



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2012 – 901 Newsy Stuff

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

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USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 1 2012. DIESEL 'BUCKET BRIGADE' KEEPS PEER 1 ONLINE AT 75 BROAD

rich mille



Teams from Squarespace fill buckets with diesel fuel to haul them up 17 stories to the generator keeping the data center online. Staff from Peer 1, Squarespace and Fog Creek Software have formed this unusual Internet bucket brigade.

A determined team of employees of Peer 1 Hosting, blog host Squarespace and Fog Creek Software have formed a "bucket brigade" to relay 5-gallon buckets of diesel fuel up 17 flights of stairs at 75 Broad Street to refuel a generator providing emergency power to the Peer 1 data center. It is a decidedly low-tech, brute-force solution to the challenges at 75 Broad, the hobbled data center building in Lower Manhattan. Strong arms and strong backs are replacing fuel pumps that normally bring diesel from tanks in the basement to the upper floors of the building, where the backup generators are providing emergency power to keep the servers online in the Peer 1 data center. Those pumps shut down yesterday when the storm surge from Hurricane Sandy flooded the basement levels of 75 Broad, rendering the pumps unusable. Peer 1 initially planned for a "controlled shutdown" at 10:45 a.m. While the generators chugged on past that point, the company and its customers developed an alternate plan - "We have 25 people stationed throughout the building to relay more fuel to the roof once it arrives," Squarespace reported on its [status blog](#). "The building now has powerful pumps clearing out the basement, which we hope will expose the main pump lines —

which would allow us fuel for days. Hopefully our manual efforts, joined with the building, can see us through. ..." "Spirits are strong and everyone from Peer1, Fog Creek, and Squarespace is working together." Squarespace acknowledges the effort is "not sustainable" over the long haul. Both Peer 1 and Internap are working on long-term solutions should the pumping and repairs require extended time. But the bucket brigade reflects an unusual physical embodiment of the depth of commitment to keep data centers online, come what may.

Update: As of 1 p.m. Eastern the generator's day tank was full, allowing the bucket brigade to take a 90-minute break. But little progress was being made on long-term resolutions. "The building's first attempt at an alternative method for pumping fuel to the 18th floor has failed, as the fuel pump wasn't powerful enough," Squarespace [reports](#). "They believe they have sourced an alternate pump, but given the situation in New York City right now, we're in a wait-and-see posture. Fuel- and water-pumps are in short supply." Perhaps more problematic is the stats report on the flooding. "The basement is not draining at all either, despite the large pumps that were brought in late last night. DEP and ConEd have been here for a few hours. They fear a water main has ruptured somewhere and is pushing water (and other stuff) into our basement as we pump it out. This is pure speculation at this point."

<http://www.datacenterknowledge.com/archives/2012/10/31/peer-1-mobilizes-diesel-bucket-brigade-at-75-broad/>

USA, WI, JEFFERSON, NOVEMBER 1 2012. RIVER RETURNING TO NORMAL AFTER SPILL

steve sharp

It appears a diesel fuel spill that occurred Oct. 22 in the Rock River at Jefferson has been, for the most part, remediated and the river is returning to normal. According to Jefferson City Administrator Tim Freitag, fuel-collecting booms placed at various points in the river as it runs through Jefferson were removed as of Friday and Mike Schmoller, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources spill-response coordinator, said the river appears to have returned to its original state. "I think it's fine," Schmoller said today of the condition of the Rock at Jefferson. "We had lines of booms out the evening of the spill to collect fuel oil that was spread out, and in addition, we put some booms at different spots along the river near the highway fuel oil storage tanks. We had some booms up there that may collect some runoff over the long term and those were taken out last week Friday. So having been in the water that long, they collected what they could collect." Schmoller said persons performing remediation didn't gather a large volume of product, but there is no longer residue in the river from the original spill. An undetermined amount of diesel fuel found its way to the east bank of the Rock River at the county highway department shop Oct. 22, where it entered the water. The source of the spill is believed to have been an overflow of a diesel tank at the highway department. Meffert Oil Company of Waunakee is being held responsible for the spill. The fuel migrated to the river with the



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Jefferson Fire Department working on initial containment. Environmental services company Enbridge of Fort Atkinson was called to help. Three fuel collection booms were placed across the Rock River from the north down to the wastewater treatment plant to the south and below. A fuel sheen could be seen on the water the night of the spill and afterward, accompanied by a strong odor. Schmoller said he doesn't think the spill affected fish or wildlife. "We don't think there was a lot in there in terms of fish species anyway," he said. "That was a question I had of our warden from that area and he didn't see any dead fish. The spill was on the surface and not overly toxic, so I don't think there were any fish or birds harmed," Schmoller said there is likely some contaminated soil near the parking lot of the highway department and there is probably some fuel residue in soil at that location. "We have done some soil testing there and there will have to be some contaminated soil removed," he said. Schmoller said Meffert Oil and the Jefferson County Highway Department are coordinating the final stages of cleanup and will likely be sharing the cost. Schmoller said he is responsible for enforcing the cleanup. "In the future, if there is more impact, the responsibility of enforcement would fall on me," Schmoller said. "Right now, we have a warden out there (who is watching the situation) and I may go out there to take a look at the soil digging that will be occurring. I have a good idea of what is going on." Schmoller said the volume of the spill is unknown. "We have not heard how much was spilled," he said. "We have no handle on that right now. (Meffert Oil and the county) are still trying to reconcile their records about volume." Schmoller said the spill will probably not have a measurable impact on the river or the overall environment in the long run. "It's a little bigger than usual in terms of such a spill in a comparable area. On a scale of one to 10, with 10 being an environmental disaster, it's about a two or three," he said. Freitag said today that with the slick having dissipated to the point of not being visible, the city will be attempting to recapture its costs for the cleanup. "The city has expenses for which it will certainly attempt to obtain reimbursement," Freitag said. "We had persons for response and we used considerable absorbent material." Freitag acknowledged the spill could have been much worse. "And I appreciate the fire department's response, and the responses of fire Chief Ron Wegner and police Chief Gary Bleecker," he said. "Something like this is never an easy task on a cold, dark, foggy evening and it was midnight when the collective booms were stretched across the water, and I appreciate everyone's quick response." Jefferson County Highway Commissioner Bill Kern told the Daily Times the highway department is simply awaiting results of DNR soil testing at its highway shop site. "The (residual) fuel that is there is in a small area on land near the river," Kern said. "The DNR has requested soil samples and they make the decision if any soil needs removal. We are waiting for word on that. We don't know how big this all is. As I see it, the area we are talking about measures probably 50 feet wide and maybe 200 feet down to the river. That is the area in which they pulled soil samples." Kern said there is no defined timeline for cleanup of the spill to occur on the county's property. "Right now we are waiting on the DNR and expecting results this week," he said of the next steps in the remediation process. "In the first three days after the spill, (those performing remediation) felt they captured everything and now we are just waiting on soil sample results to see if anything needs removal." Officials involved in the matter said they are hoping to find out just how much fuel was spilled. "We will sit down with the company that came in to do the cleanup and try to put what they have found together with our information and then come up with something (in terms of the volume of the spill)," Kern said. Kern said in the county's view, the cost of cleanup will likely be shouldered by Meffert Oil Company and the driver who allowed the spill to occur. "Meffert has been cooperative," Kern said. "I won't get into the details about this because there is still information being exchanged, but Meffert took responsibility last week for the spill and they started working with the cleanup crews and the DNR to make sure things are taken care of. They have been working to get to the end of the process." Kern also said he was thankful for the quick responses of the Jefferson Fire Department and Wegner, who he said were "very proactive." "They made the call that night of the spill to get the booms out there and the fuel was captured," Kern said. "They did a really good job and I think we were very successful at addressing what got into the river."

http://www.wdtimes.com/news/local/article_119c1abc-2379-11e2-b542-001a4bcf887a.html

USA, IN, INDIANAPOLIS, NOVEMBER 1 2012. HAZMAT CALLED TO ACID LEAK ON WEST SIDE

Metro hazardous materials handlers were called to a Rolls-Royce facility early Thursday morning for an acid spill. Only 12 people were working at the facility on Fortune Circle South shortly after Midnight. None were hurt, but they did evacuate while the spill was contained. According to Lt. Troy Wymer, the Wayne Township Fire spokesman at the scene, a valve failed, causing three types of acid to mix in an aluminum drum, and eat through the drum. That's when employees called 911. A possible explosion of hydrogen gas was a concern, but the hazmat team contained the spill and neutralized the threat with soda ash. No neighboring businesses, including motels in the area, were threatened.

<http://www.wthr.com/story/19970748/hazmat-called-to-acid-leak-on-west-side>



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MEXICO, JUAREZ, NOVEMBER 1 2012. TRUCK TRANSPORTING NATURAL GAS EXPLODES IN JUAREZ NEIGHBORHOOD

loreña figueroa

Juárez city officials are investigating the explosion of a truck that was transporting natural gas at the Rincón del Valle neighborhood. The incident was reported around 1:30 p.m. at the intersection of Jurica and Avándaro streets in the northeast part of the city. The explosion was the result of a mechanical failure on the security valve of the gas tank, according to preliminary reports. Authorities said that at the time of the explosion, the gas tank was about 60 percent full. The truck and three cars parked on the street were burned and the exterior of at least one house was damaged.

No injuries were reported.

http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-news/ci_21891446/truck-transporting-natural-gas-explodes-juarez-neighborhood

PORTUGAL, ALGARVE, NOVEMBER 1 2012. EXPLOSIONS TEAR THROUGH WARSHIP OFF COAST OF THE ALGARVE AS VESSEL IS SUNK TO BECOME A DIVING SITE FOR TOURISTS

 **Watch the Video** [The sinking of the Oliveira e Carmo Corvette](#)

 **Photo's [6]** [Explosions Tear Through Warship off Portugal](#)

- Ageing corvette is blown up three miles off the Portuguese mainland
- Ship is one of four sunk in area to provide diving sites and an artificial reef
- Engineers fill vessel with hundreds of tons of concrete to ensure it settles in right position on sea bed



Professional: Four 'cutting explosives,' imported from the United States, were placed inside the old ship as part of its carefully planned sinking.

As huge blasts lit up the sky above the stricken warship you could be forgiven for thinking you were watching a scene from a Second World War naval battle. But thankfully no shots were fired in anger when this former Portuguese Navy corvette was sunk by a team of engineers off the coast of the Algarve. The Oliveira e Carmo, is one of four former warships that will serve as an artificial reef and diving site to attract more visitors to the area as part of the Ocean Revival Project. A team of specialists had filled the 86m long vessel with 'cutting' explosives which would send it safely to the bottom of the sea about three miles off of Alvor, in the southern Algarve. The equipment was imported from the US and put in place by a team from Canadian Artificial Reef (CAR)

Consulting, who specialise in this type of work. The group has previously sunk

ships as artificial reefs in other parts of the world, including off the coast of Spain, New Zealand and Australia. The vessel had been carefully filled with 220 tons of concrete before it was sunk to ensure it came to rest in the correct position. Sinking ships for use as diving sites is a skilled process aimed at making them as safe as possible for use by people and for the marine environment. Ships are purged of oils, hydraulic fluids, and other dangerous chemicals and much of their superstructure is removed. The inside of ships are normally gutted of all parts that corrode quickly, and would be dangerous to divers if they came loose. Some parts can be sold for scrap including materials such as copper wiring.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2225825/Explosions-tear-warship-coast-Algarve-vessel-sunk-diving-site-tourists.html>

USA, N.Y, KINGSTON, NOVEMBER 1 2012. KINGSTON'S RONDOUT CREEK STAINED BY FUEL OIL SPILL

paul kirby

 **Watch the Video** [Kingston N.Y Oil Spill](#)

Cleanup crews were at the banks of the Rondout Creek on Wednesday, mopping up fuel oil that apparently leaked from a nearby building, according to a city official. Fire Chief John Reinhardt said initial reports indicated water had ruptured a 265-gallon heating fuel tank in a building along the creek. Reinhardt said the state Department of Environmental Conservation was at the scene conducting the cleanup. A fire dispatcher said the building was located at 50 North St., which is near where the Rondout empties into the Hudson River. Reinhardt said that "in no way, shape or form" was the spill major. But Capt. Dave Thompson, who works on a boat docked near the Hudson River Maritime Museum, and Dan Shapley, of the environmental



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group Riverkeeper, said they believe an oil slick from another, unknown source blanketed the Rondout Creek early in Hurricane Sandy's assault on the area. Thompson said he noticed a 100-yard slick about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday and that it appeared to be fuel oil. Some of the oil, he said, remained at the bank of the creek near the Maritime Museum on Wednesday. Shapley said he does not believe that oil came from the North Street building.

<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/articles/2012/11/01/news/doc5091deccd8af3898550534.txt>

USA, FLA, DELEON SPRINGS, NOVEMBER 1 2012. LAWSUIT COULD DELAY CLEANUP OF DELEON SPRINGS GASOLINE CONTAMINATION



In Progress — In March, an auger drills to remove soil from the Perez site along U.S. Highway 17 in DeLeon Springs. That work was completed in March. Now, the next phase of cleanup, around and under the highway, may be delayed due to a legal dispute between the contractor and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Cleanup of gasoline contamination in DeLeon Springs has been progressing slowly, and has now hit another snag. Work to remove gasoline and perhaps old gas tanks buried under U.S. Highway 17, scheduled for this summer, in 2013, may be postponed as the result of a lawsuit. Universal Solutions, the company that's been doing the cleanup, filed suit against the [Florida Department of Environmental Protection \(FDEP\)](#), seeking control of the cleanup under the highway. "It's a dispute over who's going to do the work," [Universal Solutions](#) attorney Bob Fingar said. Petroleum contamination at the Valero site at 5145 North U.S. Highway 17 was first ordered in June 1988, and the cleanup was deemed a high priority by the FDEP. A plume of gasoline contamination migrated at least 400 feet westward, toward the springs, less than a mile away. In the 1980s, the station was a Fina Express, owned by Acree Oil Company, and Walter M. Acree was identified as the responsible party. He designated Universal Solutions as the contractor to perform cleanup activities, as was specified under the rules, the complaint states. The site has been sold a couple

of times, and is now a Valero station. Acree still has liability, and still has the right to determine who the contractor is, Fingar said. The state is now paying for the cleanup under a state Early Detection Incentive, which granted amnesty to Acree and other owners of contaminated sites. The state designated the Valero site as an imminent threat in 2008, endangering the springs, about a mile away, and nearby residents. Universal Solutions performed the cleanup at the Valero station, completed in 2009, and at the Perez property across the street in August. The company first submitted a proposal to FDEP for the cleanup work on and around U.S. Highway 17 in the vicinity of the Valero station, just south of Louise S. McInnis Elementary School, a few years ago, Fingar said. Then, in October 2011, Universal Solutions submitted to FDEP a scope of work, traffic-management plan, and cost proposal for the Highway 17 cleanup. "FDEP has ignored it," Fingar said. Instead, Universal Solutions learned, FDEP issued a request for statement of qualifications from other cleanup contractors to do the work, and this is outside the scope of FDEP's authority, the suit alleges. While Universal Solutions is state-certified, but not a Department of Transportation-certified contractor, neither are the other contractors FDOT is considering, Fingar said. Any contractor hired to manage the project will have to use FDOT-qualified subcontractors, and, "Universal Solutions is perfectly amenable to that," Fingar said. The company "has a clear legal right to enter into work orders with FDEP to perform the work," the complaint states, and Universal Solutions is asking a judge to order FDEP to cooperate. FDEP attorney Chris McGuire has a different take on the issue. The department is not required to work with the contractor, he said. While there is a policy guidance that says a property owner can designate a state-qualified contractor to supervise cleanup, there is not a rule or law that says the Department of Environmental Protection must work with a particular contractor. "We often don't," McGuire said. In this case, the contractor will work on a Department of Transportation-controlled road, and must be approved by that department. So far, the Department of Transportation hasn't indicated which contractors it might approve. "If we pick someone they don't like, DOT doesn't have to let them on-site," McGuire said. Even if Universal Solutions doesn't prevail in the lawsuit, FDEP may still work with them, he said. Fingar said he hopes the matter can be settled and the work done next summer. There have already



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been several postponements. "We realize there's a scheduling issue with the school, and we'll do it when it's most convenient for DOT as well," he said.

<http://www.beacononlinenews.com/news/daily/5414>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY, NOVEMBER 2 2012. CALTEX'S KURNELL REFINERY OPERATING NORMALLY AFTER 'SMALL' FIRE

ramsey al-rikabi

[Caltex Australia Ltd](#), the nation's biggest oil refiner, said its Kurnell refinery in New South Wales is operating normally after a "small" fire was quickly extinguished. A wooden scaffold plank caught fire this evening after it made contact with a hot surface, the company said today in an e- mailed statement. There were no injuries and no impact on any units or production, it said. Kurnell is one of two plants that Caltex operates in [Australia](#).

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-01/caltex-s-kurnell-refinery-operating-normally-after-small-fire.html>

USA, MINN, FARMINGTON, NOVEMBER 2 2012. EMPEY FACES FOUR CHARGES IN DIESEL SPILL

michelle leonard

A Castle Rock man will appear in Dakota County court this month to face charges stemming from a diesel spill in the Vermillion River. Cole Empey faces four different charges for operating an illegal scrap yard at the corner of Fourth and Willow Streets, and for the diesel spill that resulted from the operation of that scrap yard. The spill occurred the morning of March 21, when diesel fuel from a catch basin located on the Landscape Depot property traveled to the Vermillion River through the city's sewer system. Though the property is owned by Collin Garvey, it was being used by Empey. Originally, it was supposed to have been used for metal recycling and storage, but Empey was allegedly using the property to dismantle large vehicles and pieces of equipment. The diesel from those pieces was stored in the catch basin. Investigation at the time showed Empey was conducting the salvage work without a permit from the city of Farmington. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was called to respond to the spill, and hired an outside firm to complete the cleanup. According to assistant Dakota County attorney Kathy Keena, Empey appeared in Dakota County court where he faced charges of operating without a license or registration; public nuisance; illegal scrap yard storage; and improper scrap yard waste management. The charges were filed by the Environmental Management Department. Empey has pled not guilty to all charges. The case has now been set for jury trial, which will begin on Nov. 19. The MPCA has indicated the cost of the cleanup is \$14,348.54. Empey is being held responsible to pay those costs, as well.

<http://www.farmingtonindependent.com/event/article/id/21457/group/News/>

SAUDI ARABIA, RIYADH, NOVEMBER 2 2012. BUILDING LEVELLED IN DEADLY SAUDI TANKER BLAST >> KILLS AT LEAST 22

Map: [Saudi Arabia](#)

Watch the Video:

- [Fuel Tanker Explosion Kills at Least 22](#)
- [Saudi emergency services respond to the fuel tanker blast](#)



At least 22 people were killed when a fuel truck crashed into a flyover in the Saudi capital Riyadh, triggering an explosion that caused the collapse of an industrial building, according to local media. The Riyadh Civil Defence spokesman confirmed there were deaths from, what he called a traffic accident, involving a gas tanker that hit a bridge, causing a gas leak and an explosion in a nearby heavy machinery and vehicles warehouse. "The truck driver was surprised by a road accident on its route, causing it to crash into one of the pillars of the bridge," spokesman Captain Mohamed Hubail Hammadi said. He said the incident resulted in a "number of deaths and injuries", without giving specific details. Saudi Arabia's Al Ekhbariya television put the death toll at 22 and at least 111 wounded. The building, several storeys high, was almost levelled by the blast, with only one corner left standing. Several adjacent



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buildings were damaged and nearby vehicles, including a minibus on the flyover, caught fire, witnesses said. Television footage and pictures posted on social media showed a body lying by burnt-out vehicles and at least two charred bodies seated in a car. More than 100 emergency personnel were combing the wreckage on the flyover and searching for victims in the rubble of the building, which housed the operations of Zahid Tractor, a distributor of heavy machinery. "I was inside the building when the blast came. Then boom, the building collapsed. Furniture, chairs and cabinets blasted into the room I was in," survivor Kushnood Akhtara said. "My brother is still inside under the rubble. There are lots of people in there." Saudi Arabia is still on holiday after the Muslim Eid al-Adha feast, which began last Friday.

Related Links

- [Dozens of people wounded in the blast have been hospitalised](#)
- [Saudi Arabia: fuel tanker explosion kills at least 22](#)
- [Witnesses: Fiery explosion in Saudi capital](#)
- [22 killed in fuel tanker explosion in Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Fuel Tanker Explodes in Saudi Arabian Capital, Killing 10](#)
- [Fuel tanker explosion kills 22 in Saudi capital](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-01/riyadh-fuel-tanker-crash-kills-14-levels-building/4348284>

NEW ZEALAND, WHANGANUI, CASTLECLIFF, NOVEMBER 2 2012. WHANGANUI GAS LEAK CRITICALLY INJURES 2

talia shadwell, stacey kirk & michael forbes

Watch the Video:

- [Chemical Incident at Whanganui Leather Factory](#)
- [Two Critical after Whanganui Chemical Leak](#)



Harmful Fumes: Emergency services workers outside the Tasman Tannery factory in Whanganui, where two workers were found unconscious after inhaling toxic gas fumes.

Two tannery workers were critically ill last night after a gas leak at a Whanganui factory. The men, aged 51 and 52, were flown to Wellington Hospital late last night in a critical but stable condition, Whanganui District Health Board spokeswoman Sue Campion said. They had been exposed to hydrogen sulphide during the tanning process. Nineteen others were taken to Wanganui Hospital after also suffering the effects of the gas, but were all discharged last night. "Hydrogen sulphide can severely affect the lungs and breathing,"

Campion said. Manawatu assistant area fire commander Rodger Calder said the fire service had responded to a gas leak at the Tasman Tanning factory in Castlecliff suburb just before 5pm yesterday. Emergency services had picked up the two men unconscious. They had been overcome by gas fumes. The 19, who included tannery workers, one fireman and three St John Ambulance staff, were decontaminated on site and transported to hospital for observation, Calder said. The leak was a big one. "It depends on how much gas comes off and a lot of gas came off in this case. This is very serious and we have now got people in critical condition." The Fire Service used gas metres last night to test the atmosphere in and around the building. Senior Sergeant Darcy Forrester, of Whanganui police, said it was not known last night what caused the noxious gas, but he understood staff at the factory were carrying out a "standard procedure" when it affected the workers. The factory was not considered an environmental hazard last night, as the wind had fortunately blown the harmful fumes out towards the Whanganui River and away from the city, he said. The scene had been handed over to the Business, Innovation and Employment Ministry staff to investigate. "It's an industrial incident, so our involvement has been minimal." Linda Dowdle watched the scene unfold through the window of Castlecliff Bar and Grill, opposite the tannery where her husband works. He was on his day off but she said the couple had grave fears for a fellow factory worker who is in hospital and believed to be among those in a serious condition. Dowdle said bar patrons grew concerned when ambulances began racing past the window of the bar opposite the Tod St factory. "I actually went out to have a look and see what was going on and the fire rescue turned up and it all started happening." She was relieved her husband was not among the injured workers. Tasman Tanning produces leather products and says on its website that it is the only finished leather tannery now in New Zealand. It



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has more than 200 staff and processes and sells leather for upholstery, footwear, accessories and the aviation and marine industries worldwide. Campion said it had been a busy night at the hospital, "but staff coped admirably".

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/national-news/7900171/Wanganui-chemical-spill-injures-20>

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, KARRATHA, NOVEMBER 2 2012. \$800M BURRUP EXPLOSIVES PLANT SHELVED

nick evans

Downstream manufacturing in WA has taken another hit, with Incitec Pivot quietly dropping a proposal for a major new explosives plant on the Burrup Peninsula that could have cost as much as \$800 million. Incitec had planned a 350,000 tonne-a-year operation, next door to the Yara International-owned ammonium plant near Karratha. But this week Incitec withdrew its application for environmental approval for the proposed plant, and ended feasibility studies. The plant would have produced nitric acid and ammonium nitrate solution to supply explosives to the Pilbara's mines. But with a major expansion of Wesfarmers CSBP facility in Kwinana under way, and planning well advanced for construction of a 330,000tpa technical ammonium (TAN) plant on the Burrup by Yara International and Orica, analysts had said they did not believe there was enough demand in WA for a third manufacturer. Incitec has not released details of the probable construction cost of the Dampier Nitrogen project. It is understood capital costs could mirror Yara's \$800 million TAN plant. An Incitec spokesman yesterday confirmed it had advised State and Federal authorities that it "does not wish to proceed further with the Dampier Nitrogen ammonium nitrate project". Incitec is building a \$40 million emulsion plant in Port Hedland, capable of producing 100,000tpa of explosive emulsion to supply Pilbara customers. Rather than feed that plant from the Burrup facility, the spokesman said Incitec would retain long-term supply contracts with Wesfarmers' CSBP ammonium nitrate facility in Kwinana. First plans for the Dampier Nitrogen plant were drawn up more than a decade ago, floated by a joint venture headed by Canada's Agrium and Australia's Plenty River. The project partners fell out in 2003 and axed their plans, which were then revived when Dyno Nobel entered the consortium in 2005. Incitec inherited the project when it acquired Dyno Nobel in 2008, and filed new environmental approval proposals in early 2009. Five weeks ago Incitec shelved plans for a \$600 million ammonium nitrate plant on Kooragang Island near Newcastle, citing falling NSW demand and surging costs.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/wa/15279763/800m-burrup-explosives-plant-shelved/>

ENGLAND, MANCHESTER, SALFORD, NOVEMBER 3 2012. DISTRAUGHT MUMS DEMAND FIREWORKS BAN AFTER TWO SALFORD BOYS' FACES MELTED IN 'ONION BOMB' EXPLOSION

dean wilkins



Explosion: Boy left with severe face burns.

Two horrified mothers are demanding that fireworks are banned from the UK after their sons' faces were scorched in a violent explosion in Salford. Dale Scott, 11, was doing 'penny for a guy' with his friends outside a shop when his mum Vicky Stephenson went into another. Suddenly, Dale was blinded when an Onion Bomb exploded in his face, melting his skin and burning off his hair, eyebrows and eyelashes. At the same time of the incident, firefighters were treating a ten-year-old boy for injuries at a home on Cumbrae Gardens, Salford. Ms Stephenson said: "Fireworks should be banned. They need to stop coming into the country because they are just so dangerous. I don't know why anyone would give something so dangerous to a ten and 11-year-old. Dale is fearless and he just does whatever his mates do – but I think this will definitely

have made an impact on him. "It's half-term, he is supposed to be having fun. Now he's in hospital and he's lost all his hair – he could have lost his arm." The two injured boys are friends and had been outside a shop with another boy, thought to be aged 14, and their Guy Fawkes when Dale's mum nipped into another shop. The 43-year-old, who lives in Prestwich, said: "Next thing I knew, Dale was ringing me on my mobile screaming saying a firework had exploded and he'd burnt his face. He was shouting 'firework, firework'. "I think what's happened is that when I went to the shop they've got this firework from somewhere and lit it. Then the older lad has taken them both home and run off." Dale and his mum had been staying at her partner's house in Oronsay Grove, Salford, so that the youngster could be nearer to his school friends over the half-term. GMFRS was called to Cumbrae Gardens, Salford, where the ten-year-old boy was, at around midday after reports that a



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firework had exploded in a child's face. The firework involved is thought to have been an Onion Bomb – a highly explosive firework that is not legally on sale to the general public. The boy was treated at the scene before being taken to hospital by ambulance. "When I got back to my partner's house, Dale had a towel over his face and he was scorched, so I took him straight to hospital," his mum added. "He was hysterical because he was burning and they put him on morphine when we got to the hospital. He's lost his hair, eyebrows and eyelashes and got burns on his hands, his skin is peeling off. "I just don't know how Onion Bombs and industrial fireworks can get into the wrong hands." The teenage boy has been taken to Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool where he is being treated for burns injuries. Area Manager Geoff Harris, Head of Protection at GMFRS, said: "We are extremely interested in how this firework ended up in a street where children were able to play with it. "We need to take action and prevent further fireworks from getting into the wrong hands. They are not on general sale for a very good reason and we do not want anybody else getting injured." If you can help, please contact Greater Manchester Police or Crimestoppers.

Related Links

- [Boys burnt after firework explodes in their faces](#)
The mum of a schoolboy, who suffered serious burns when a firework exploded in his face, is calling for them to be banned.
- [Boy suffers horrific facial injuries after industrial firework 'Onion Bomb' goes off](#)
The boy, who was playing with a friend at the time, has not been named at the request of his mother. She today released an image of the injured boy in a hospital bed, his face covered by a mask, in order to warn children of the dangers of being injured.
- [Giant 'Onion Bomb' firework explodes in faces of two boys, who lose skin & hair](#)
Giant 'Onion Bomb' firework explodes in faces of two boys, who lose skin and hair in horror accident. The 10 and 11-year-old were caught in the explosion after another child lit it and ran off in Salford, Greater Manchester.

<http://mancunianmatters.co.uk/content/02116465-distraught-mums-demand-fireworks-ban-after-two-salford-boys-faces-melted-onion-bomb>

ARGENTINA, BUENOS AIRES, NOVEMBER 3 2012. CHEVRON SUED IN ARGENTINA OVER ECUADOREAN SPILLS



Lawyers for Amazonian Indians are seeking the seizure of \$2 billion of Chevron Corp.'s assets in Argentina as they try to collect an \$18.7 billion environmental judgment won in Ecuador last year. Argentine lawyer Enrique Bruchou said Thursday that his seizure request should send a strong signal to foreign investors that they must apply the same environmental standards wherever they do business. Similar lawsuits were filed this year in Canada and Brazil. "We will win this case. And it's going to set an example for the world that we in Latin America have grown up now and that we need to be treated as equals," Bruchou said. Chevron is refusing to pay, saying fraud marked the trial and that the Texaco Petroleum Co. mitigated the environmental damage long before it became a Chevron subsidiary in 2001. "The Ecuador judgment is a product of bribery, fraud, and it is illegitimate. The company does not believe that the Ecuador judgment is enforceable in any court

that observes the rule of law," the San Ramon, Calif.-based oil giant said in a statement. The plaintiffs say Texaco and now Chevron remain responsible for environmental contamination and illnesses resulting from its operation of an oil consortium from 1972 to 1990 in the country's lush rainforest. Chevron argues that a 1998 agreement Texaco signed with Ecuador after a \$40 million cleanup absolves it of liability, and that Ecuador's state-run oil company is responsible for much of the pollution in the oil patch Texaco quit more than two decades ago. A court judgment freezing Chevron's assets in Argentina probably couldn't come at a worse time for President Cristina Fernandez. Chevron is a major player in Argentina, producing about 26,000 barrels of crude and 4 million cubic feet of natural gas daily, the plaintiffs said. More importantly for Argentina's future energy needs, Chevron has agreed to work with the state-run YPF oil company to develop shale reserves that could be the third-largest in the world. But despite YPF's campaign to attract new foreign investors, neither Chevron nor any other major oil company has publicly committed to spending the billions necessary to extract this oil and gas. Analysts blame Argentine government interventions for scaring away investment. Bruchou said he doesn't believe the Fernandez government will intervene to protect Chevron. According to a treaty Argentina signed years ago, he said its courts can automatically freeze the assets of defendants who refuse to pay final court judgments in other countries, without any government involvement



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whatsoever. "We don't want this politicized. This has nothing to do with the Republic of Argentina. This is the communities of Ecuador going against Chevron," he said. "I don't think we will see interference because frankly this is a civil matter, combined with the human rights abuses, which is an issue very dear to the heart of the Argentines."

http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/11/02/chevron-sued-in-argentina-over-ecuadorean-spills/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, NOVEMBER 3 2012. DETECTING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS USING SOCIAL MEDIA SOFTWARE



Social media has totally revolutionised the way people communicate, with enormous amounts of information delivered via Twitter every minute. It offers a new and diverse channel of information from which emergency response agencies and disaster managers can get real-time updates of emergency situations. However, without suitable tools, this information won't be put into use. One great example is the vast amount of real-time information about the Victorian bushfire in 2009 on social networking sites which was not visible to state or federal disaster response agencies. Emergency response organisations need a reliable way to identify and analyse emerging information which indicates a significant disaster, emergency event or unexpected incident happening within a specific time frame at

a given location. With this in mind, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) developed Emergency Situation Awareness (ESA) software which detects unusual behaviour in the Twitter stream and alert users in the emergency services when an emergency situation is being broadcast online. The tool also stores complete Twitter stream information and allows post-event analyses.

How Does ESA Works?

As explained by CSIRO, ESA exploits the statistical incidence of words used on Twitter to describe emergency situations. It's trained using historical word occurrences on Twitter from past disasters. Doing this allows ESA to show emerging topics and flag them for investigation. Searches are being repeated every minute to look for words that are used more often than usual. These detected 'word bursts' are extracted, stored and are made available for access by incident response agencies via the ESA web application. ESA provides situation awareness with the use of data mining techniques including burst detection, text classification, online clustering and geo-tagging. These techniques are adapted and optimised for dealing with real-time high-volume text streams, which identify early indicators of unexpected situations, explore impact of identified situations and monitor development of events.

CSIRO's ESA Can:

- Detect unexpected or unusual incidents, possible ahead of other communications;
- Condense and summarise messages about an incident maintaining awareness of aggregated content without having to read individual messages;
- Classify and review high-value messages during an incident (e.g. messages describing infrastructure damage or cries for help); understand the impact of an incident on people and infrastructure;
- Identify, track, and manage issues within an incident as they arise, develop and conclude; pro-actively identify and manage issues that may last for hours, days or weeks; and
- Perform analysis of incidents by exploring social media content from before, during and after an incident.

Just recently, a hospital was threatened by a grass fire in Cloncurry in outback Queensland. With the help of the ESA software, the Queensland Department of Community Safety was alerted of the incident. ESA gave early notification to crisis coordinators so that they will be able to prepare their response to the fire while waiting for confirmation from official channels. Evacuation plan was prepared on time and emergency management workers on the ground were given extra time to prepare for action. ESA made efficient, safe and timely evacuation of hospital staff and patients possible before the fire got out of control. A services research specialist recently acknowledged the efficiency of the smart software. According to Services Science Leader, Alan Dormer, organisations trying to make sense of social media can easily be overwhelmed with information overload online. "There are 11.5 million Facebook accounts in Australian and over two million Twitter accounts. So analysing social media posts to find relevant information is like looking for a needle in a haystack. "It's a classic big data problem. But with our research in data mining, textual analysis and data visualisation, we're well placed to tackle it," said Mr Dormer. Aside from early detection of emergencies, ESA is now also being used to explore topics and issues important to the community as



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well as reputation management. Mr Dormer said ESA is being developed with government for government with the Australian Government Department of Human Services being a key partner. Private organisations have also shown interest in the tool. "We've formed an 'early adopters group' of innovators in government to help us develop the social media tools beyond the prototype stage, trial them in real situations, and give us feedback to make them more useful," said Mr Dormer.

http://www.safetyculture.com.au/news/index.php/11/detecting-emergency-situations-using-social-media-software/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+safetyculture+%28Safety+Culture+OHS+News%29

USA, UT, GUNNISON, NOVEMBER 3 2012. 5 YEARS AFTER CATASTROPHIC FUEL LEAK IN GUNNISON, CLEANUP FAR FROM OVER

sam penrod



Utah Department of Environmental Quality representatives visit with Gunnison residents concerned about the progress of the cleanup from a leaking underground gasoline tank at a former Top Stop convenience store Nov. 1, 2012. The property is now owned by Gunnison and is being transformed into a public gathering place on Main Street.

Five years ago, an estimated 30,000 gallons of gasoline leaked out of an underground tank at a gas station, and the vapors severely affected neighboring homes and businesses. Today, cleanup is still going on at the Top Stop at 15 S. Main. When the underground tank ruptured in July 2007, dangerous vapors began seeping into nearby shops and homes. Stores closed weeks later, and one family was forced out of its home. The Top Stop building has since been torn down. Gunnison, which gained ownership of the property as part of a settlement, is turning the area into a park and improving Main Street. But underground, the environmental cleanup is far from over. Crews are hard at work on the corner lot, turning it into what will be known as Market Square, a gathering place along Gunnison's Main Street. "It is going to be a vibrant core to our downtown, and we are going to take what was to begin with a big disaster and create something we can be proud of," Gunnison Mayor Lori Nay said. Top Stop settled out of court with the community, but it covered just a fraction of what people say their losses have been. Still, Top Stop is on the hook for the cleanup, supervised by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality. "It looks like the plume has been reduced by 70-80 percent just in an aerial extent," said Morgan Atkinson, a DEQ engineer. Property owners such as Kim Pickett question why the state's involvement has been limited to overseeing the environmental cleanup. "My biggest concern is how the whole thing was handled from day one," Pickett said. "They basically let the people who did the spill determine the direction they are going, and I just don't think that is a good policy." But Pickett and other Gunnison residents are trying to look forward, hoping that Top Stop is now in the rear-view mirror. "It was really difficult, but I think we are on the road to recovery," Nay said. Landscapers will put in trees and plants over the next few weeks, and Market Square should be open by the end of November, officials said.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765614603/5-years-after-catastrophic-fuel-leak-in-Gunnison-cleanup-far-from-over.html>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, NOVEMBER 4 2012. MILITARY TO DELIVER FUEL TO STORM-RAVAGED REGION



Barges are carrying gasoline and diesel fuel to the New York metropolitan area as part of a government effort to alleviate shortages.

As long lines persisted at gas stations in the New York metropolitan area, federal authorities moved on Friday to restore supplies, instructing the Defense Department to send 24 million gallons of fuel to the region and lifting restrictions on deliveries by foreign-flagged ships. With the reopening of the Port of New York to tankers on Thursday, and the return of a critical Northeast fuel pipeline to full capacity on Friday, the biggest outstanding problems are the lack of power at hundreds of gas stations and continued panic buying by the public, industry officials said. Because electricity will not be restored in parts of central New Jersey for seven to



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10 days, gasoline shortages may remain severe in some areas. As of Friday, according to AAA, only 40 to 50 percent of the gas stations in New York City and New Jersey were operating, and even fewer were operating on Long Island. Most of the stations were out of service because of power failures. "We have seen some stations open as power is restored, but other stations have closed while running out of gas," said Michael Green, an AAA spokesman. "The long lines and supply problems will go away once power is restored." The Obama administration, realizing the political peril if it were to be blamed for fuel shortages in the days before the election, significantly accelerated its response on Friday. It authorized the Defense Department to hire hundreds of trucks that will be used to deliver 12 million gallons each of gasoline and diesel fuel, mostly from commercial suppliers, to staging areas in New Jersey. The department is handling the task because its Defense Logistics Agency has contracting powers that enable it to move quickly. From the staging areas, the fuel will be distributed throughout the region in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help resupply stations. Together, the gasoline and diesel are enough for 1.6 million vehicles with 15-gallon tanks. The Pentagon has also been authorized by the Energy Department and the White House to tap the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve. It will draw as much as two million gallons of diesel fuel — part of the 12 million total — for government emergency responders, helping them to keep electricity generators, water pumps, federal buildings, trucks and other vehicles running. The oil reserve, created by the federal government in 2000, holds 42 million gallons of ultralow-sulfur diesel at terminals in Groton, Conn., and Revere, Mass. It is the first time fuel has been released from the reserve. Earlier Friday, the Homeland Security Department temporarily lifted a rule prohibiting foreign-flagged ships from delivering fuel between United States ports, a move that should soon bring additional tankers to the New York area with refined gasoline and diesel. And on Thursday, the Defense Department used 17 of its aircraft to move 630 tons of equipment, including 10 bucket trucks and 20 pickup trucks, from West Coast utility companies to an Air National Guard base 60 miles north of New York City. "We are working this as a team," W. Craig Fugate, the FEMA administrator, said at a news conference Friday morning. Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, said the federal government may end up sending more fuel than is needed. "Anyone running for office would rather err on the side of excess," he said. "It's a confidence builder. It will help placate people who think we are on the threshold of crisis." Government officials said they were confident that the shortages would ease in the coming week, as power was restored and the fuel now being delivered to the region arrived. "There is no reason to panic; there is no reason for anxiety," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo of New York said at a news conference Friday. "We understand why there was a shortage, for very definable reasons. We also understand why it's going to be better, and it's going to be better in the near future." The fuel shortage has emerged as one of the most widespread problems after the storm, worsening the suffering in the region. Large parts of the public transit system remained out of service, and 3.5 million customers had no power Friday afternoon, down from eight million earlier in the week, according to [Energy Department figures](#). Of the region's 127 fuel terminals — which hold gasoline, heating oil and diesel fuel after they are delivered by pipeline, ship or local refinery — 25 were hit by flooding or power failures. Most have reopened or are preparing to reopen shortly, the Energy Department said Friday. Two refineries in the New York area remained out of service — most critically the Phillips 66 refinery in Linden, N.J., which could be out for weeks because of flooding. But the reopening of the Port of New York on Thursday, after the Coast Guard removed debris floating in the water, allowed tankers sitting off shore to begin making their deliveries. New York City officials announced Friday afternoon that power should be restored to all of Manhattan by Saturday. Con Edison said it would restore power to a vast majority of its customers in New York State by Nov. 11, while Public Service Electric and Gas, which serves New Jersey, forecast that its efforts to restore power would be virtually complete in the next seven to 10 days. These efforts will mean more gas stations reopening as power comes back on. Despite the closed gas stations, and local instances of gouging, prices at the pump have not shot up in most places. AAA reported that the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in New Jersey on Friday was \$3.56, only 6 cents above the national average. Some communities were imposing alternating fueling days for vehicles with license plates ending in even and odd numbers. The average price in New York was more than 25 cents higher, but still below \$4. Energy experts said their greatest fear had been that the storm would damage several large refineries on the Delaware River. But none were seriously affected, and about 75 percent of the region's refinery capacity remained operational. "Some of the refineries are down, but that shouldn't be a problem, because the Northeast is supplied by pipelines and ships from other parts of the country and the world," said Bill Day, a spokesman for Valero Energy, the country's biggest independent refiner, with more than 100 branded gas stations in the Northeast. "Terminals, ports and pipelines are all affected by electricity outages, so once the electricity is back, it shouldn't be a problem." Even if the Phillips 66 refinery and the other, smaller New Jersey refinery were out of service for the rest of the month, the region could still get back to normal, energy experts said,



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because November does not typically have high driving volume. "Our best guess is that things will be close to normal for consumers by Wednesday," said Brian Norris of the Oil Price Information Service.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/03/business/military-to-deliver-fuel-to-storm-region.html?hp>

USA, PA, HARRISBURG, NOVEMBER 4 2012. PENNSYLVANIA REPORT LEFT OUT POISONS IN DRINKING WATER NEAR FRACKING SITE

michael kelley



Pennsylvania officials [didn't report toxic metals found in drinking water](#) from a private well near a natural gas drilling site, according to legal documents and reported by Jon Hurdle of [The New York Times](#) reports. The omissions raise questions about the Pennsylvania government's connection to the oil and gas industry, which has a vested interest in the natural gas trapped in the Marcellus Shale beneath Pennsylvania and three other states. Seven plaintiffs brought a lawsuit against companies serving the gas industry that claims natural gas extraction by hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, within a mile of their homes in southwestern Pennsylvania contaminated their drinking water and caused serious illnesses. Toxicology tests on the plaintiffs found the presence of toluene, benzene and arsenic in their bodies, according to the complaint. Toluene and benzene, [commonly used in fracking](#), are called BTEX compounds and are listed as contaminants in the Safe Drinking Water Act. Benzene and arsenic are known human carcinogens. A spokesman for the Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Protection told the Times that oil and gas division officials only wanted to see the results they deemed relevant to determining whether drinking water was being contaminated, and that the remaining metals were below federal standards or had no standards attached to them. Kendra Smith, a lawyer for one of the plaintiffs, countered that some of the 14 metals not reported in her client's tests have already been identified by industry studies as contaminants in water produced from oil and gas operations. Smith told the Times that it could only be a "deliberate procedure" by the oil and gas division and the Bureau of Laboratories "to withhold critical water testing results."

See Also: [The 10 Scariest Chemicals Used In Hydraulic Fracking >](#)

Related Links

- [New Fracking Research Disputes A Fundamental Industry Claim](#)
- [Government Study Shows Evidence Of Fracking Contaminating Groundwater](#)
- [Air Pollution Near Fracking Wells May Create An Incredibly Long List Of Health Problems](#)
- [Pennsylvania Report Left Out Poisons in Drinking Water Near Fracking Site](#)
- [Possible Pollution of Drinking Water Due to Fracking Covered up in PA, Mark...](#)
- [State DEP says it follows industry standards in testing for water contamination](#)
- [PA regulators using incomplete water testing reports to dismiss claims](#)

<http://www.businessinsider.com/fracking-poison-pennsylvania-water-2012-11>

USA, TX, HARRIS CO, NOVEMBER 4 2012. TANKER TRUCK CARRYING 8800 GALLONS OF GAS EXPLODES AFTER CRASH

Watch the Video's:

- [Boom Goes the Tanker](#)
- [Tanker Truck Overtakes, Explodes in Northeast Harris County](#)
- [Tanker carrying 8800 gallons of gas explodes after crash](#)

A tanker truck carrying 8800 gallons of gasoline was burning Friday after a crash on the East Beltway northbound feeder road at US 90. The 18-wheeler had just filled up and was carrying 8800 gallons of gasoline when the wreck happened at about 8:30 p.m. Deputies said the truck driver was trying to make a U-turn from the southbound to the northbound feeder. Witnesses said he was going about 30 to 35 miles an hour and flipped. Immediately after it flipped to its side it burst into flames and multiple explosions rocked the area. When the flames erupted the truck driver smashed out the windshield and leapt out of the



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tanker. A witness who was waiting at a red light only a couple hundred feet away couldn't believe his eyes. "I hear a big bang, as I look up I see the tanker roll over and as soon as I looked up I saw it go in flames. I immediately got on the phone and called 911," said Orlando Amador. "I told dispatch I didn't think the driver had made it out." The tanker driver works for a company called Coastal Transport. The Harris County Sheriff's Office said he was headed to make a delivery at Tidwell and the Beltway. He was rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. Deputies said, aside from burn marks on both his arms, it looks like he'll be OK. "He's very lucky. Something like that, something that blew up, you wouldn't think he would come out alive. Today was his lucky day," Amador said. No one else was injured and investigators said it's a good thing that other drivers weren't closer to the 18-wheeler truck.

<http://www.kvue.com/news/state/177095521.html>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, NAGAPATTINAM, NOVEMBER 4 2012. ONGC CRUDE SEEPS INTO PADDY FIELDS IN NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT



Crude oil spill washed along Kohur irrigation channel in the midst of paddy fields at Adiakkamangalam in Kilvelur. The crude oil spill was from the decommissioned ONGC-Cauvery Asset trunkline in Nagapattinam.

Crude oil from an abandoned Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) owned pipeline seeped into some paddy fields in a village in the district today, triggering panic among farmers. Farmers of Anaimangalam village near Kilvelur were shocked to find crude oil layer over their fields this morning and their crops damaged due to the oil spill. The ONGC Cauvery Project headquartered at Karaikal has its production installation at the village and pipelines, which run through Anaimangalam, Karumangudi and Pakkur villages, had been laid for transporting the crude oil to the CPCL's refinery at another nearby village. Alleging that the pipelines had developed breaches leading to the spill, three of the affected farmers lodged a complaint with police stating that crude oil had seeped into ten acres of their paddy fields. However, ONGC authorities pointed out that there were no breaches or cracks in any of the pipelines being used in production at present. Analysis by ONGC Engineers has revealed that the crude oil seeped from an old pipeline, running deep down near the paddy fields, which was abandoned during September this year, after detection of oil leak. They had replaced it with a new one, ONGC sources said. "Preliminary investigation suggests that the oil deposit due to that seepage would have surfaced now, probably due to the recent heavy rains," said an ONGC official. Kilvelur area recorded the highest rainfall in the district early this week due to cyclone 'Nilam.' "Our Engineers are analysing the situation and will take steps to remove the oil

layers from paddy fields. Steps have also been taken to find a permanent solution and ensure that farmers do not face any further issues," the official said. The extent of damage, exact number of acres affected is being assessed, the official said, adding, suitable compensation would be offered. President of Farmers Protection Forum, Dhanapalan said the oil spill would turn the farmland unusable for three years minimum. He demanded that ONGC thoroughly check its pipelines and ensure that such incidents do not recur.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/agri-biz/ongc-crude-seeps-into-paddy-fields-in-nagapattinam-district/article4062435.ece>

USA, ORE, PORTLAND, NOVEMBER 4 2012. U.S. JURY AWARDS TROOPS \$85 MILLION OVER IRAQ CHEMICAL EXPOSURE

teresa carson

An Oregon jury awarded 12 Army National Guardsmen \$85 million in damages from defense contractor KBR Inc. on Friday after finding that the company failed to protect them from exposure to cancer-causing chemicals when they served in Iraq. Each Guard soldier was awarded \$850,000 in non-economic damages and another \$6.25 million in punitive damages for "reckless and outrageous indifference" to their health in the trial in U.S. District Court in Portland. "Justice was definitely served



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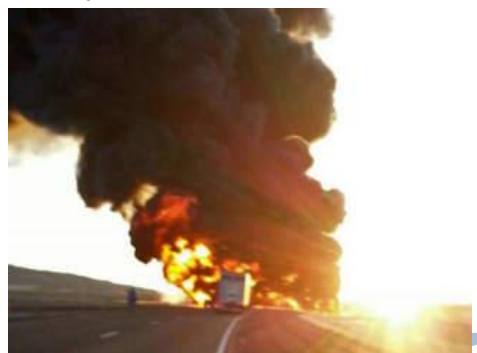
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for the 12 of us," Guardsman Rocky Bixby said, adding that two of his children were about to enter the military. "It wasn't about the money, it was about them never doing this again to another soldier." The Oregon Guardsmen were providing security for civilian workers restoring an oil industry water plant in 2003 in southern Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein. The plant water was used to push oil to the surface. The plant was contaminated with sodium dichromate, a chemical used to fight corrosion. Sodium dichromate contains hexavalent chromium, the toxic chemical made famous in the film "Erin Brockovich" starring Julia Roberts. The chemical was blowing around the plant known as Qarmat Ali, the soldiers' lawyers told the court. Geoffrey Harrison, lead trial attorney for KBR, said the contractor would appeal. "We believe the trial court should have dismissed the case before trial," he said. "KBR did safe and exceptional work in Iraq under difficult circumstances, and we believe the facts and law ultimately will provide vindication." The soldiers had also claimed that KBR committed fraud, but jurors rejected that claim. The 12 Guardsmen in the suit have suffered various illnesses and disabilities and are at risk for various kinds of cancer, their lawyers said. Hexavalent chromium is "a highly potent carcinogen," they said. Another 22 Oregon soldiers or their widows have sued KBR Inc. in Portland. More than 100 soldiers from other states have sued the company in Houston, where the company is based.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/03/us-usa-iraq-guardsmen-idUSBRE8A201B20121103>

USA, N.M, CUBERO, NOVEMBER 4 2012. TANKER FIRE OUT; I-40 DAMAGED

Bill Diven



A big-rig driver hauling 8,800 gallons of gasoline rolled his truck over in the median of Interstate 40 Saturday morning touching off a massive fire and shutting down the highway. The crash happened about 7:30 a.m. between the Cubero and Acomita exits about 50 miles west of Albuquerque. It is not clear which direction the tanker was headed. State Police Lt. Robert McDonald told KRQE News 13 the driver was airlifted to UNM Hospital with injuries that are not believed to be serious. Officers are investigating whether the driver fell asleep, he added. A relative of the driver, however, told News 13 the driver heard a pop at the back of his rig, saw flames and tried to ease the truck into the median. The driver has been released from the hospital and is headed home, the relative added. The fire was out by about 10 a.m. although I-40 remained closed. Undersheriff Tony Mace of the Cibola County Sheriff's Office told News 13. McDonald said flames and heat did enough damage to the pavement the New

Mexico Department of Transportation must first do repairs. One lane of westbound I-40 opened by 11 a.m., and the eastbound lanes reopened about 3 p.m. However the 75 mph speed limit was cut to 60 mph with signs warning of rough pavement. During the closures traffic was diverted to State Route 124 between exit 102 at Acomita and Sky City Casino and exit 104 at Cubero. A KRQE News 13 viewer near the scene described the incident as an explosion with a massive smoke cloud and flames visible from miles away. Mace said it was less an explosion and more a fire that quickly grew in intensity. Regardless thick, black smoke drifted eastward and was reported to be hanging over Laguna Pueblo about 10 miles from the crash.

http://www.kasa.com/dpps/traffic/truck-fire-closes-i-40_4913494

EGYPT, CAIRO, NOVEMBER 4 2012. NILE OIL SLICKS DRIFT DOWNSTREAM >> CAUSE OF THE SPILLS STILL UNKNOWN

luiz sanchez

Two separate oil slicks are currently moving down the Nile, the sources of which are currently unknown to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). A source from within the agency admitted on Sunday that they had no clue as to the origin of the oil, but were working closely with the water and environmental police to investigate the source and to contain the damage. "The minister of state for environmental affairs [Mustafa Hussein Kamel] has also set-up a special task force designed to combat the spread of the spill," the source, who requested anonymity, said. A statement released Sunday by the EEAA said the role of the new task force, known as the Rapid Intervention Unit, will be to combat pollution of the Nile. The unit will conduct water quality tests and will also inspect tourist vessels in places such as Luxor to ensure they comply with environmental regulations. They will have the power to take legal action against those who violate environmental regulations. The petroleum ministry was hesitant to comment on the spill, limiting their response to diverting queries to the Egyptian



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General Petroleum Company (EGPC). A ministry employee said the EGPC was responsible for any on the ground operations that may be conducted. Likewise, the EGPC media department said they had no additional information to share and information should be sought from the petroleum ministry and the EEAA. State news agency MENA reported on Saturday that the chairman of the drinking water and sanitation department in Menya, Khalifa Radwan, said drinking water was not interrupted in the province and that all water plants were still functional. Radwan noted that the oil slick moved through the governorate and reached Beni Suef by Saturday. Last week the EEAA declared a [state of emergency](#) in Aswan, Qena and Luxor due to the oil slick drifting down the Nile. Several water treatment facilities were shut down and citizens were warned against drinking tap water until the system could be inspected. The oil slick reached Cairo's Giza governorate on Saturday, the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW) reported. The oil caused the Giza water company to halt the pumping of drinking water from the Hawamdeya purification station which supplies half of the residents in the area. HCWW said that the Nile contamination has so far not affected stations in Cairo. The company also promised it would provide alternative water sources in case stations are shut down.

<http://dailynewsegyp.com/2012/11/04/nile-oil-slicks-drift-downstream/>

AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, BALLINA, NOVEMBER 4 2012. ACCIDENT BETWEEN CAR AND PETROL TANKER



Truck roll over on the Pacific Highway at Knockrow.

An accident between a car and petrol tanker closed the Pacific Hwy yesterday at about 3pm. The crash occurred 12km north of Ballina at Tintenbar, near the Ross Ln exit towards Lennox Head. The single occupant of the car was trapped for more than an hour due to the impact of the collision with the truck. The male was treated on scene by emergency services and released from the car. The driver of the car was then flown by the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter service to Lismore Base Hospital in a serious condition with multiple trauma injuries. The male driver of the petrol tanker received only minor injuries and was transported by ambulance also to Ballina Hospital. The collision occurred on the very northern end of the Ballina bypass, where the dual

carriageway returns to single lanes. The highway was completely blocked by the truck, which rolled onto its side covering all lanes. As a result of the collision, one of the trucks' tanks rolled onto its side and ruptured. Hazmat crews arrived at the scene to limit the amount of fuel leaking onto the road. Traffic was diverted for several hours until the area was cleared. Diversions were put in place but motorists experienced delays and were asked to postpone their trips if possible. Light vehicles were diverted to use the Coast Road via Ballina and Lennox Head in both directions. Heavy vehicles were prompted to delay their journey on the Pacific Highway.

<http://www.northernstar.com.au/news/highway-closed-after-crash/1608398/>

FINLAND, HERNESAARI, NOVEMBER 5 2012. ORIGIN OF OIL SPILL REMAINS A MYSTERY

Surveillance flights made by the Finnish Frontier Guard indicate the oil spillage off the coast of Helsinki has diminished significantly as a result of clearing up operations. The oil has also dissolved and drifted southwards a little. No further cleaning up measures took place on Sunday. Officials still have no clue as to the origins of the oil. Frontier Guard officials have taken samples of oil from the sea and from vessels that passed off the coast near Helsinki between Friday and Saturday. Rescue services have inspected possible land-based sources for the discharge without result, a official told Yle. "Ships have not been refueled neither have discharges been found from water and sewage systems. The discharge was not from a land-based source," Jani Pitkänen of the Helsinki Rescue Service explained. The oil slick is several hundred metres in length. Rescue officials say it is probably composed on light fuel oil. Oil was first detected on Saturday when a tug reported oil near the islands of Hernesaari, Pihlajasaari, Uunisaari and Liuskasaari.

http://yle.fi/uutiset/origin_of_oil_spill_remains_a_mystery/6363180



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