



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 877 Newsy Stuff

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

**September 13 2012**



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#### USA, N.Y, UTICA, AUGUST 25 2012. PROBLEMS CONTINUE IN EAST UTICA AFTER EARLIER GAS SPILL

*amanda fries*

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [More Concerns over Gas Fumes in East Utica after Friday Afternoon Leak](#)
- [Officials Say Gas Vapors in East Utica not a Danger](#)



*Crews work at cleaning up a gas spill in East Utica on Friday, Aug. 24, 2012. The spill, which occurred Monday, Aug. 20, was still causing problems at the end of the week.*

Stepping into the basement of 1831 Rutger St., a strong odor of gasoline could be detected Friday afternoon. Homeowner Bob Elinskas said he first noticed the smell Wednesday, concentrated only in the basement. "The best thing is it's just in the cellar," he said. "It doesn't bother me, it's just unusual." Several roads were closed in East Utica Friday as officials discovered ongoing problems related to an earlier gas spill that found its way into the city's sewer system. Culver Avenue was closed from Bleecker Street to Welsh Bush Road, and several side streets

were closed as well after the odor of gas reportedly was again noticed in those areas. Culver Avenue reopened at 5 p.m. The original spill reported Monday at a Nice N Easy service station on Culver Avenue owned by Clifford Fuel was the largest spill reported this month statewide, said Steven Litwhiler, Department of Environmental conservation spokesman. About 5,000 gallons of gasoline escaped. The next largest spill reported this month, Litwhiler said, was 90 gallons. Mohawk Valley Water Authority Executive Director Patrick Becher previously said the gas spill would not affect drinking water in any way, and the sewer system is separate from the water supply. Litwhiler said Friday that vapor levels currently are elevated, which means precautions must be taken. "The heat of the day has increased gasoline vapor levels in the sanitary sewer," he said. "There hasn't been any additional gasoline spills." He added that the three storage tanks were removed from the gas station premises this week, and work was continuing Friday. Utica fire Deputy Chief John Kelly said crews worked to flush the sanitary sewer of fumes with the help of the DEC and sewage treatment facility officials. "Everything is in place to prevent this from happening again," he said. As for the elevated levels, Kelly said they weren't dangerous, but they wanted to mitigate the situation right away. A few people could be seen watching as crews drilled and moved heavy equipment at the Culver Avenue business. Officials were opening manhole covers throughout the affected area and going door to door talking to business owners and residents. A resident for 10 years, Elinskas said whenever he smells the gasoline odor, he opens the windows to air it out. "After half a day, it goes away," he said, adding that he's not concerned at the moment. "If it was upstairs, I'd say yes." Kelly instructed residents who have an odor of gasoline in their home to call 911 immediately.

<http://www.uticaod.com/features/x1265470127/Problems-continue-in-East-Utica-after-earlier-gas-spill>

#### USA, N.J, TRENTON, AUGUST 25 2012. SELF-SERVE GAS STATIONS IN N.J.? NOT A CHANCE, GOV. CHRISTIE SAYS

*megan demarco*

Anyone in New Jersey longing for self-serve gas stations, don't get too pumped up about it. "It's never going to happen," Gov. Chris Christie said on a monthly call-in radio show. "There is just no appetite, republicans or democrats in the legislature, to make us a completely self-serve state." A caller on NJ 101.5's Ask the Governor show encouraged Christie to pursue self-serve gas stations. Christie said he used to talk about this issue a lot, but fuel hasn't been added to that fire. "People in New Jersey love the idea that they've got somebody to pump their gas," Christie said. "I don't see that changing."

[http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/self-serve\\_gas\\_stations\\_in\\_nj.html](http://www.nj.com/politics/index.ssf/2012/08/self-serve_gas_stations_in_nj.html)

#### USA, ILL, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, AUGUST 25 2012. WOULD-BE PYROTECHNICIAN INJURED IN ILLEGAL FIREWORKS EXPLOSION

*bernie tafoya*

A young man with hopes of getting a license to legally explode fireworks may have blown his chance this week. As WBBM Newsradio's Bernie Tafoya reports, Arlington Heights police say the 22-year-old man was severely burned when fireworks he was trying to build in his family's basement ignited around 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, causing a flash fire. [The Daily Herald reports](#)



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emergency responders found in the man's home a blank application for a pyrotechnician's license. Police tell the newspaper the man had been experimenting with building mortar-type fireworks, and one of the powders ignited. Police tell the Daily Herald that having the chemicals to make those fireworks is not illegal, but combining them is. The man was taken by his father to Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, and was later transferred to Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, the daily Herald reported. No charges had been issued as of Thursday morning.

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/08/23/would-be-pyrotechnician-injured-in-illegal-fireworks-explosion/>

#### ENGLAND, PORTSMOUTH, AUGUST 25 2012. BLAZE AT PETROL STATION

A petrol station was sealed off after a small fire in the shop. Fire engines were called to the Tesco service station in Solent Road, Havant, at about 5pm today. A small electrical cupboard had caught fire. Firefighters quickly put out the fire and were there until 5.45pm to make sure the scene was safe.

<http://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/local/blaze-at-petrol-station-1-4196098>

#### USA, PA, WESTMORELAND CO, MOUNT PLEASANT, AUGUST 25 2012. ROAD REOPENED AFTER OVERNIGHT FUEL SPILL IN MOUNT PLEASANT

A fuel spill shut down a stretch of roadway in Westmoreland County overnight as crews cleared away a big mess at the scene. The spill happened in the area of Routes 119 and 31 in Mount Pleasant. A pickup truck hauling a tanker reportedly leaked fuel onto the roadway for about four miles. A section of the road had been shut down so the fuel could be cleaned up, but it has now been fully reopened. There were no reports of any injuries.

<http://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2012/08/24/road-reopened-after-overnight-fuel-spill-in-mount-pleasant/>

#### USA, KS, SALINA, AUGUST 25 2012. FIREFIGHTERS CLEAN UP LARGE GAS SPILL

Firefighters worked for more than 30 minutes to clean up nearly 41 gallons of gasoline that spilled from a pump at a south Salina gas station about 10:30 a.m. Friday. Hannah Furbeck, director of Saline County Emergency Management, said a man was filling a vehicle with gas at Kwik Shop, 305 W. Schilling, when his tank overflowed. She said the total cost of the gas was \$143. The gas pooled in an area surrounding three gas pump islands. Firefighters poured sand over the gasoline and, with the aid of a police officer, scooped it up with shovels and put it in bags.

<http://www.salina.com/news/story/gas-spill8-24-12>

#### AUSTRALIA, CANBERRA, AUGUST 25 2012. ARCHAIC MARITIME SAFETY LAWS TO GO

Century old maritime safety laws will be replaced with more modern guidelines and a new national agency in charge of Australian shipping regulations after new laws passed federal parliament. The coalition backed a package of legislation to regulate ship and seafarer safety, shipboard aspects of environmental protection and employment rights. It will replace the Navigation Act of 1912 and make the Australian Maritime Safety Authority the sole regulator of shipping in Australian waters, replacing eight federal, state and territory regulators. The Navigation Bill 2012, the Marine Safety (Domestic Commercial Vessel) National Law Bill 2012 and two related bills passed the Senate on Thursday on the voices. The bills now await Royal Assent.

<http://news.ninensn.com.au/national/8520946/archaic-maritime-safety-laws-to-go>

#### VENEZUELA, AMUAY, AUGUST 25 2012. EXPLOSION AT VENEZUELA REFINERY KILLS 7, INJURES 48

kejal vyas



*A controlled flame burns behind a storage tank in the oil refinery complex of Amuay-Cardon on April 4, 2003 in Paragana.*

gas leak caused a major explosion early Saturday at Venezuela's Amuay refinery, the country's largest facility, leaving at least seven people dead and 48 injured, government and local union officials said. The blast, which is believed to have started in the propane and butane gas unit of the 640,000 barrel-a-day refinery, damaged buildings and houses in the area surrounding Amuay, authorities said. "There was a big explosion at 1:05 a.m. that people thought was an earthquake," Stella Lugo, the local state governor, said in comments carried on state television.



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She called on residents to remain calm and added that the situation was "under control." Ivan Freites, a local union leader, said the explosion damaged an office used by the National Guard and houses near Amuay, adding that operations at the facility were "partially paralyzed" without giving more details. "It's a very serious situation...this never happened before at our refinery," said Mr. Freites, who added that the injured included some members of the National Guard, refinery workers and people living near the plant. In recent years, Amuay, along with other major refineries in Venezuela, have experienced chronic operational delays due to accidents and mishaps. Critics say that poses a challenge to President Hugo Chavez's ambitious plans to sharply increase oil production in coming years. Detractors from the government attribute many of the problems to insufficient investment into the oil sector as state oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela, or PdVSA, diverts large portions of revenue to government social programs that have become iconic under Mr. Chavez's leadership. Vice President Elias Jaua said that military reinforcements were being sent to offer medical assistance to those affected by the Saturday morning explosion. "The damages in Amuay are serious," Mr. Jaua said on Twitter. Earlier this year, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said the Paraguana complex, which includes Amuay and has total capacity of 955,000 barrels of crude oil a day, was functioning "normally" at 79% of capacity despite production disruptions.

#### Related Links

- [Explosion at Venezuela Refinery Kills 7](#)  
A gas leak caused a major explosion early Saturday at Venezuela's Amuay refinery, the country's largest facility, leaving at least seven people dead and 48 injured, government and local union officials said. The blast, which is believed to have...
- [Blast rocks Venezuela's largest refinery, kills 7](#)  
A large gas explosion shook Venezuela's biggest refinery, the 645,000-barrels-per-day Amuay facility, in the early hours of Saturday, killing seven people, authorities said. Another 48 people were injured by the blast ..
- [Fatal blast at Venezuela's Amuay refinery](#)  
Breaking news. At least seven people have been killed and dozens more injured in an explosion at Venezuela's biggest oil refinery, the local governor says. Stella Lugo said there was no risk of further explosions at the Amuay plant in the north of the country.
- [Venezuela refinery explosion kills 7, injures 48](#)  
A gas explosion at Venezuela's Amuay refinery killed seven people and injured another 48, the local governor said on Saturday, adding that the situation was under control. "There's no risk of another explosion..."

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444812704577610813650522158.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444812704577610813650522158.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

## MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 25 2012. PLANTS FOR CLEANER INDOOR AIR

subhadra devan



*Spiderplant (Chlorophytum comosum, Chlorophytum elatum)*

A common plant enlightens Subhadra Devan on how some indoor varieties help in cleaner air. A colleague gave me a potted spider plant years ago. It's a common plant which grew well, its light-green edged leaves lending colour to a drab place, until construction began in the area. The leaves started wilting. But I admit I didn't do anything like repot it or sun it. Then I recently inherited a spider plant, among other plants, from my late mum. This was a thriving specimen. I pondered about the plants — what to do with them, where to put them. My search about the plant led me to the Internet website of one BC Wolverton. He directed a two-year study, back in the 1980s, about plants and their effects on indoor air. Exotic plants, you ask? The kind that cost a bomb, grown in the west, you wonder? The

environmental engineer placed plants such as the spider plant in sealed chambers containing specific chemicals found in everyday places. The plants absorbed and removed harmful toxins from its environment, making the air cleaner. Fresh air, so to speak, in a room, without the need for air-conditioners, purifiers, and whatnots. His study was under Nasa (National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States), with assistance from the Associated Landscape Contractors of America.



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#### What Toxins?

Benzene, for one, a cancer-causing agent found in many glues, solvents, paints, and art supplies. Another is formaldehyde, a cancer-causing agent that may be present in particle boards or pressed wood products and furniture as well as carpets. Which means, our furniture, that desk, that cupboard. Many paper products have it as well, such as grocery bags, facial tissues and paper towels. Trichloroethylene is a solvent used with metal parts, dry cleaning, paints, varnishes and paint remover while toluene is found in correction fluids, pens, nail polish and nail polish remover as well as foam. I also came across an article that talks about indoor air pollution resulting from the release of chemical vapours and the suspension in the air of particulates such as dust and microorganisms. Sealing the house air vents for air-conditioning and to conserve energy makes it easier for indoor air pollutants to accumulate to dangerous levels. So how do these plants work in the house to make it a better environment? Plants release water vapour via transpiration through the leaves and into the air, raising humidity. High transpiration rates create convection currents that cause toxin-laden air to be pulled down into the soil around the roots, where microbes in the soil break down the gases into a source of food and energy. Air also moves into and out of leaf stomata (pore-like openings). Some organic chemicals absorbed by plants from the air are destroyed by the plant's own biological processes. Given that air also reaches plant roots, uptake by root tissues is another means by which air can be purified. So, I have since learnt that it's not just the leaves but the soil too that help clean up the air in a room, like the kitchen. Which means the leaves should not cover the top of the soil in the pot! All of this leads me back to that spider plant on my desk — the wilting one. Guess it's really time I repotted it.

#### Air-Purifying Houseplants

Here is my list of easy-to-grow, easy-to-care air-purifying houseplants and the toxins they reduce:

- **Bamboo Palm** (*Chamaedorea seifrizii*, reed palm)  
Absorbs benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene (TCE). Grows well in medium light or bright, indirect light. Keep away from direct sunlight. Keep the soil uniformly moist between watering, and water when soil is half dry. When buying a palm, look for one with a large calibre trunk at the base of the plant. Too narrow, and it'll topple when tall. Indoor palms may attract spider mites which can be controlled by spraying with a soapy solution.
- **Common Ivy or English Ivy** (*Hedera helix*)  
Benzene, formaldehyde, toluene, octane, terpene (the most effective plant against benzene according to Nasa). Be careful as its leaves are poisonous. The English Ivy is suitable for patients with asthma and allergic conditions. Easy to grow in bright sunlight, the plant can remove off-gassing various chemicals released by synthetic materials.
- **Rubber Plant** (*Ficus robusta*)  
Benzene, formaldehyde, TCE, octane, terpene. It grows well in semi-full sunlight. Avoid direct light and keep the soil moist between watering. The roots are lateral so repotting is necessary. Wear gloves when pruning, as the milky sap may irritate the skin.
- **Boston Fern** (*Nephrolepis exaltata Bostoniensis*, sword fern)  
Formaldehyde, xylene. This classic indoor plant is best displayed as a hanging plant. It prefers bright, indirect sunlight. Keep the soil barely moist and mist frequently with warm water. Keep spider mites and whitefly away with a soapy spray.
- **Mass cane** (*Dracaena massangeana*)  
Benzene, formaldehyde, TCE (the most effective plant against formaldehyde, according to NASA). A hardy plant, with medium-green and yellow leaves that needs little care. Direct sunlight is best. The soil has to be dry between watering. It can also grow in a bowl of water.
- **Golden Pothos** (*Epipremnum aureum*, devil's ivy or moneyplant)  
Formaldehyde, benzene and xylene. Be careful as the leaves are toxic to children and small animals such as dogs and cats. With evergreen leaves and progressive stems, it's a hardy plant that is easy to grow and care for.
- **Purple heart** (*Tradescantia pallida*)  
Benzene, TCE, toluene, terpene. From the spiderwort genus, it's also called Wandering Jew. It is suitable as a hanging ornament. Very shade tolerant, its succulent stems needs some watering.
- **Spider plant** (*Chlorophytum comosum*, *Chlorophytum elatum*)



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Formaldehyde, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide. A beautiful house plant with long grassy leaves, the spider plant grows rapidly.

- Snake Plant (Sansevieria trifasciata, mother-in-law's tongue)  
Formaldehyde, benzene, xylene and trichloroethylene (TCE). This evergreen plant needs irregular watering and less lighting. It blooms too!
- Broadleaf Lady Palm (Rhaps excelsa)  
Formaldehyde, toluene, xylene and ammonia. The soil must not be dry between watering. Keep in direct sun or medium light.

Reference from Wolverton's book, How To Grow Fresh Air — 50 Houseplants That Purify Your Home Or Office, as well as websites like [www.care2.com](http://www.care2.com) and [www.environmentalgraffiti.com](http://www.environmentalgraffiti.com)

<http://www.nst.com.my/life-times/live/plants-for-cleaner-indoor-air-1.128882>

### USA, ME, SOUTH BERWICK, AUGUST 25 2012. GRANT HELPS PAY TO REPLACE HOME OIL TANKS IN MAINE

roger wood

 [Watch the Video DEP Replacing at-Risk Oil Tanks](#)



*Susan Breau-Kelley and David McCaskill at the location of a South Berwick, Maine, well pump. Officials hope to protect the town's water supply by replacing local oil tanks that are at risk of leaking.*

Thirty aging home oil tanks in town are slated to be replaced to better protect the local drinking water supply, according to John Leach, superintendent of the South Berwick Water District. Leach said Friday the work will be done with the help of a \$100,000 grant from the state Department of Environmental Protection. The tanks will be replaced with newer, double-walled tanks at no cost to homeowners. The commercially built Roth tanks feature a stainless steel outer skin and a plastic interior that stores the oil. A pop-up monitor installed in an air space between them is designed to signal a potential problem. "The state of Maine sets aside funds for oil tank replacements," Leach said. "This portion of the program is a proactive program to replace home heating oil tanks in source-water protection areas where leaks could become a potential problem in the future." David McCaskill, an environmental engineer with the Maine DEP, said the replacement program is funded by fees charged to oil dealers. According to the DEP, the state receives about 13,000 calls about spills yearly, and they cost the state as much as \$2 million annually for cleanups. "We respond to one spill a day across the state from single-family home tanks," McCaskill said. Leach said oil

tank leaks and other pollutants have the potential of rendering community groundwater wells useless, since they are beyond remediation by environmental cleanups. It can cost a municipality millions of dollars to locate and develop a new water supply, he said. South Berwick has four water well locations, and a total of 13 wells used for drinking and firefighting, Leach said. "Out of the 40 or 50 tanks that we have inspected, most of the tanks installed are pre-1990. We have encountered some that have been installed after that date," he said. "Basically, we evaluated the tanks based on age (and) condition, and basically those were the tanks with the highest priority to be changed out." Inspections were carried out on a voluntary basis with residents. The tanks found to be at-risk to leaking were deemed to have internal corrosion, Leach said. Outside tanks are also susceptible to damage from falling ice and snow. The DEP works with the Maine Rural Water Association, a nonprofit technical advisory organization funded by federal grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency, to identify potential locations for the tank replacement program. Susan Brou-Kelley, the association's sourcewater program manager, recommends tank replacement locations. The South Berwick project was recommended because of the at-risk tanks and an existing partnership, she said. "It's called the Salmon Falls watershed collaborative," she said. "It's the communities on either side of the river, and it's local, state and federal agencies actually getting together to try to protect the drinking water resources." McCaskill said the project in South Berwick has been a "nice fit" for the DEP. "We really haven't done a major project down in southern Maine," he said. He said the replacement tanks won't address all the potential pollution threats, but the program is intended to raise public awareness that newer technology is available. Double-walled tanks are required within 1,000 feet of a municipal water well when an older tank is removed from an existing home and replaced,



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McCaskill said. The average cost of a new double-walled tank is \$2,600. The tank replacements in South Berwick are being done by Estes Oil of York and Sanford, the prime contractor for the project. Owner Mike Estes said his crew has been working on replacing tanks for the past month, with 17 already completed. McCaskill said the DEP began the tank replacement program after seeing an increase in the number of oil spills over the past 15 years. "We started to use some of our clean-up money for proactive programs, and this is one of them," he said. Another \$100,000 will be available to South Berwick in a second phase of the project next year. Leach said South Berwick has received four awards from the Maine Rural Water Association for the best drinking water in Maine, but the water district superintendent said he is concerned that aging heating oil tanks in homes near the municipal wells could leak.

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20120825-NEWS-208250319>

#### CANADA, N.B., SHIPPAGAN, AUGUST 25 2012. SHIPPAGAN ADDED TO IRVING OIL CONTAMINATION LAWSUIT



*Shippagan Mayor Tilmon Mallet has declined to comment on the lawsuit.*

The Town of Shippagan has been brought into a decade-old lawsuit that blames Irving Oil Ltd. for contaminated land in the northeastern community. Eric Smith, a Moncton businessman, says Irving Oil has been slow to respond to his lawsuit and he hopes adding the town will move things along. "It puts onus on them to have Irving Oil clean up the contamination on that site," he said. Earlier this summer, Smith convinced a Court of Queen's Bench judge to let him sue the municipality as well as the company. In his initial lawsuit, Smith alleges properties he bought in the town for two of his businesses were contaminated by an adjacent Irving Oil bulk fuel storage facility. In documents filed with the court, Smith alleges recent soil

testing shows some of the contamination is from a town-owned former CN right-of-way, which was once used for unloading oil tankers. "We found that according to the pipeline drawings, the high levels of contamination were at these railcar-unloading sites, where they would have hooked the hoses onto the rail cars," said Smith. "So there must have been spillage when they were loading or unloading the rail cars." Shippagan Mayor Tilmon Mallet told CBC News he's aware of the lawsuit, but didn't want to comment until he could look into it further. Irving Oil did not respond to a request for comment. None of the allegations have been proven in court.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/story/2012/08/24/nb-shippagan-irving-oil-lawsuit-contaminated.html>

#### SRI LANKA, COLOMBO, AUGUST 25 2012. OIL SLICK THREATENS SRI LANKA'S WEST COAST BEACHES



**File Photo:** The coast line from Mount Lavinia, a popular tourist resort just south of the capital Colombo, and Negombo, the first beach resort opened for tourism in the early 1970's, was at risk, the DMC said.

Beaches in Sri Lanka's western coast are under threat from an oil slick heading to the shore after a 15,000-ton cargo ship sunk Thursday in the seas off Panadura in the Western Province. The Cypress flagged Bulk Carrier MV Thermopylae Sierra which has been anchored for three years in the sea off Sri Lanka's west coast due to a pending court case sunk completely about 20 kilometers off Panadura coast after efforts to move the ship before the monsoon rains failed. About 370 metric tons of furnace oil in the ship had been removed last month but another 75 tons of oil remained, the Director General of Commercial Shipping of the Ministry of Ports, Ajith Seneviratne has said. "We knew that the ship could go down as the monsoon intensifies and we had pumped out most of the 600 tons of furnace oil it carried,

but there was a residue that we could not pump out," Seneviratne has told AFP. The Center for Disaster Management says the oil in the ship's tanks has started to leak to the ocean surface and the spill is currently drifting from Panadura towards Negombo. Minister of Environment Anura Priyadarshana Yapa has said that measures have been taken to deal with the oil slick if it reaches the coast. Disaster Management Centre director Sarath Kumara has told AFP that around 500 volunteers have been arranged into small units to clean up the coastal stretch of over 50 kilometers from the oil slick that is about 10 kilometers long. A spokesman of the Environmental Ministry has said that as the ocean currents are moving towards the North and North West the oil slick has not moved towards the coast yet but if the direction of the current changed then the oil slick



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### Release 2012 – 877 Newsy Stuff

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could move towards the coast very rapidly. In addition to the harm on marine life, an oil slick reaching the coast between Panadura and Negombo will seriously threaten Sri Lanka's popular tourist resorts with white sandy beaches along that stretch of the coast. The cargo ship operated by the Greek company Thesarco Shipping has been anchored since 2009, when the ship was detained by the courts due to a dispute between the ship owner and the crew. The 155 meters long and 127 meters wide ship with a weight of 15,612 tons began to deteriorate as it remained at sea without being maintained and subsequently it started taking in water. The Director General of Commercial Shipping of the Ministry of Ports said that the Master Divers Company was engaged in draining water from the decks to prevent the ship from sinking. The ship was to be moved to Trincomalee after making the essential renovation work to prevent it from sinking.

#### Related Links

- [Oil slick reaches Colombo coast after ship sinks](#)  
An oil slick from a rusting cargo vessel that sank in bad weather reached the coast of Sri Lanka's capital Saturday, but officials insisted the spill was "manageable" and could easily be cleaned up. A patch of oil reached the coast of Wellawatte, a zone...
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The vessel which was anchored five kilometers off Panadura sea coast has sunk at present. Chairman of Master Divers Ariyasiri Wickremanayaka says the vessel sank since it has been damaged by severe corrosion due to...

#### USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, AUGUST 25 2012. ENERGY COMPANIES PULL STAFF FROM ISAAC'S PATH >> BP SUSPENDS PRODUCTION AT 250,000-BARREL-A-DAY PLATFORM

*taylor thomas & steve gelsi*



#### Path of Tropical Storm Isaac.

BP PLC and Royal Dutch Shell said Friday they're starting to evacuate staff from the Gulf of Mexico as Tropical Storm Isaac's projected path shifted west into a prime area for U.S. oil and gas production. While Isaac remains a tropical storm for now as it skirts Haiti and heads for Cuba, it could strengthen into a hurricane as it moves back into the Gulf of Mexico. Shell said it's preparing for evacuations of nonessential personnel in the eastern and central Gulf of Mexico. Drilling operations there have been suspended. BP PLC said it's evacuating all workers from its Thunder Horse platform in the Mississippi Canyon of the eastern Gulf and will temporarily suspend oil and gas production there. The platform has a production capacity of 250,000 barrels a day. BP is also evacuating nonessential personnel from offshore facilities in its Na Kika, Horn Mountain and Marlin

platforms. "Depending on the storm's path, it may be necessary to take additional measures to secure workers and operations at those sites," BP said. Meanwhile, crude oil and natural gas closed lower Friday. October crude fell 12 cents, or 0.1%, to



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\$96.15 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange while September natural gas shed 10 cents, or 3.6%, to \$2.70 per million British thermal units. Besides Shell and BP, other energy companies remained on watch. "At this point we're monitoring the storm very closely," said Lee Warren, manager for external communications at Marathon Oil Corp. Dennis Feltgen, public-affairs officer for the National Hurricane Center, said it would be closer to Sunday when the NHC will be able to determine what parts of the U.S., if any, the storm would impact. "We've got to know what this thing looks like when it comes north of Cuba" before making an assessment, he said. "We're watching the storm," said Bob Dye, Apache Corp senior vice president of global communications and corporate affairs. "We're evacuating nonessential personnel out of the eastern Gulf." Dye said nonessential personnel were being evacuated so that if the storm's progress approached Apache's production plants in the Gulf, complete evacuations would not take so long as to endanger any employees. At this point in time, Apache was not certain how many plants it would evacuate. "The further west it heads, the more production it will impact," said Dye. "You never know what these storms will do."

[http://www.marketwatch.com/story/energy-companies-pull-staff-from-isaacs-path-2012-08-24?link=MW\\_latest\\_news](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/energy-companies-pull-staff-from-isaacs-path-2012-08-24?link=MW_latest_news)

#### USA, W.V, WHEELING, AUGUST 25 2012. FITZSIMMONS LAW FIRM ADDS DEFENDANTS IN LAWSUIT OVER FATAL CHEMICAL PLANT EXPLOSION

The two men were burned to death after a fire and explosion occurred at the AL Solutions facility in Hancock County, West Virginia on December 9, 2010, according to the complaint. The fire, which led to the explosion, started after titanium, zirconium and hydrogen gas ignited in the plant's production room, according to the complaint. Following the explosion, the plant received 17 citations from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), with most of them being classified as "serious" violations and one being classified as "willful." The "willful" classification means the employer knowingly failed to comply with legal requirements associated with workers' safety, according to the court filing. The complaint says the defendants used water fire suppression system in the production room, despite the fact that the room was used for processing large quantities of zirconium and titanium, which are highly flammable. In this type of situation, the application adds hydrogen gas that actually "exacerbates" the fire instead of suppressing it, the complaint said. The plaintiffs also stated that the company also failed to meet safety areas in various other areas, such as proper alarm maintenance, protective gear and employee training. The complete list of defendants now includes AL Solutions; Tygem Holdings, Inc., a holding company that owns 100 percent of AL Solutions' stock; Tremont Associates, LLC and Blackrock Kelso Capital Corporation, two private equity firms that have a majority and controlling interest in Tygem; and Blackrock Kelso Capital Advisors, LLC, which serves as the adviser to Blackrock Kelso Capital Corporation. Blackrock (referring to both entities with the name) and Tremont have served in management and advisory roles for both AL Solutions and Tygem. Five workers have been killed in fires or explosions at the AL Solutions facility since 1995, representing about 20 percent of the company's total work force, according to the complaint. The chemical plant was formerly owned by and operated by Jamegy, Inc. and Jamegy WV, Inc., but AL Solutions became the owner in December 2006 when it acquired Jamegy. Both AL Solutions and Tygem were created by Blackrock and Tremont for the purpose of acquiring Jamegy. The complaint states that the ownership transfer was made possible through highly leveraged loans that "required AL Solutions to utilize most of its revenue to repay loans and leaving little or no funds for matters involving safety at the AL Solutions Facility." The plaintiffs are suing the defendants for deliberate intention, negligence and recklessness, intentional or reckless infliction of emotional distress and negligent infliction of emotional distress. They are also calling for a "piercing of the corporate veil," which would make Tygem liable for AL Solutions' conduct. The plaintiffs are requesting punitive damages and compensation for medical bills; funeral, burial and memorial costs; lost wages; physical and mental suffering; and other losses. The case was filed in the Circuit Court of Hancock County under civil action number 11-C-88 M.

Read the full story at <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2012/8/prweb9836891.htm>

<http://www.equities.com/news/news-headline-story?dt=2012-08-24&val=414471&d=1&cat=headline>

#### USA, AKA, FAIRBANKS, AUGUST 25 2012. CYANIDE WATER SPILL AT FAIRBANKS GOLD MINE

Alaska officials say about 45,000 gallons of cyanide water solution spilled at the Fort Knox Gold Mine near Fairbanks after a bulldozer damaged a buried pipeline. State Environmental Conservation Department spokesman Ty Keltner says a heavy equipment operator discovered the spill Thursday night and the mine quickly reported it to the state. Keltner says some of the cyanide water solution was released onto a gravel mine road while much of it went into a lined area where leaching takes place. The state says a raised berm has been created around the spill area to keep the solution from spreading. Contaminated



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soil has been loaded into dump trucks and moved to an area for processing. State officials are monitoring the cleanup. Fort Knox is located 26 miles northeast of Fairbanks. The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner says the mine is owned by Kinross Gold Corp.

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/96490--alaska-cyanide-water-spill-at-fairbanks-gold-mine>

### MEXICO, OAXACA, ISTHMUS OF TEHUANTEPEC, AUGUST 25 2012. PEMEX OIL SPILL IN OAXACA, MEXICO, THREATENS SEA TURTLES AND WORLD-CLASS SURFING BEACHES

A Pemex oil spill in the port of Salina Cruz in Mexico's southern state of Oaxaca went uncontained for 11 days along Pacific Coast beaches, impacting more than 12 miles of coastline. The spill has so far resulted in the deaths of 13 sea turtles and tarred beaches with oil revered by surfers worldwide for their wave quality. "The beaches of southern Oaxaca are Mexico's most important for nesting Olive Ridley sea turtles and surfing tourism," said Dr. Eduardo Najera, the Mexico Director for WILDCOAST. "We are requesting that Mexican federal authorities investigate the cause of the spill and require PEMEX to quickly and thoroughly clean up its mess." Beaches impacted by the oil spill include Salinas del Marqués, Brasil, Brasilito, Azul, Punta Conejo, La Escondida-Guelaguichi, Playa Cangrejo, and Chipehua. Conservationists are concerned that the petroleum could harm the 500,000 Olive Ridley sea turtles that lay their eggs on Morro Ayuta beach located north of the oil spill area. Federal sea turtle monitors reported that clumps of oil have appeared along the more than 14-mile beach, considered among the world's most important nesting beaches. More than 25,000 Olive Ridleys arrived on Morro Ayuta during the three days proceeding the oil spill. During a recent tour of the region by WILDCOAST, there was no evidence of any effort by PEMEX to clean up beaches and wildlife impacted by the spill. "Pemex must be required to clean up and restore all of the ecosystems damaged by the oil spill to the fullest extent possible," said Najera. "Indigenous communities, families and businesses that make their living from fishing, surfing and eco-tourism must be compensated for their losses as a result of damage from the spill." WILDCOAST is an international conservation team that conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife. [www.wildcoast.net](http://www.wildcoast.net).

[http://www.surfline.com/surf-news/press-release/pemex-oil-spill-in-oaxaca-mexico-threatens-sea-turtles-and-world-class-surfing-beaches\\_75347/](http://www.surfline.com/surf-news/press-release/pemex-oil-spill-in-oaxaca-mexico-threatens-sea-turtles-and-world-class-surfing-beaches_75347/)

### USA, S.C, LITTLE RIVER, AUGUST 25 2012. MYSTERIOUS FUEL SPILL IN LITTLE RIVER WATERWAY

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are looking into the possible cause of a fuel spill discovered in the Intracoastal Waterway near Little River Friday morning. One of the first people to respond to the spill was Petty Officer Mark DeWein, a Marine Inspector with the USCG. According to DeWein, the steady rain and over cast skies are making it difficult for inspectors to determine how the two gallon spill entered the water, and they can only speculate that it was caused by a boat discharge. A spokesperson with the DNR could not be reached for more details on the spill.

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/19370179/mysterious-fuel-spill-in-little-river-waterway>

### IRELAND, COUNTY LOUTH, AUGUST 25 2012. CLEAN-UP AS TOXIC DIESEL SLUDGE DUMPED IN LOUTH

elaine edwards

 [Watch the Video Toxic Diesel Sludge Dumped in Co Louth](#)



Six containers of toxic diesel sludge have been found dumped on the side of a road in Co Louth. Two of the plastic containers were discovered leaking on the former main Dublin to Belfast road near Dunleer early yesterday. The road between the M1 at junction 14 and Mullins Cross was closed for a clean-up operation. The white plastic cubes contained a byproduct of the diesel-laundering process in which criminals remove the dye from agricultural diesel in order to sell it as road fuel. Each of the containers held 1,000 litres of liquid. Council sources said the authority had already dealt with 80 such incidents of dumping toxic diesel sludge this year, involving 326 such containers. The total cost of recovering and treating each container is about €1,000. The product is ultimately sent to

Germany for treatment. Some 808 containers of toxic diesel sludge were recovered by the council last year in 92 dumping incidents. The total cost of the recovery was some €1 million, council sources said. The local authorities in Louth, Meath,



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Cavan and Monaghan are evaluating tenders from expert contractors who will be appointed in the coming months to deal with finds of oil-laundering residue. More than one million litres of oil, including oil seized from unlicensed premises, were seized by Revenue Customs Service last year. Revenue has uncovered six oil laundries to date in 2012. It estimates that had they continued to operate, they would have had the potential to launder about 42 million litres of fuel a year.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/0825/1224322963234.html>

#### VENEZUELA, AMUAY, AUGUST 25 2012. EXPLOSION AT VENEZUELA REFINERY KILLS 7, INJURES 48

ian james

 **Watch the Video**

- [Explosion at Venezuelan Oil Refinery](#)
- [Venezuela Oil Refinery Blast: 19 Dead](#)



*Balls of fire rose over Amuay refinery near Punto Fijo, Venezuela, Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012. A huge explosion rocked Venezuela's biggest oil refinery, killing at least nineteen people and injuring dozens, an official said.*

*A huge explosion rocked Venezuela's biggest oil refinery early Saturday, killing at least 19 people and injuring more than 50 others in the deadliest disaster in memory for the country's key oil industry. Balls of fire rose over the Amuay refinery, one of the largest in the world, in video posted on the Internet by people who were nearby at the time. Those killed included a 10-year-old boy, and at least 53 people were injured, Falcon state Gov. Stella Lugo said on state television. She said firefighters had controlled the flames at the refinery on the Paraguana Peninsula in western Venezuela, where large clouds of smoke were rising. "The areas that had to be evacuated were evacuated," Lugo said, according to the state-run Venezuelan News Agency. "The situation is controlled. Of course they're still a fire*

rising very high, but ... the specialists tell me there is no risk of another explosion." The blast occurred after 1 a.m. when a gas leak created a cloud that ignited, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said. Some nearby houses were damaged by the blast, he said on television. "That gas generated a cloud that later exploded and has caused fires in at least two tanks of the refinery and surrounding areas," Ramirez said on state television. "The blast wave was of a significant magnitude." Images in state media showed the flames casting an orange glow against the night sky. One photograph showed an injured man being wheeled away on a stretcher. Ramirez said oil workers will determine what caused the gas leak and were inspecting the damage along with troops. He said supplies of fuel had been cut off to the part of the refinery that was still in flames. Troops were securing the area at the refinery, Lugo said. Vice President Elias Jaua said on his Twitter account that the military was deployed to the area and that air ambulances were dispatched to ferry the wounded. The defense minister was traveling to the refinery along with Ramirez and other officials, Jaua said. Amuay is part of the Paraguana Refinery Complex, which also includes the adjacent Cardon refinery. Together, the two refineries process about 900,000 barrels of crude a day and 200,000 barrels of gasoline. It was unclear to what extent the explosion might affect oil shipments from Venezuela, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/08/25/2967524/official-refinery-blast-kills.html>

#### UPDATE 1: VENEZUELA, AMUAY, AUGUST 25 2012. EXPLOSION AT VENEZUELA REFINERY KILLS 7, INJURES 48

ian james

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A huge explosion rocked Venezuela's biggest oil refinery early Saturday, killing at least 19 people and injuring more than 50 others in the deadliest disaster in memory for the country's key oil industry. Balls of fire rose over the Amuay refinery, one of the largest in the world, in video posted on the Internet by people who were nearby at the time. Those killed included a 10-year-old boy, and at least 53 people were injured, Falcon state Gov. Stella Lugo said on state television. She said firefighters had controlled the flames at the refinery on the Paraguana Peninsula in western Venezuela, where large clouds of smoke



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were rising. "The areas that had to be evacuated were evacuated," Lugo said, according to the state-run Venezuelan News Agency. "The situation is controlled. Of course they're still a fire rising very high, but ... the specialists tell me there is no risk of another explosion." The blast occurred after 1 a.m. when a gas leak created a cloud that ignited, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said. Some nearby houses were damaged by the blast, he said on television. "That gas generated a cloud that later exploded and has caused fires in at least two tanks of the refinery and surrounding areas," Ramirez said on state television. "The blast wave was of a significant magnitude." Images in state media showed the flames casting an orange glow against the night sky. One photograph showed an injured man being wheeled away on a stretcher. Ramirez said oil workers will determine what caused the gas leak and were inspecting the damage along with troops. He said supplies of fuel had been cut off to the part of the refinery that was still in flames. Troops were securing the area at the refinery, Lugo said. Vice President Elias Jaua said on his Twitter account that the military was deployed to the area and that air ambulances were dispatched to ferry the wounded. The defense minister was traveling to the refinery along with Ramirez and other officials, Jaua said. Amuay is part of the Paraguana Refinery Complex, which also includes the adjacent Cardon refinery. Together, the two refineries process about 900,000 barrels of crude a day and 200,000 barrels of gasoline. It was unclear to what extent the explosion might affect oil shipments from Venezuela, a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/08/25/2967524/official-refinery-blast-kills.html>

#### VIDEO'S: VENEZUELA, AMUAY, AUGUST 26 2012. OIL REFINERY BLAST KILLS 26, INJURES 80

##### Watch the Video's:

- [Explosion Venezuela Amuay Refinery](#) [Venezuelan language]
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#### VENEZUELA, AMUAY, AUGUST 26 2012. UPDATE 2: OIL REFINERY BLAST KILLS 26, INJURES 80

##### Photo Gallery [13] [Venezuela Refinery Explosion](#)



*Partial view of damages caused by the blast at Venezuelan largest oil refinery Amuay, part of the larger Paraguana Oil Refining Complex, early on August 25, 2012, in Paraguana, state of Falcon in northwestern Venezuela. According to official sources the blast left at least 24 people killed, injured 80 others and caused extensive damage. Energy Minister Rafael Ramirez said the blast was sparked by a gas leak, the cause of which remained to be determined.*

A massive explosion has rocked Venezuela's biggest oil refinery, killing at least 26 people. More than 80 others were injured in the blast and subsequent ferocious fire, the deadliest disaster in memory for the country's key oil industry. Balls of fire can be seen rising over the Amuay refinery, one of the largest in the world, in a video posted on the internet by people who were nearby at the time.

Government officials pledged to restart the refinery within two days and said the country has plenty of fuel supplies on hand to meet its domestic needs as well as its export commitments. At least 86 people were injured, nine of them seriously, Health Minister Eugenia Sader said at a hospital where the wounded were taken. She said 77 people suffered light injuries and were released from the hospital. Officials said those killed included a 10-year-old boy, and that 17 of the 26 victims were National Guard troops stationed at a post next to the refinery. President Hugo Chavez declared three days of mourning in the country. "This affects all of us," Mr Chavez said by phone on state television. "It's very sad, very painful." Mr Chavez said he ordered a "deep investigation" to determine what caused the explosion. Vice President Elias Jaua, who travelled to the area in western Venezuela, said the authorities tried "to save the greatest number of lives." Officials said firefighters had controlled the flames at the refinery on the Paraguana Peninsula, where clouds of dark smoke were still billowing at noon. Oil Minister Rafael



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Ramirez said the state oil company should be able to "restart operations in a maximum of two days." "We have sufficient supplies... in the entire country, and our production at the maximum to deal with any situation in our domestic market," Mr Ramirez said. "In that sense, we won't have major effects." An official of the state oil company, Petroleos de Venezuela SA, said the country also has enough supplies on hand to guarantee its international supply commitments. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorised to speak publicly about the matter. The blast occurred about 1:15am local time when a gas leak created a cloud that ignited, Mr Ramirez said. An adjacent National Guard post was severely damaged by the blast, along with nearby homes, he added. "That gas generated a cloud that later exploded and has caused fires in at least two tanks of the refinery and surrounding areas," Mr Ramirez said. "The blast wave was of a significant magnitude." Images in the early hours after the explosion showed the flames casting an orange glow against the night sky. One photograph showed an injured man being wheeled away on a stretcher. "The areas that had to be evacuated were evacuated," Falcon state Governor Stella Lugo said on television, according to the state-run Venezuelan News Agency. "The situation is controlled. Of course there's still a fire rising very high, but ... the specialists tell me there is no risk of another explosion." Mr Ramirez said a panel of investigators was being formed to find out the cause of the gas leak. A prosecutor also was appointed to lead the investigation. Troops were deployed to the area. Mr Ramirez said that nine storage tanks were damaged. He said supplies of fuel had been cut off to part of the refinery, and that the fire had been brought under control, though the flames continued to burn up fuel in some of the tanks. Firefighters were using foam to extinguish the flames in one of the remaining tanks, Mr Ramirez said. "This regrettable and sad event is controlled, is under control," Mr Ramirez said on television, while plumes of smoke continued to rise from the refinery. Amuay is part of the Paraguana Refinery Complex, which also includes the adjacent Cardon refinery. Together, the two refineries process about 900,000 barrels of crude per day and 200,000 barrels of gasoline. Venezuela is a major supplier of oil to the US and a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. While the cause of yesterday's disaster remained unclear, some critics of President Hugo Chavez's government have recently pointed to increasing numbers of smaller accidents and spills as an indication of problems within the state-run company known as PDVSA. "This tragedy is probably the worst one the oil industry has had in many years. Accidents happen, of course, although the problem with PDVSA is the inordinate amount of accidents that have taken place during the last years," said Gustavo Coronel, an energy consultant and former executive of PDVSA. Considering that record overall, Mr Coronel said, "we are not talking about bad luck but about lack of maintenance and inept management." Deadly accidents also occurred in Venezuela's oil and natural gas industry in the past. In 1993, a natural gas pipeline exploded beneath a highway in Las Tejerias, engulfing a passenger bus and cars. Officials said 36 people were killed. Yesterday morning, Mr Ramirez said the explosion occurred in an area of the refinery where storage tanks are located. On television, he showed an aerial map of the rows of tanks where the flames raged. "All of the events happened very quickly," he said. "When we got here in the middle of the night, at 3 or 3:30 in the morning, the fire was at its peak."

#### Related Links

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A huge explosion rocked Venezuela's biggest oil refinery and unleashed a ferocious fire on Saturday, killing at least 26 people and injuring more than 80 others in one of the deadliest disasters ever to hit the country's key oil...
- [At least 26 dead in Venezuelan refinery blast](#)  
An explosion at Venezuela's biggest oil refinery has killed at least 26 people and injured more than 50 others in the nation's worst industrial accident in recent memory. Venezuelan state TV showed footage of flames and billowing clouds of smoke coming from...
- [Explosion kills 26 at Venezuela refinery](#)  
Fire is seen after an explosion at Amuay oil refinery in Punto Fijo, in the Peninsula of Paraguana August 25, 2012. A large gas explosion shook Venezuela's biggest refinery, the 645,000-barrels-per-day Amuay facility, killing 19 people before dawn on...

<http://www.news.com.au/news/refinery-blast-kills-7-injures-dozens/story-fnejlrpu-1226458175994>

**UPDATE 3: VENEZUELA, PUNTO FIJO, AUGUST 26 2012. REFINERY BLAST KILLS 39 IN VENEZUELA, DOZENS HURT**

*jorge rueda reported from punto fijo & ian james from caracas*



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A huge explosion rocked Venezuela's biggest oil refinery and unleashed a ferocious fire on Saturday, killing at least 39 people and injuring more than 80 others in one of the deadliest disasters ever to hit the country's key oil industry. Balls of fire rose over the Amuay refinery, among the largest in the world, in video posted on the Internet by people who were nearby at the time. Government officials pledged to restart the refinery within two days and said the country has plenty of fuel supplies on hand to meet domestic needs as well as its export commitments. The explosion shattered walls of nearby shops, ripped out windows from homes and left the surrounding streets covered with rubble and twisted scraps of metal. President Hugo Chavez declared three days of mourning and ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the explosion. "This affects all of us," Chavez said by phone on state television. "It's very sad, very painful." Vice President Elias Jaua, who traveled to the area in western Venezuela, said on state television late Saturday that at least 39 people were killed by the explosion, up from the earlier death toll of 26. He said that the dead included 18 National Guard troops and that six of the bodies had not yet been identified. Other officials said earlier that the dead included a 10-year-old boy. In a neighborhood next to the refinery, shopkeeper Yolimar Romero said she was at her computer when a shock wave swept over the area shortly after 1 a.m. "At that instant, the whole house shook as if it were an earthquake," she said. "The windows went flying off with their frames and everything." Electricity was knocked out, leaving Romero in the dark and her house filled with smoke. She found a flashlight and started looking for her husband and three children. Outside on the street, the family saw scattered hunks of brick walls and ruins of a National Guard post and about 20 other homes. Bodies were being pulled from buildings down the street. At least 86 people were injured, nine of them seriously, Health Minister Eugenia Sader said at a hospital where the wounded were taken. She said 77 people suffered light injuries and were released. Flames reaching nearly 100 feet into the night air still crackled almost 20 hours after the explosion occurred, giving off searing heat felt by the residents of the neighborhood located approximately 1,000 feet from the refinery. "This does not seem to be getting any better, I see and feel more and more flames," said Francisco Rojas, a 29-year-old taxi driver from the neighborhood as he loaded some of his belongings into a truck. "I have a young daughter and my wife, and we don't want to take the risk of dying here," Rojas added. Officials said firefighters had largely controlled the fire at the refinery on the Paraguana Peninsula, where flames were still visible on Saturday night after billowing dark smoke all day. The blast occurred about 1:15 a.m. when a natural gas leak created a cloud that ignited, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said. "That gas generated a cloud that later exploded and has caused fires in at least two tanks of the refinery and surrounding areas," Ramirez said. Images shortly after the explosion showed the flames casting an orange glow against the night sky, and injured survivors on a stretcher and in a wheelchair. The bloodied bodies of victims were loaded onto pickup trucks. Ramirez said a panel of investigators was being formed to determine the cause of the gas leak. A prosecutor was appointed to lead the investigation and troops were deployed to the area. While the cause of the disaster remains unclear, some oil workers and critics of Chavez's government have recently pointed to increasing numbers of smaller accidents and spills as an indication of problems within the state-run company. "We warned that something was going to happen, a catastrophic event," said Ivan Freitas, secretary general of a 1,200-member union of oil and natural gas industry workers in Falcon state where the refinery is located. He spoke in a telephone interview from an area near the refinery, where he could see the flames raging in the distance. The refinery complex's general manager, Jesus Luongo, denied that a lack of maintenance was to blame, saying in the past three years more than \$6 billion has been invested in maintaining the country's refineries. Ramirez said the explosion hit an area of storage tanks, damaging nine tanks. "All of the events happened very quickly," Ramirez said. "When we got here in the middle of the night, at 3 or 3:30 in the morning, the fire was at its peak." The oil minister said that supplies of fuel had been cut off to part of the refinery and that firefighters were using foam to extinguish the flames in one of the remaining tanks. "This regrettable and sad event is controlled, is under control," Ramirez said on television, while plumes of smoke continued to billow. Amuay is part of the Paraguana Refinery Complex, which also includes the adjacent Cardon refinery. Together, the two refineries process about 900,000 barrels of crude per day and 200,000 barrels of gasoline. Venezuela is a major supplier of oil to the U.S. and a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Ramirez said the state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA should be able to "restart operations in a maximum of two days." "We want to tell the country that we have sufficient inventories of fuel. We have 10 days of inventory of fuel," Ramirez said. He said the country's other refineries were operating at full capacity and would be able to "deal with any situation in our domestic market." An official of the state oil company, known as PDVSA, said the country also has enough supplies on hand to guarantee its international supply commitments. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the matter. In terms of international oil markets, the disaster is not likely to cause much of a ripple, said Jason Schenker, an energy analyst and president of Austin, Texas-based Prestige Economics LLC. Noting that other refinery accidents and shutdowns regularly occur around the world, he said: "There's likely to be relatively



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limited impact on global crude or product pricing." "The real tragedy," he said, "is that these events continue to happen, not just in Venezuela but everywhere. It is a dangerous business." Gustavo Coronel, an energy consultant and former PDVSA executive, called the tragedy "probably the worst one the oil industry has had in many years." "Accidents happen, of course, although the problem with PDVSA is the inordinate amount of accidents that have taken place during the last years," Coronel said. Considering the overall record, "we are not talking about bad luck but about lack of maintenance and inept management," he said. The labor leader Freitas, who has worked at the refinery for 29 years, said workers had repeatedly alerted state oil company officials to problems that they feared could lead to an accident. "We've been complaining about problems and risks, including fires, broken pipes and a lack of spare parts," Freitas said. One opposition group comprised of former PDVSA employees, Gente del Petroleo, or Oil People, said it could not yet pass judgment on the cause of the explosion. But it but noted there had been ample concerns about lack of maintenance and poor management. The group said in a statement that since 2003, 79 other serious accidents have been reported at the Paraguana Refinery Complex, collectively killing a total of 19 workers and injuring 67 others. Opposition leader Henrique Capriles, who is challenging Chavez in the country's Oct. 7 presidential election, expressed condolences to the victims and their families. "We Venezuelans are one, and we grow in the face of this type of situations," Capriles said.

<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2012/08/26/official-refinery-blast-kills-7-in-venezuela>

#### USA, LA, HARVEY, AUGUST 26 2012. MAN MIXING CHEMICALS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

Authorities say a 37-year-old man was killed by an explosion as he mixed chemicals at a biodiesel plant in Harvey. State Fire Marshal Butch Browning tells The Times-Picayune that the man and another employee were mixing sulfuric acid and methanol, which presumably led to the explosion Friday at Gold Leaf Energy. The man's identity hasn't been released, but authorities say he is from Gonzalez. The other employee suffered minor injuries. Browning says two nearby vehicles caught fire and were totaled and a nearby metal warehouse also was damaged. The refinery opened in 2011. The company makes biodiesel for commercial clients and for film production, according to its website.

<http://www.thenewsstar.com/article/20120825/NEWS01/120825017/Man-mixing-chemicals-killed-explosion?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

#### USA, MD, PORT DEPOSIT, AUGUST 26 2012. ONE DEAD, AS TANKER TRUCK CARRYING PROPANE CRASHES, BURNS IN PORT DEPOSIT

erika butler, marissa gallo & allan vought

 **Watch the Video**

- [Fiery Fuel Tanker Crash Kills 1](#)
- [Driver Killed In Propane Tanker Explosion](#)



Flames shoot skyward after tanker truck carrying propane crashed and burned at the bottom of a steep hill going into Port Deposit Friday night. The driver was killed.

A tractor trailer carrying a load of propane crashed and became engulfed by fire in [Port Deposit](#) Friday night. [Maryland State Police](#) said the truck driver, a Maryland man, was killed. Fire companies from Harford and Cecil counties responded to the scene of the crash around 9 p.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Route 222, where there is a sweeping curve on a steep hill coming west from I-95 into the town, which sits along the shore of the Susquehanna River. One person who was driving down the hill on Route 222 within an instant of the crash, said she heard several loud booms that sounded like explosions and saw a fireball shooting into the air. Sgt. Joseph Comer, night duty officer at the Maryland State Police North East Barrack, said the driver of the truck was pronounced dead at the scene. Comer said the dead man has been identified as Brandon Logan, 45, of [Windsor Mill](#). The truck is owned by Coraluzzo Trucking Company of Vineland, N.J. He also said no other vehicles were involved and no other injuries had been reported. "The truck flipped over and caught fire," he added. The fire was brought under



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control before midnight; however, at about 6:20 a.m. Saturday, Comer said Route 222 and the south end of Main Street remained blocked off and power had not been restored in the area of the accident, where poles and power lines had been knocked down by the truck. The road was still closed late Saturday morning. According to Comer, the truck had been removed by a wrecker before 6 a.m. The fire from the truck did not spread to nearby buildings, despite earlier reports to the contrary, Comer said. Late Saturday afternoon, however, the town's mayor said one house on Main Street had partially collapsed as a result of the accident. "Things are getting back to normal," Mayor Wayne Tome Sr. said late Saturday afternoon, as he was helping to shore up the damaged structure. "Utilities are still being restored." Tome said he was glad no civilians were hurt and appreciates the efforts by people who helped out. The place where the crash occurred is at the bottom of a steep hill where Route 222 makes a sweeping curve north to become Main Street, which then runs through the town parallel to the east shore of the Susquehanna River. The truck took down utility poles and lines and a streetlight pole before it ended up in an open area between the road and the [Norfolk Southern](#) Railroad's Perryville to [Harrisburg](#), Pa., freight line, which also parallels the river. Photographs taken Saturday morning showed bits of wreckage remained, and marker paint lines had been sprayed on the ground around where the truck burned. Poles and wires were still down, although trains were running again after being kept out of the area following the crash, according to State Police. Delmarva Power spokesman Bill Yingling said 148 customers lost power as a result of the accident. As of 1:30 p.m. Saturday, all but three customers had their power restored, Yingling said late Saturday afternoon. The majority had their power back by 4 a.m., he added. Work still needs to be done on some of the damaged electrical transmission equipment, before power is restored to the remaining customers, Yingling said. Jay Apperson, spokesperson for the Maryland Department of the Environment, said Saturday morning that the department's emergency response division went to the site and found there was "extremely minimal environmental impact, limited to the burn site. A person who answered the telephone at Coraluzzo Trucking's offices in New Jersey Saturday morning said there was no one around on the weekends to give a statement. Fire companies responding to the fire included Water Witch Fire Company of Port Deposit and Community Fire Company of Perryville responded from [Cecil County](#), according to Cecil Fire Blog. Level Volunteer Fire Company, Darlington Volunteer Fire Company, Susquehanna Hose Company of [Havre de Grace](#) and [Aberdeen](#) Fire Department, all from [Harford County](#), also send personnel and equipment to Port Deposit, according to Rich Gardiner, spokesperson for the Harford County Fire and Ambulance Association. [Dave Williams](#), another spokesperson for the Harford association, said around 11:10 p.m. Friday that some of the Harford units were already returning. Tammy Fitzgerald, who lives on Main Street in Port Deposit, didn't see the crash, but she and her husband were coming into town within minutes, seconds even, of it happening. "It was bad, real bad," Fitzgerald said around midnight Friday. "We were coming down [Route] 222 into town. There were two pickup trucks ahead of us that stopped," Fitzgerald, who was driving, said. "I saw lights, but I thought maybe something happened and [fire] trucks were already down there. The closer we got I could hear a boom." The driver front of them turned around and said, "It's bad, it's bad," she said. Fitzgerald, who works for the Harford County State's Attorney's Office at the Family Justice Center in [Bel Air](#), said she stood there for a minute then wondered if anyone had called 911 and decided to call herself. She said she started to go down Route 222 to where it meets Main Street at the curve and that's when she realized there was fire. "It was a gigantic fireball. Flames were going up the sides of the radio tower on the corner. As I came around the curve, I heard two more booms and realized the power lines were on fire," she said. There is a house and trailer on the corner of the curve. Fitzgerald and her husband thought they were empty, but they weren't 100 percent sure and wanted to be able to help if someone was living in either. Her husband was going down toward the homes through weeds and along a tree line to stay as far away from fire as he could, she said. Another man who was ahead of her husband was running back up the hill yelling "go, go, go," she said. "As my husband started back up hill, I heard the biggest explosion that I had heard up to that point," Fitzgerald said. "I actually could feel the heat off that one. My husband said in the moment he thought he was a goner." That was about the time they saw the first emergency vehicle responding. "It's so incredibly sad for whoever was in that truck, if he really didn't get out," she said. As Fitzgerald and her husband were heading back to their van, another tanker truck was coming down the hill, and all they could think of was that they had to stop it before it ran "down around the curve and into the huge fire," whose flames she said had to be at least three stories in the air. Having just gone through an eerily similar experience not 10 days earlier, Fitzgerald was concerned about getting to her house, so after warning several cars not to go into town, she and her husband turned around to try and get back into town on Route 276, "before they shut everyone down." "It's so bizarre for all this to happen in such a short period of time. People drive way too fast, just way too fast. You're coming down that hill on 222 at Main at the marina. At least several times a week someone is coming in my lane around that curve," she said. "I hope all the firefighters are OK. It's going to a long night for them again," she added. As both power and phone service were out along Main Street, and police had told her they didn't



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know how long it would be out, Fitzgerald said she and her husband were going to a hotel in Aberdeen. Harford County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti was having dinner with her boyfriend at a restaurant on Main Street when the lights went out in the restaurant. "I thought it was a normal power outage," Lisanti, who lives on the opposite side of the river in Havre de Grace, said Saturday morning. Soon, the wait staff was putting candles on the tables. "About that time someone came in and said a house was on fire down the street," she said. Lisanti and her boyfriend went outside to have a look and were in disbelief at what they saw. "It was the most enormous red ball of fire, a horrific ball of fire," she said. "It was shooting four stories into the air and not just straight up, but from the dies." More people began pouring out from the restaurants and stood around Main Street watching the fire. "It was one of those situations, just by the nature of the colors and intensity of the heat, I know it wasn't a regular house fire," Lisanti said. The councilwoman and other patrons began spreading the word that there was a dangerous situation and everyone should get out of the area. While on the scene, Lisanti's boyfriend said he could tell it was a propane fire. He told everyone to stay back and clear the area, she said. A few good Samaritans were getting people out of restaurants, as the town was still pitch dark, and others directed traffic to clear the way for emergency vehicles and get people out safely, Lisanti said. Amid the craziness, most people kept their composure and didn't panic, she added. "I've been in a lot of emergency situations," Lisanti said. "You react. You don't panic. My instinct was to make sure everyone around me was safe and recognized the presence of danger." Friday's night's crash occurred along the same street where another tanker, also carrying propane, went out of control on the steep hill coming down Route 272 on Aug. 14 and overturned at Main Street, before striking the corner of a waterfront condominium building. The truck driver was injured and the building was damaged, but emergency personnel were able to avert an explosion and no one else was injured. The potential danger posed by accidents involving heavy trucks, as well as trains, many carrying hazardous materials, is a situation Port Deposit's 700 residents have long learned to accept as a condition of living there. The town sits along a narrow area between the river shore and a steep bluff to the east, with a major freight railroad line and a state highway running through it from end to end. As far as accident concerns on the particularly dangerous stretch of road where Friday's accident occurred, Tome says the town has "done what we can." The town has "lobbied the state successfully," regarding speed limits, traffic signs warning of the dangerous conditions and attempting to get law enforcement aware of speeding commercial vehicles, the mayor explained. The problem, he believes, is that drivers are "not adhering to the signage." "We encourage everybody to have awareness," Tome said. He added that the railroad was still waiting to have power restored along a portion of its tracks and the town had allowed it to connect to the town's maintenance building for some temporary service to operate signals and other equipment. The mayor also predicted everything would be back to normal by Sunday.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/explore/harford/news/ph-ag-port-deposit-truck-fire-0829,0,4583156,full.story>

### CHINA, SHAANXI PROVINCE, YAN'AN CITY. AUGUST 26 2012. DOUBLE-DECKER BUS COLLIDES WITH METHANOL-LADEN TANKER IN CHINA, KILLING 36, ONLY 3 SURVIVE

 **Photo's [3]** [At Least 36 Killed in NW China Road Accident](#)

A double-decker sleeper bus rammed into a tanker loaded with highly-flammable methanol on a northern Chinese highway early Sunday, causing both vehicles to burst into flames and killing 36 people, state media said. The official Xinhua News Agency said 39 people were on the long distance sleeper bus when it crashed and only three survived. The survivors were hospitalized, it said, but didn't say what condition they were in. The tanker had just returned to the highway after an early morning rest stop when it was apparently rear-ended by the bus at around 2:40 a.m. close to the city of Yan'an in Shaanxi province, the official China News website said. The bus had left Hohhot in Inner Mongolia at 5 p.m. Saturday and was headed south to Xi'an city, it said. Xinhua news photos showed the charred metal skeleton of the bus rammed up against the back of the tanker. An official with the local Communist Party propaganda bureau in Yan'an confirmed that the crash occurred but was unable to give details and was unsure of the death toll. Road safety is a serious problem in China. According to Xinhua, poorly maintained roads and bad driving habits result in about 70,000 deaths and 300,000 injuries a year. Copyright 2012 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/double-decker-bus-collides-with-methane-laden-tanker-in-china-killing-28/2012/08/25/3db1d152-ef24-11e1-b624-99dee49d8d67\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/double-decker-bus-collides-with-methane-laden-tanker-in-china-killing-28/2012/08/25/3db1d152-ef24-11e1-b624-99dee49d8d67_story.html)



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