top energy producer. The Anglo-Dutch oil major says locals sometimes exaggerate the impact in the hope of boosting their compensation claims. Armed gangs also tamper with pipelines to steal crude and Shell's Nembe Creek trunk line has been subject to numerous spills in recent years, many due to sabotage. A landmark U.N. report in August last year slammed the government and multinational oil companies, particularly Shell, for 50 years of oil pollution that has devastated the Ogoni land region of the Niger Delta. The government and oil firms have pledged to clean up the region and other parts of the Delta, but residents say they have seen very little action. ExxonMobil's Nigeria unit said on Wednesday it was investigating an oil spill near its facility off the country's southeast coast, but has yet to give an assessment of it. "We've discovered a serious crude oil slick," explained Alagoa Morries, Project Officer for Environmental Rights Action/ERA in an exclusive interview with BattaBox. "We cannot ascertain the volume of spill but the leaves, the vegetation, fish traps all around were all soiled by crude oil," he said. The spill is reported to have occurred at Shell Nembe 3 flow-station at 4am on August 15. As ERA approached the flow-station in their boat, Alagoa described how a naval Officer pointed a machine gun at his team and refused to allow them to take any photos. After telling the Naval Officer the purpose of their visit, Alagoa claims the Officer denied there was any oil spill... despite very thick crude oil slick surrounding his boat. The spill comes after Amnesty International described Shell's oil spill investigations "a fiasco."

<http://www.channelstv.com/home/2012/08/17/shell-controls-nembe-oil-spill-locals-dispute-claim/>



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BRAZIL, RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 18 2012. PETROBRAS TO PROVIDE CHEVRON WITH LEGAL ASSISTANCE IN SPILL CASE

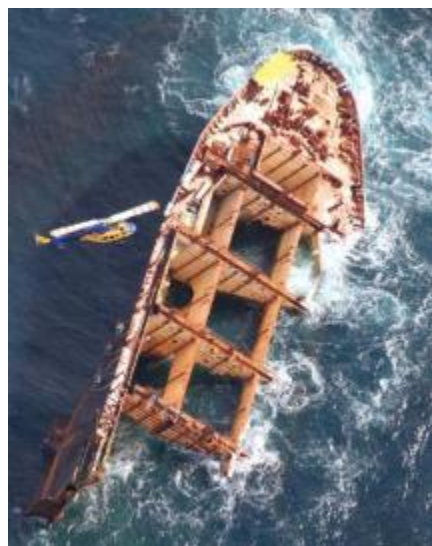
State-controlled oil giant Petrobras plans to provide Chevron Corp. with assistance from its legal department to help the U.S.-based supermajor continue to operate in Brazil after a judge ordered the company to halt operations at the end of this month, a high-level executive said. Legal assistance will also be provided to Transocean, a contractor for Chevron in Brazil, that was ordered to suspend its operations, Petrobras exploration and production director Jose Formigli said. The two companies are the subjects of legal proceedings over a spill of 3,700 barrels of crude last year off the coast of Rio de Janeiro state. "We are going to help Transocean and we are going to help Chevron with this task of showing the legal system that, in our opinion, there is no reason for the embargo (on the companies' activities) here in Brazil," Formigli said. Petrobras is helping the companies because it has eight Transocean rigs under contract in deepwater areas, Formigli said. A suspension of Transocean's operations would harm Petrobras because it would not be able to operate the rigs, the executive said. "Paralyzing these rigs that we use in petroleum exploration would obviously have an impact on Petrobras. That is why our legal department is working with Transocean and, to the extent possible, with the National Petroleum Agency," which regulates the industry, Formigli said. Petrobras will assist the two companies in appealing the ruling to a higher court, the executive said. The National Petroleum Agency said last month that Chevron would be fined nearly 50 million reais (\$24.7 million) for the spill at the Frade field last November. Some 3,700 barrels of crude leaked from the Frade field, located 120 kilometers (75 miles) off the coast of Rio de Janeiro state, the agency, known by the acronym ANP, said. The San Ramon, California-based multinational is the operator of the field with a 51.74 percent stake, while Petrobras and Japan's Frade Japao Petroleo have 30 percent and 18.26 percent interests, respectively. Frade lies in the Campos basin, where nearly 90 percent of Brazil's oil and gas is produced. Formigli also discussed Petrobras's investment strategy for its vast pre-salt reserves. The pre-salt layer, which is found beneath the sea bottom and contains a gel-like deposit of salt that could be up to two kilometers (1.24 miles) deep, is estimated to contain billions of barrels of oil equivalent and could potentially transform Brazil into a major crude exporter. Some 51 percent of Petrobras's exploration and production investment will go into the pre-salt reserves, Formigli said.

<http://tinyurl.com/9solalo>

NEW ZEALAND, TAURANGA, AUGUST 19 2012. RENA CLEAN UP BILL SOARS TO \$50 MILLION

andrea vance

 **Photo's [5]** [Helicopters to Remove-Pieces of Rena-Wreck](#)



The Rena wreck is removed.

The grounding of the Rena container ship off Tauranga last year will cost taxpayers \$50 million, it has been revealed. Labour's environment spokesman Grant Robertson has today released documents which show the estimated total costs of the clean-up have blown out from the initial allocation of \$25m. Papers show Transport Minister Gerry Brownlee wrote to Parliament's economic growth and infrastructure committee earlier this year requesting approval for a \$10 million funding boost. And he notes further funding "is also likely to be required." "Kiwis have seen the heart-breaking environmental cost of the grounding. Now we know the total price tag for the clean-up will be \$50 million, a large part of which Kiwis will be paying for," Robertson said. A spokesman for Brownlee said \$50m was "an upper end estimate" used in the Cabinet paper. "The actual cost to date is closer to \$40m." "There are on-going negotiations with the Rena's owner/insurer with regard to recovering the Crown's costs," he said. The Rena ran aground the Astrolabe reef in October, leaking around 350 tonnes of oil and sending containers toppling into the sea. At the time it was described as New Zealand's environmental disaster. In January, the Greek owned ship snapped in half but the vessel remains on the reef. Salvagers began removing sections earlier this week. Robertson requested the documents from Maritime NZ, the government agency responsible for the response operation. He called on the government to incorporate international conventions on



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liability for damage into New Zealand law. In 2008, the incoming National government was advised by a parliamentary select committee to complete the legislative work. "If National had... costs to taxpayers would have been significantly reduced," Robertson said. Fellow Labour MP Phil Goff has now proposed the legislation as a Member's Bill. "The government should pick this up or get off its backside and introduce its own legislation. Otherwise, if another accident happens, taxpayers will be forking out again. It is simply not good enough," Robertson said. Around \$25 million was initially set aside for the clean-up, with another \$2 million coming from the Oil Pollution Fund. Mediterranean Shipping Company, the firm which chartered the vessel, also offered \$1 million, although this is yet to be paid. In the documents it is noted: "This is an incident of unprecedented size and difficulty in New Zealand's maritime history. "Responding to an incident of this size and nature goes well beyond the usual capacity and financial capabilities of Maritime New Zealand." Initial estimates from the environment ministry suggest \$3.2 million will be needed for a long-term environmental recovery plan.

Related Links - Rena Crisis

- [Helicopters to remove pieces of Rena wreck](#)
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<http://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/rena-crisis/7499223/Rena-clean-up-bill-soars-to-50-million>

USA, AKA, SITKA, AUGUST 19 2012. EVENING STAR TO STAY SUBMERGED IN SLOCUM ARM

ed ronco

The Evening Star will stay at the bottom of Slocum Arm. That's the word from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation about a fishing vessel that sank in the western Chichagof Island waters earlier this month. The 50-foot Evening Star, home-ported in Sitka, capsized while seining on August 2nd. It was initially in shallow waters but slipped to a depth of nearly 400 feet. A report from the state's environmental conservation agency says the vessel released the majority of its fuel when it sank into deeper waters. The boat had about 1,000 gallons of diesel on board, in addition to some lube oil and a hydraulic oil tank. The release of the oil products resulted in a sheen nearly a mile and a half long. It has since dissipated. No impacts to fish or wildlife were reported. The stern anchor from a responding vessel was cut loose, and used to sink the boat's seine net to the sea floor. Depth sounders now show the net at 220 feet below the surface. The state says crews have retrieved oil containment booms above the wreck, and from the mouth of nearby salmon streams.

<http://www.kcaw.org/2012/08/17/evening-star-to-stay-submerged-in-slocum-arm/>

RUSSIA, MOSCOW, AUGUST 18 2012. VAN EXPLOSION IN MOSCOW

 [Watch the Video Van Explosion in Moscow: Spectacular Footage](#)

After we saw the Mithbusters shoot bullets at a gas tank, we really started to believe that petrol-powered cars and trucks could become blazing infernos under the right conditions, but they would never explode in a massive fireball. Yet we have fresh footage of another massive explosion coming from the Russian capital of Moscow, and it involves a van according to the video description. Now, usually vans in Europe are diesel-powered because this is more economical. However, Russia has a lot of natural gas, so maybe some drivers use LPG, which is cheaper than petrol. The explosion of a pressurized LPG tank could explain the massive fireball that resulted in this explosion. But as you can see, everybody was surprised by the ferocity of the detonation, especially the bystanders, who were much too close.

<http://www.autoevolution.com/news/van-explosion-in-moscow-spectacular-footage-video-48324.html>



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