



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2012 – 904 Newsy Stuff

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CANADA, QUE, SHERBROOKE, NOVEMBER 9 2012. PHARMACEUTICAL PLANT EXPLOSION INJURES 17, LEAVES CLOUD OF TOXIC SMOKE LOOMING OVER SHERBROOKE

Watch the Video

- [Pharmaceutical Plant Explosion Injures 17](#)
- [2 Dead after Explosion, Fire at Quebec Plant](#)
- [Explosion, Fire At Quebec Plant Kill 2, 19 Sent To Hospital](#)
- [2 Killed, 19 Injured after Explosion, Frightened Survivor Found amid Debris Hours after Explosion](#)
- [Explosion, Fire at Quebec Plant Kills 2; 19 More Sent to Hospital](#)

Photo's [5] [Pharmaceutical Plant Explosion Injures 17](#)

Photo's [4] [Two Dead after Explosion, Fire at Quebec Plant](#)

Photo Gallery [6] [In Pictures: Scenes from Plant Explosion in Quebec](#)

Environment Quebec said the toxicity concern stemmed from the plant's 15,000-litre acetone reserve, which was struck by the fire.



Fire burns at the Neptune Technologies and Bioressources plant in Sherbrooke, Que., Thursday following an explosion.

A powerful explosion in an industrial plant triggered a fire, sending 17 people to hospital and producing a thick, dark cloud of toxic smoke Thursday. Several people suffered serious injuries, including five with severe burns. The incident occurred in Quebec's Eastern Townships at a facility belonging to Neptune Technologies & Bioressources, which produces health products derived from marine life like Omega-3. The blaze was potent enough that smoke kept drifting up for hours, even after fire crews had contained the flames, while an acrid stench continued to hover in the air. The plant lay in ruins. The only walls that remained standing were scorched black by the flames. "Just looking at the damage to the building you can see it was probably very violent," said Gaetan Drouin, head of the local fire service. "Even before the 911 calls came in [one

fire station] already had many firefighters on the way. They set off the alarm bells just from seeing the plume of smoke that shot up into the sky." It was the first of two major fires of the day in Quebec. Hours later, flames were skipping off a rooftop in Old Montreal as emergency crews were called in to deal with a blaze a block away from the famous Notre-Dame Basilica, close to the Montreal La Presse newspaper which had to be evacuated. In the Sherbrooke explosion, all 65 of the company employees were accounted for. In the minutes following the blaze several people were feared to be missing, but they were later found. Fears about toxic smoke stemmed from the plant's 15,000-litre reserve of acetone, a flammable substance consumed by the fire. When ingested, acetone can cause irritation. However, local health officials downplayed the toxic threat, suggesting people might potentially experience headaches or nausea but little else because of the smoke. Environment Quebec said it was actually more concerned about the possibility of soil or water contamination than of the risk associated with breathing the air near the blast site. It's unclear what caused the explosion. There was at least one large blast followed by a series of smaller ones. Drouin said the loud initial explosion set a local record for 911 calls, and about 50 firefighters were called to the scene. Meanwhile, police set up a security perimeter and cleared the area. One man who lives nearby said: "I was working in my garage and I heard a loud, 'Boom.' Then we were evacuated." Another neighbour said the flames were visible from blocks away. Both declined to give their names. Within minutes of the blast, police said, employees had been evacuated from the facility and supervisors were performing a head count outdoors. From far away, thick black plumes were seen rising from the facility. "We're asking people to stay away from the area. These are possibly toxic clouds," said Rene Dubreuil of the Sherbrooke police. The Laval-based company announced plans last year to expand its Sherbrooke facility. The federal government supported the project with an interest-free loan and the Quebec government provided a grant, according to an announcement made earlier this year by then-premier Jean Charest. Shares of the company plunged 10 per cent during a sell-off in less than a half-hour of trading following the incident. The company called in a psychiatric support team to help traumatized workers. It promised to co-operate with police during the investigation. "We're in terrible shock over what's happened," said Michel Chartrand, chief of operations for the company.



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Related Links

- [Explosion at industrial plant in Quebec seriously injures four, produces cloud of potentially toxic smoke](#)
- [Two Dead after Explosion, Fire at Quebec Plant](#)
- [Quebec Plant Explosion Kills Two People](#)
- [Explosion, Fire At Quebec Plant Kill 2, 19 Sent To Hospital](#)
- [2 Die in Explosion, Fire at Sherbrooke Plant](#)
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- [Explosion, Fire at Quebec Plant Kills 2; 19 More Sent to Hospital](#)

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/11/08/explosion-at-health-product-factory-injures-17-leaves-potentially-toxic-cloud-looming-over-sherbrooke/>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, NOVEMBER 9 2012. REPORT: CLEANUP OF SOME CONTAMINATED GROUNDWATER SITES UNLIKELY FOR DECADES

At least 126,000 sites across the U.S. have contaminated groundwater that requires remediation, and about 10 percent of these sites are considered "complex," meaning restoration is unlikely to be achieved in the next 50 to 100 years due to technological limitations, says a new report from the National Research Council. The report adds that the estimated cost of complete cleanup at these sites ranges from \$110 billion to \$127 billion, but the figures for both the number of sites and costs are likely underestimates. Several national and state groundwater cleanup programs developed over the last three decades under various federal and state agencies aim to mitigate the human health and ecological risks posed by underground contamination. These programs include cleanup at Superfund sites; facilities that treat, store, and dispose of hazardous wastes; leaking underground storage tanks; and federal facilities, such as military installations. The U.S. Department of Defense has already spent approximately \$30 billion in hazardous waste remediation to address past legacies of its industrial operations. DOD sites represent approximately 3.4 percent of the total active remediation sites, but many of these sites present the greatest technical challenges to restoration with very high costs. Therefore, the agency asked the National Research Council to examine the future of groundwater remediation efforts and the challenges facing the U.S. Army and other responsible agencies as they pursue site closures. "The complete removal of contaminants from groundwater at possibly thousands of complex sites in the U.S. is unlikely, and no technology innovations appear in the near time horizon that could overcome the challenges of restoring contaminated groundwater to drinking water standards," said Michael Kavanaugh, chair of the committee that wrote the report and a principal with Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. in Oakland, Calif. "At many of these complex sites, a point of diminishing returns will often occur as contaminants in groundwater remain stalled at levels above drinking water standards despite continued active remedial efforts. We are recommending a formal evaluation be made at the appropriate time in the life cycle of a site to decide whether to transition the sites to active or passive long-term management." The estimated range of remediation costs do not account for technical barriers to complete cleanup at complex sites or the costs of cleanup at future sites where groundwater may become contaminated, the committee said. A substantial portion of the costs will come from public sources as some of complex sites are "orphan" sites and many other complex sites are the responsibility of federal or state agencies. The committee said that the nomenclature for the phases of site cleanup and cleanup progress are inconsistent among public and private sector organizations, which could confuse the public and other stakeholders about the concept of "site closure." For example, many sites thought of as "closed" and considered "successes" still have contamination and will require continued oversight and funding over extended timeframes in order to maintain protectiveness, including 50 percent of the contaminated groundwater sites evaluated by the committee that have been deleted from the Superfund list. More consistent and transparent terminology that simply and clearly explains the different stages of cleanup and progress would improve communication with the public. "The central theme of this report is how the nation should deal with those sites where residual contamination will remain above levels needed to achieve restoration," Kavanaugh stated. "In the opinion of the committee, this finding needs to inform decision making at these complex sites, including a more comprehensive use of risk assessment methods, and support for a national research and development program that leads to innovative tools to ensure protectiveness where residual contamination persists. In all cases, the final end state of these sites has to be protective of human health and the environment consistent with the existing legal framework, but a more rapid transition will reduce life-cycle costs. Some residual contamination will persist at these sites and future national strategies need to account for this fact." The committee said that if a remedy at a site reaches a point where



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continuing expenditures bring little or no reduction of risk prior to attaining drinking water standards, a reevaluation of the future approach to cleaning up the site, called a transition assessment, should occur. The committee concluded that cost savings are anticipated from timelier implementation of the transition assessment process but funding will still be needed to maintain long-term management at these complex sites.

The report was sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Army.

Pre-publication copies of report: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=14668

Source: [National Academy of Sciences](http://esciencenews.com/articles/2012/11/08/report.cleanup.some.contaminated.groundwater.sites.unlikely.decades)

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2012/11/08/report.cleanup.some.contaminated.groundwater.sites.unlikely.decades>

ISRAEL, JERUSALEM, NOVEMBER 9 2012. GAS LEAKS DISCOVERED UNDER HAIFA BAY

hana levi julian



Haifa.

A geophysics research team from Haifa University has discovered a series of active gas springs on the sea floor under Haifa Bay. According to Dr. Uri Schattner, head of the university's Department of Marine Geosciences at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, "Geophysical information enables us to research beneath the sea floor and map out the entire system, from the gas sources to the penetration of the sea waters." The gas springs discovered by Schattner's team were found at relatively shallow depths, only a few dozen meters below the surface. The findings, published in the journal *Continental Shelf Research*, described the entire system, from its sources under the sea floor through the natural springs emerging from the seabed. "This is a natural laboratory for researching as emissions from the sea floor, natural springs and

less natural ones," Schattner said. "We are only beginning to understand their contribution to climate and ecological change." The first evidence of gas springs emerged from examining a map of the sea floor off Israel's northern coast. A joint effort between the University of Haifa and the Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research institute revealed no less than 700 spots in the seabed that looked like possible gas springs, Schattner said. The researchers' suspicions intensified when seismic data identified pockets of gas beneath the seabed. "Based on this evidence, the researchers went out to sea four times to collect more data from the seabed and from under the sea floor. Geophysical information enables us to research beneath the sea floor and map out the entire system, from the gas sources to their penetration of the sea waters," Schattner said. What they found, however, exceeded all expectations: A gas deposit of 72 square kilometers on the continental shelf, at depths of between 37 meters to 112 meters. While many of the gases remain in the reserve, some still manage to escape into the sea. "We don't know yet what kind of gas we're talking about, but its role in undermining the stability of the seabed is clear," warned Dr. Michael Lazar, a member of the research team. "This means that any discussion of marine infrastructure development must seriously relate to this shallow gas stratus." Israel's Energy and Water Ministry is expending a great deal of effort on formulating National Master Plan 37H, which deals with the transportation of gas produced from deep sea drilling to pressure-reducing facilities. These will be located on the continental shelf, in the sea, from where the gas will be transported to the coast, noted the researchers. "Now we are beginning to understand that there is no substitute for thoroughly researching the stability of the sea floor to prevent an infrastructure failure, since any leak could cause an ecological disaster," Schattner pointed out. During the coming months, the researchers plan another expedition to the gas springs, this time with a team of biologists and geologists to get a better idea of the type of gas involved and its influence on marine life near the sea floor. "This time we'll be going out with a few vessels, each of which is dedicated to different types of surveying and sampling," Schattner said. "Every research trip challenges and fascinates us anew."

http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/161866#.UJyh_YdOSM4

USA, N.H, CONCORD, NOVEMBER 9 2012. STATE SETTLES MTBE SUIT FOR \$35M

Attorney General Michael A. Delaney announces that Shell Oil Company and Sunoco, Inc. will pay \$35M to settle pending claims against the companies in the case of State of New Hampshire v. Hess, et al. The State initiated the lawsuit in 2003 against refiners and manufacturers of gasoline containing methyl tertiary butyl ether ("MTBE") who supplied New Hampshire with MTBE gasoline. The lawsuit, filed in Merrimack County Superior Court, alleges that a number of major oil companies,



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including the settling defendants, added MTBE to gasoline sold in New Hampshire knowing that it would contaminate ground water supplies. The State contends that the defendants knew they were supplying a product with unique hazards; specifically, that MTBE travels farther and is more difficult to clean up than other contaminants. The State is seeking damages to perform comprehensive investigation and remediation of MTBE contamination sites. Attorney General Delaney stated: "We must ensure that our public waters remain clean and safe for the benefit of all our citizens. My office will continue to hold oil companies responsible for their role in causing groundwater contamination in this state." He further stated, "We have reached a \$35M settlement with Shell and Sunoco. This is a substantial recovery that will be used to clean up contaminated groundwaters throughout New Hampshire." Trial against the remaining defendants is scheduled to begin in Concord on January 7, 2013. The remaining defendants are Exxon/Mobil Corporation, Irving Oil Co., Citgo Petroleum, ConocoPhillips Co., and Vitol S.A. The case is State of New Hampshire v. Hess Corp., 03-C- 0550, State of New Hampshire Superior Court (Merrimack).

http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121108/GJNEWS_01/121109079

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, NOVEMBER 9 2012. SERVICE STATION OPERATOR FINED FOR UNDERPAYING MORE THAN 200 EMPLOYEES

A national service station operator has been fined \$46,200 for underpaying more than 200 employees. The penalty has been imposed against Freedom Fuels Australia Pty Ltd – a Brisbane-based company which operates service stations in Queensland, Victoria and NSW - in the Federal Magistrates Court in Brisbane. The penalty is the result of a prosecution by the Fair Work Ombudsman. Freedom Fuels Australia admitted in Court that it underpaid 234 employees a total of \$191,197 between May, 2006 and July, 2009. The employees, including a number of juniors aged under-21, worked as casual and part-time console operators. A total of 169 employees in Queensland - at locations including Brisbane, Toowoomba and Goondiwindi - were underpaid \$112,615. Fifty-six employees in Victoria - at locations including Melbourne, Sale, Traralgon, Churchill, Moe and Morwell - were underpaid \$73,905, and nine employees in NSW – at Kingscliff and Moree - were underpaid \$4677. The employees were underpaid overtime rates and penalty rates for weekend, shift and public holiday work. Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the Court's decision sends a message that underpaying low-paid, vulnerable workers is a serious matter. Freedom Fuels Australia has directly back-paid the underpaid workers it has been able to locate - and has paid to the Collector of Public Monies all entitlements owing to the many underpaid workers it has not been able to locate. Any former employee of Freedom Fuels who believes the Collector of Public Monies may be holding back-pay owed to them should contact the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94 or use the 'Unclaimed Money' search facility available at www.fairwork.gov.au. Employers or employees seeking assistance should contact the Fair Work Infoline or visit the website. A free interpreter service is available on 13 14 50.

<http://www.fairwork.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/2012/11/pages/20121107-freedom-fuels-penalty.aspx>

AUSTRALIA, A.C.T, CANBERRA, NOVEMBER 9 2012. SERVICE STATIONS AND ROADHOUSES THE FOCUS OF NEW CAMPAIGN IN WA, SA AND NT

The Fair Work Ombudsman will audit up to 180 fuel retailers across Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory over the next few months as part of a new education and compliance campaign. The campaign will focus on company-owned, franchised and independent service stations and roadhouses in metropolitan and regional areas. Fair Work inspectors will check employers are paying workers in-line with minimum wage rates, penalty rates and overtime rates and are complying with record-keeping and pay slip obligations. Audits will be conducted in areas including:

West Australia: Perth, Albany, Bunbury, Broome, Busselton, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Mandurah, Margaret River & Port Hedland.

South Australia: Adelaide, Barossa Valley, Coober Pedy, Eyre Peninsula, Limestone Coast, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Roxby Downs, Whyalla & Yorke Peninsula.

Northern Territory: Darwin, Alice Springs & Katherine.

Fair Work Ombudsman Nicholas Wilson says the sector was selected for an education and compliance campaign following a number of substantiated underpayment complaints. Mr Wilson says the campaign aims to increase awareness of workplace laws and the free resources the Fair Work Ombudsman has available to assist employers to understand and comply with workplace laws. "Fuel retailing businesses generally have long operating hours, so this campaign provides a good opportunity for employers in the sector to ensure they understand their obligations in regards to penalty and overtime rates," he said. In



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cases where contraventions are identified, the preference of Fair Work inspectors will be to educate employers and assist them to voluntarily rectify non-compliance issues. "We are committed to providing free education, assistance and advice to make it easier for employers to comply with workplace laws," Mr Wilson says. Workers or employers seeking support should get in touch with the Fair Work Ombudsman via the website www.fairwork.gov.au or call the Fair Work Infoline on 13 13 94. <http://www.fairwork.gov.au/media-centre/media-releases/2012/11/pages/20121101-wa-sa-and-nt-fuel-retailing-campaign.aspx>

USA, MA, BOSTON, NOVEMBER 9 2012. OFFICIALS TO MEET ON CLEANUP OF CONTAMINATED HANOVER FIREWORKS SITE

michele morgan bolton

Hanover and state environmental and public health officials will gather in the town together publicly for the first time Nov. 14 to address the impact and resolution of the contaminated 240-acre National Fireworks site. Six decades of manufacturing civilian fireworks and later US military munitions for four wars have resulted in enough mercury, lead, and other chemicals in the soil, wetlands, and adjoining waterways to earn the parcel one of the highest hazardous designations in the state. Still, said Hanover Town Manager Troy Clarkson, next Wednesday's communal meeting will also be used as a vehicle to clear up misinformation that the affected portion of the property — in use from 1907 to 1970 — poses a health or other risk. In a mailing to 6,000 homes and businesses preceding the meeting, Clarkson said the site has not had any effect on property values, the town's water supply, or any discernible link to clusters of disease, a key concern for Hanover residents. "We have produced definitive information on the health impacts at this point, based on the contaminants, that show no link to cancer rates," he said. "They are not elevated in Hanover at all." In a letter dated Dec. 19, 2011, the state Department of Public Health determined that cancer statistics in the town did not appear unusual, Clarkson said. The site, which also borders Pembroke and Hanson, is bounded by Winter, King, and First streets, the Drinkwater River wetland, and Factory Pond, according to the mailing. An industrial park operates in the northern and eastern portions of the property. A legendary producer of pyrotechnics from firecrackers to cherry bombs, National Fireworks was a major employer in Hanover in the early 20th century. At the meeting next week, state officials will also update residents on progress to get former owners and users of the property to pay for its cleanup. Those include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Department of Defense. "This meeting will be like one-stop shopping for citizens," Clarkson said. "It's important that we are speaking with one voice." State Department of Environmental Protection spokesman Joe Ferson said agency officials are attending the meeting at the invitation of Hanover selectmen. The department has overseen all investigations and remedial activities at the site since 1995. "We will clarify any issues they have and also provide answers about the cleanup at the site," Ferson said. "We are happy to provide those answers to the extent public information is available." The agency had set a June deadline to reach agreement with the parties responsible for the pollution or seek Superfund status, a designation given to the nation's most contaminated sites. Under that scenario, the US Environmental Protection Agency would lead the effort to clean up the site. But Clarkson and selectmen chairman John Barry were able to persuade the state to keep the cleanup local so that the town can remain involved. Selectmen, who want to use some of the remediated land for economic development, have also authorized Barry to set up a committee to look at future uses for the land when the cleanup is complete, Clarkson said. State officials have said that munitions and other explosives were often exploded in Factory Pond, which accounts for its levels of lead azide, often used as a detonator. Such materials don't go away easily, especially after leaching underground, they said. The National Fireworks property is designated Tier 1A for containing the most serious level of contamination, according to state standards. The state has already completed three cleanup phases, including removing drums of chemicals. Under Phase 4, ecological hazards would be excavated from the sediment or capped, officials said. On the table are six options, ranging from a temporary measure to remove some silt and soil for about \$5 million to a \$158 million plan to remove all hazardous materials. The median cost is \$27.8 million. The state is negotiating with the Fireworks Site Joint Defense Group, which includes National Coating Inc., MIT, and the Department of Defense. Tronox, once known as Kerr-McGee Chemical Co., settled with the federal government in 2009 and then went bankrupt. Still, \$950,000 of that settlement will go toward remediation, town and state officials said. Clarkson said he is eager for the meeting, which he considers a landmark development in moving forward. "When you have a site like this, you have to take a holistic approach," he said. What's equally important, though, is being sure that residents feel they are involved, he said. "The selectmen set a goal for me to improve communication with the public, and that is what I am trying to do." The meeting will be held at Hanover High School at 7 p.m.

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2012/11/08/hanover-and-state-officials-hold-joint-public-meeting-contaminated-fireworks-site/4PVNUS4fDvX6wrO8LRsDOO/story.html>



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AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PERTH, NOVEMBER 9 2012. TECHNICAL REPORT ON MONTARA BLOWOUT

PDF Document [Investigation into the Uncontrolled Release Of Hydrocarbons from the Montara Wellhead Platform - 21 August 2009 – Expert Witness Report \[Volume 1 of 3\]](#)



NOPSEMA has published a report prepared by an independent expert witness in relation to the Montara wellhead platform blowout on 21 August 2009 involving PTTEP AA. Colin Stuart, Managing and Technical Director of Stuart Wright Pte Ltd was engaged by NOPSEMA (then NOPSA) to provide an expert opinion to assist in the investigation of the incident and to support the brief of evidence referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions. The report provides comprehensive consideration and analysis of the events leading up to, and immediately following, the incident and has been published by NOPSEMA to allow industry to benefit from key lessons learned, in particular improving barrier integrity awareness. The report is available for download in three volumes from www.nopsema.gov.au via the Safety resources web page.

<http://www.nopsema.gov.au/assets/publications/Issue-5.pdf>

INDIA, KOLKATA. NOVEMBER 10 2012. TOXIC THREAT IN DIWALI GAIETY DON'T JUST SHUT YOUR EARS, COVER EYES AND NOSE TOO

subhro niyogi

The city may have achieved reasonable success in curbing [sound pollution](#) during [Diwali](#) and [Kali Puja](#) but environmentalists and physicians warn that fireworks and crackers that are currently permitted for use can cause a lot of harm. For packed into rockets, sparklers and flowerpots are toxic metals that add colours to the fireworks display. They get dispersed into the air as particulate matter and enter the body as one breathes. If that's not all, the blinding light that some fireworks emit can damage the eye. Binoy K Dutta, chairman of pollution control board that had played a pivotal role in curbing noise pollution by banning loud crackers that emitted over 90 decibel (dB), expressed concern over the increased use of fireworks that emit colourful lights. "It is time to take a relook at firecrackers and fireworks, examine the environment and health impacts, and build a consensus on discouraging those that are most harmful," Dutta told TOI. The combustible chemicals used during making fireworks include sulphur and nitrates. When these are ignited, they generate oxides of sulphur and nitrogen that are extremely harmful. Compounds of metals like copper, arsenic, cadmium, strontium, barium, magnesium and aluminum are also used for colour effect. "When the fireworks are lit, the metals settle on tree leaves and other surfaces in dust form. For a long time thereafter, they remain in the environment and are inhaled continuously and affect our respiratory tract," said Dutta. While bursting of crackers and fireworks in the open should not pose a problem, given that the particulate matter can disperse in the atmosphere, pulmonologist Anirban Deb pointed out that the weather conditions, coupled with volume of crackers exploded, turns the entire city into a gas chamber. "Since the air is cool, particulate matter remains suspended close to the earth instead of dispersing upwards. Hence, when we breathe, apart from sulphur dioxide, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide, small particles of cadmium, copper zinc, sodium, magnesium and manganese enter our system," said Deb. Every year, doctors report a spurt in respiratory cases just after Kali Puja and Diwali. "Bronchial cases shoot up. A lot of people suffer asthma attack. Once that happens, it plagues the patients all winter," the physician said. Sekhar Bhowmick, who works in the Central Blood Bank and did his house-staffship in eyecare, said: cautions that the retina may be damaged by fireworks that emit very bright light. "The blinding light in fireworks as well as infrared and ultra-violet lights used for decoration can damage the retina. Noise and air pollution apart, there is also light pollution that we need to be aware of," said Bhowmick. Though the sound menace has been curbed to a large extent in the city proper, it still remains a major problem in peripheral localities, including Salt Lake, Howrah and Baruipur. ENT specialists said they continue to receive cases of acoustic trauma just after the festival. According to ENT Kaushik Das, there is hearing impairment due to temporary or permanent damage to the inner ear. "Any loud sound leads to temporary threshold shift and recovery is gradual. But if it is more serious, the effect can be permanent," he said. A large sound can also rupture the eardrum, causing sensory neural hearing loss (high frequency hearing loss). And if the ossicular assembly is disrupted (disturbance of three small bones), it leads to conductive hearing loss and can even cause vestibular or balance problem. The solution, Dutta suggests, is to troop down to the Strand Road and celebrate fireworks



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display over the Ganga. "The world over, display of fireworks happens in the open and away from residential areas. An agency can organise a fireworks display from a barge on the river and people can watch from both banks," he proposed.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/pollution/Toxic-threat-in-Diwali-gaiety-dont-just-shut-your-ears-cover-eyes-and-nose-too/articleshow/17150785.cms>

BURMA, SAGAING DIVISION, KANBALU, NOVEMBER 10 2012. MYANMAR TRAIN FIRE LEAVES 25 DEAD, DOZENS HURT

- State television says a further 62 people were injured in the accident, which took place on Friday morning.
- One witness, Myint Kyi, told Radio Free Asia that the dead included 16 men, seven women and two people who were so badly injured their gender could not be identified.



A train carrying petrol derailed in northern Myanmar on Friday, triggering a massive blaze that killed 25 people and wounded dozens more, the government said. Two petrol tankers loaded onto the train overturned in the accident, and local villagers collecting the fuel were burned to death in the ensuing blaze, according to the information ministry website. Sixty-two people were hurt in the fire, which broke out at about 10:00 am (0330 GMT) in Kanbalu in Sagaing Region, bordering India, it said. "While some people from nearby villages were collecting the oil, the fire spread and 25 of them were killed and 62 injured, according to initial information," the ministry said. It said authorities were investigating the accident and the casualties had been rushed to hospitals in the

area. Photographs posted on the ministry's website showed workers spraying water on to the smoldering wreckage of the train. The charred remains of victims and abandoned buckets lay scattered around the scene of the fire. Further information was not immediately available and efforts to contact local officials in the remote region were unsuccessful. Safety standards are generally poor in Myanmar, which is emerging from decades of military rule under a new quasi-civilian government, and the decrepit rail system has suffered from years of under-investment. Long isolated under almost half a century of junta rule, Myanmar has embarked upon a rapid series of political and economic reforms under President Thein Sein, who is now wooing foreign investors to boost the ailing economy.

Related Links

- [25 Killed in Myanmar Explosion, Fire as Villagers Skim Fuel from Derailed Train](#)
- [Burma Train Crash and Fire Kills 25](#)
- [Dozens Burned to Death in Myanmar Train Crash](#)
- [Burma Train Crash Leaves 25 Dead, Dozens Injured](#)

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/myanmar-train-fire-leaves-25-dead-dozens-hurt-290905>

NORWAY, OSLO, NOVEMBER 10 2012. WORKERS EVACUATING RIG IN NORWEGIAN SEA

jon mainwaring

Workers are being evacuated from the Floatel Superior rig in the southern Norwegian Sea following a serious stability incident amid bad weather, Norway's Petroleum Safety Authority reported Wednesday. The PSA was notified about the incident at 4:15 a.m. Norwegian time with a report that an anchor had punctured one of the rig's ballast tanks. This led to the rig developing a list of three-to-four degrees. Speaking to Rigzone Wednesday morning, a spokesperson for the PSA said: "The rig itself is stable but the situation is not... They are evacuating as we speak." The PSA has established an emergency response center to help tackle the incident, and it said it is taking a very serious view of the incident. The center will supervise the operator's management of the situation. "We are thinking about the acute situation," added the PSA spokesperson. "The weather conditions are bad, they need to evacuate over 300 people and they have lost their barrier, meaning that they are taking in water. But the rig itself is stable." The Floatel Superior rig is a dynamically positioned semisubmersible unit that can accommodate up to 440 people when operating on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. The vessel is currently located alongside the [Njord](#) A installation that is operated by Statoil on the Halten Bank in the southern Norwegian Sea.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=121908



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USA, PA, YORK CO, WEST MANCHESTER TWP, NOVEMBER 10 2012. CHASE OF STOLEN TANKER TRUCK ENDS IN CRASH ON ROUTE 30

myles snyder

 [Watch the Video](#) [Police: Man Stole Gas Tanker, Led Officers on Chase](#)



Marc CJ Chartier.

Police in York County said they arrested a Canadian man after he stole a tractor-trailer and its gasoline tanker from a North York business and then led officers on a chase before crashing on Route 30. Marc CJ Chartier, 40, of Manitoba, was charged early Friday with theft, receiving stolen property, fleeing and eluding, aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, DUI and various traffic offenses, according to Northern York County Regional police. The truck and attached tanker were stolen shortly before 1:30 a.m. from Edris Oil, at 1225 Columbia Avenue. The driver reported that he had just hooked up to the trailer and was returning from the office when he found the truck and trailer gone, police said. About two minutes later, an officer spotted the truck traveling west on East 7th

Avenue toward North George Street and tried to stop it, but Chartier turned north on North George Street and at one point drove straight at two other police cars in the southbound lanes, forcing the officers to veer out of the way of a head-on collision, police said. Chartier then headed west on Route 30 and drove through red lights while blaring the truck's air horn at the intersections of Susquehanna Trail, Pennsylvania Ave, Fairlane Road, Roosevelt Avenue, and Kenneth Road, police said. He eventually lost control and struck a guard rail at the ramp for Route 462 East, disabling the truck. He refused commands to get out of the truck and had to be removed, police said. Chartier was arraigned on the charges after his release from York Hospital, where he was treated for minor injuries.

<http://www.abc27.com/story/20050591/chase-of-stolen-tanker-truck-ends-in-crash-on-route-30>

USA, WI, KENOSHA, NOVEMBER 10 2012. KENOSHA ENGINE PLANT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK WORK

margie gentner



At Monday's Public Works committee meeting, the committee voted unanimously to approve the change order for the project regarding the underground storage tank at the Kenosha Engine Plant (KEP), 5500 – 30th Avenue. Shelly Billingsley, the city's engineering director, spoke on the issue. "This is due to mobilization costs and not having access to the site. The change order is to change the funding for mobility. We took out the asphalt cap, and are going to enter into a separate contract to pour a concrete cap instead." The city approved a contract with New Berlin's Veit and Co. for \$258,000 in August to remove that tank. The change order approved on Monday moves the timeline for removing the tank. Work is to begin on or before November 9th, and it is to be completed by December 25th. The work was originally intended to start in August and be completed by now. The reason for the delay in getting this work done was due to Veit and Co. and its contractors struggling to get access to the site from the Old

Carco Liquidation Trust due to specific requirements needed to get access. Matt Knight, deputy city attorney, was also present at the meeting and spoke. "This is part of the KEP site grants for clean-up. We have a hard deadline here. We have until the end of the year to complete the work." Knight said that four work weeks were needed. Knight said that the issues regarding access were worked out today between the trust and the city. There was one word that had to be changed, "Liquidated" to "Liquidation" Trust. "Two of the four agreements have been returned already," he said. Also, the new dates need to be included. Billingsley said that they were spending less with the change in materials for the cap. Vice Chairman and Alderperson Jan Michalski asked about the concrete being less expensive than asphalt. He wanted to know if the weather would affect the work. Billingsley said that it is just the cap, a temporary fix, not a slab for the building. "It should suffice for environmental concerns," she said. Billingsley said that they prefer asphalt, but with the time constraints, they won't get it done in time. Therefore, it was removed from the contractor's contract. Mike Lemens, the public works director, said that a "thermal blanket would be enough to keep it from freezing. It doesn't have to do with the expense, but the availability. It's now out of



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the contract. City crews will be doing the work. The timing is more critical than the cost," he said. Knight said that Veit and Co. would be in breach of contract if work goes past December 25th. "Believe me, they want to finish this as quickly as they can, too," Knight said. The change order contained the removal of \$33,444 for the cap, with a net decrease to the work order of \$6,333.78. The vote was 5 to 0 to approve the change order. The former Kenosha Engine Plant is located in Alderperson's Patrick Juliana's district.

<http://www.kenowi.com/2012/11/08/kenosha-engine-plant-underground-storage-tank-work/4990>

USA, ILL, HINSDALE, NOVEMBER 10 2012. UNDERGROUND FUEL TANK IN DOWNTOWN HINSDALE

 **Photo Gallery [4]** [Underground Fuel Tank Removal](#)



This empty fuel tank was buried in the ground near Dips & Dogs, from the time when a gas station was on the site near the corner of First Street and Garfield Avenue.. The tank was dug up and hauled away Nov 7.

An underground fuel storage tank was removed from in front of the Dips & Dogs restaurant, at 50 S. Garfield Ave. Wednesday morning. The tank had been there from the time the property held a gas station. Hinsdale Village Manager David Cook said the law requires underground storage tanks be removed within a certain period after they become obsolete. Except for occasionally holding up traffic, the removal went smoothly with the tank being hauled away and the hole refilled in front of the restaurant, authorities said.

<http://hinsdale.suntimes.com/photos/galleries/16234209-417/underground-fuel-tank-in-downtown-hinsdale.html>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, NOVEMBER 10 2012. PHMSA ISSUES SPECIAL PERMITS FOR HAZMAT TRANSPORT FOLLOWING HURRICANE SANDY

Friday, November 9, 2012

patrick ambrosio

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued several emergency special permits authorizing the shipment of hazardous materials, including gasoline and diesel fuel, in several states affected by Hurricane Sandy. PHMSA issued a [special permit](#) Nov. 7 that allows commercial motor vehicle operators to transport gasoline and diesel fuel in non-Department of Transportation specification cargo tankers to areas affected by the Oct. 29 storm. The special permit allows cargo tankers that have been previously used for the transportation of other combustible liquids to transport gasoline in and through the hurricane disaster relief area. The special permit also exempts gasoline and diesel fuel shipments from shipping paper, marking, placarding, and security plan requirements, provided that the vehicle is escorted by law enforcement personnel. Fuel shipments are covered by the special permit while traveling in and through Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and West Virginia. PHMSA said in addition to issuing fast tracked emergency special permits in the wake of the storm, the agency also has staff on the ground to observe ongoing pipeline recovery and fuel delivery activities in the affected states.

Special Permit Granted for Refueling Trucks.

PHMSA also granted a [special permit](#) to Williams, a company that operates 3 interstate natural gas pipelines in the United States, to allow the transport of class 3 hazardous liquids in non-specification metal refuelling tanks. Class 3 hazardous liquids include ethanol and gasoline. The emergency special permit allows for the hazardous liquid to be discharged from refueling tanks, provided the tanks are not removed from the vehicles on which they are transported. The tanks, which must have a capacity of less than 119 gallons to be covered by the special permit, are required to be attended at all times by a qualified person during loading and unloading operations. The tanks also must be appropriately labelled and marked in accordance with federal hazardous materials transport regulations and properly grounded to prevent static electricity during loading and unloading. Both of the special permits authorizing emergency shipments of gasoline and other petroleum products are



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scheduled to expire Nov. 30. PHMSA also issued a [special permit](#) to Walmart to allow a one-time shipment of various hazardous materials from damaged retail stores affected by the hurricane. The hazardous materials will be transported from the damaged Walmart and Sam's Club stores to a temporary warehouse facility approximately 10 miles away. The special permit requires the hazardous materials to be packed in their original undamaged packaging, which will be placed in a fiberboard box during transport.

The special permit authorizing the use of non-specification cargo tank vehicles to transport gasoline and diesel fuel is available at:

- http://phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/SPA_App/OfferDocuments/SP15752_2012110433.pdf.

The special permit authorizing the use of non-specification metal refueling tanks is available at:

- http://phmsa.dot.gov/staticfiles/PHMSA/SPA_App/OfferDocuments/SP15751_2012110209.pdf.

<http://www.bna.com/phmsa-issues-special-n17179870834/>

USA, KY, JEFFERSON CO, NOVEMBER 10 2012. DIXIE HIGHWAY TO CLOSE AGAIN TUESDAY WHILE CHEMICALS FROM DERAILED RAIL CARS ARE MOVED >> SHUTDOWN OF DIXIE PLANNED TO BEGIN TUESDAY

harold j adams

 [Watch the Video Dixie Highway to Close Again Tuesday](#)



Displaced and broke in Kentucky after trail derailment...: The already poor residents of West Point evacuated by a train derailment talk about facing disaster without savings.

Dixie Highway, which reopened earlier this week after being closed for a week following a train derailment, will close again Tuesday so that chemicals in the tank cars can be moved to replacement cars. The closure from Ky. 44 to the Salt River Bridge will begin Tuesday at 6 a.m. and continue until further notice, officials said Friday. While Dixie Highway is closed, workers will use hoses to move dangerous hydrogen fluoride and butadiene from the derailed tank cars to new tank cars. Jefferson County Emergency Management Agency

spokeswoman Jody Duncan said. The chemicals will be taken to the nearest rail-yard and shipped to their original destinations, she said. Workers also will clean the derailed cars before they are moved. A statement said an evacuation or shelter-in-place order has not been recommended "at this time," but people living nearby should be prepared to evacuate or seek shelter if necessary depending on the prevailing winds at the time the chemicals are moved. After the Oct. 29 derailment, hundreds of nearby residents were told to evacuate their homes and thousands more were asked to remain indoors and close off all sources of outside air. Several workers at the derailment site were hospitalized last week after butadiene in one of the damaged tanks ignited, resulting in a fire that burned for days. The Federal Railroad Administration is still investigating the derailment.

Related Links

- [Shelter order could be issued when derailed chemical tankers are offloaded](#)
- [Train derailment adds burden to the needy](#)
- [Dixie Highway reopened at train derailment site](#)
- [Shelter order awaited near site of train derailment](#)
- [Train derailment cleanup to resume after fire brought under control](#)
- [West Point evacuates after train derailment explosion](#)
- [Shelter in place - what is it?](#)
- [Train derailment explosion seriously injures 3, prompts evacuation](#)
- [Derailment map | Evacuation and shelter-in-place radius](#)
- [Tanks of dangerous gas delay cleanup; Dixie Highway to remain closed until at least Thursday](#)
- [Chemical contained after train derails](#)

<http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20121109/NEWS01/311090089/Dixie-Highway-close-again-Tuesday-while-chemicals-from-derailed-rail-cars-moved?odyssey=nav%7Chead>



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USA, N.J, MORRIS CO, PARSIPPANY, NOVEMBER 10 2012. OFFICIALS TRYING TO CLEAN DIESEL SPILL IN PARSIPPANY

dan goldberg

Local, Morris County and state officials are working to clean a diesel spill in Parsippany. The spill occurred Thursday morning at about 8:30 when a fuel truck overfilled a tank, spilling about 2,000 gallons, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection. Some of the diesel seeped into Troy Brook, said spokesman Larry Hajna. A contractor has been hired and cleanup is already underway, Hajna said. "We have not observed any environmental damage," he said. Officials will continue to monitor the situation.

http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2012/11/officials_trying_to_lean_diese.html

USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 10 2012. BEHIND NEW YORK GAS LINES, WARNINGS AND CROSSED FINGERS

david w. chen, winnie hu & clifford krauss

[Watch the Video Hurricane Sandy Videos](#)



On Friday, the first day of gas rationing in New York City, a van without gas had to be pushed to a Hess station in Brooklyn.

The return of 1970s-era gas lines to the five boroughs of New York City was not the result of a single miscalculation, but a combination of missed opportunities, ignored warnings and a lack of decisiveness by city and state officials that produced a deepening crisis and a sense of frustration. Even before [Hurricane Sandy](#) came ashore, city and state officials moved quickly to shut down a sprawling transit system and order mass evacuations. But heading off a potential gas shortage seemed to be a low priority, if one at all, according to government officials, industry experts and gas station owners. When confronted

with gas lines that were growing exponentially and reports of fuel terminals in disrepair, city and state officials who huddled with Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo on Sunday were unable to come to a decision to ration gas, as New Jersey had done the previous day. Instead, these officials seemed to cross their fingers that somehow the gas supply would improve and that they would be able to avoid resurrecting unpleasant memories of the 1970s. Mr. Cuomo was said to be especially lukewarm, according to several people who were present at or were briefed on the discussion. Mayor [Michael R. Bloomberg](#), these people also said, talked about odd-even rationing and also mused aloud in the Sunday meeting that perhaps the best option was to simply allow the free market to dictate how people would find gas. But by Wednesday, there were renewed concerns that the gas crunch was not easing in the five boroughs and parts of Long Island — even as it was in New Jersey and the suburbs north of the city. By the next day, officials in New York City and in Nassau and Suffolk Counties were ready to embrace rationing. "The reaction on this side of the Hudson was slow, and New Yorkers have paid the price," said Anthony Michael Sabino, a lawyer who specializes in the [oil](#) and gas industry and lives in Nassau County. "The crisis became much worse because when people were left to their own devices, a panic set in." Compounding the problem was the lack of a centralized way for officials to coordinate with counterparts in the region's complicated fuel-distribution network — as the city works with utilities like Consolidated Edison. New York City's rationing effort coincided with one that began on Friday in Nassau and Suffolk and followed odd-even rules imposed for 12 counties in New Jersey. On Friday (Nov. 9), cars with either odd numbers or letters at the end of their plates were able to get gas. On even days, cars with even numbers or 0 at the end of their plates will be able to get gas. Throughout the area, long lines continued. There were no reports of arrests, though at some stations, drivers with the wrong numbers at the end of their plates were seen getting gas. At a Hess station in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, the wait for gas on Friday was about 20 minutes — far shorter than it had been in recent days, said Tony Dazzo, 35, an engineer who lives in Queens. "They should have done it sooner," he said. "It gets half the people off the line and moves it a lot more quickly." Even with a gas-rationing program in place, Mr. Bloomberg said the shortage might persist for days to come; and oil industry experts were even gloomier, cautioning that a lack of fuel could hamper travel during the busy Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Cuomo's aides declined to discuss any internal deliberations about the rationing, but noted that he had repeatedly singled out the gas shortage as a major problem. "If you want to paralyze a region as we've seen, just stop the fuel delivery for two days," he said at a news briefing on Friday. The storm cut off power to thousands of gas stations across the state, but perhaps more critically, it caused widespread damage to refineries and a network of ports and terminals



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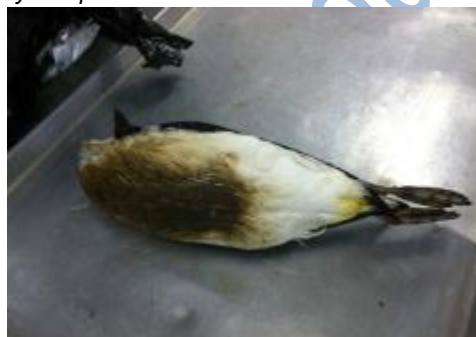
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that deliver gas to the pumps. But as Mr. Cuomo and industry executives have repeatedly warned, panic buying and hoarding among drivers have only slowed recovery efforts by placing more stress on the entire system. In New Jersey, Gov. [Chris Christie](#) imposed a gas-rationing system last Saturday. "The major problem is the terminals, but the mayor should have followed Governor Christie faster to curb some of the hoarding," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service. "When you have 200 people on line for gasoline, it doesn't take long for a station to run out." Placing extra strain on supplies has been the demand from emergency responders and people using generators. The center of the problem was Linden, N.J., oil industry executives said, the heart of the metropolitan supply chain and a place where New York officials have no jurisdiction. It is where the Colonial pipeline ends, bringing petroleum products up from the Gulf of Mexico, and where the Buckeye pipeline begins taking petroleum products to Long Island and other areas. Six- to eight-foot waves surged through the area, crashing into a Phillips 66 refinery and into a cluster of terminals on or close to the Arthur Kill waterway that receives refined products from the Colonial pipeline and local refineries for shipment throughout the region. In addition, while the main pipelines have recovered power, 20 or so terminals in and around Linden will take more time to build to normal operations. Eight to 14 are in various stages of repair and limited operations, while 6 are still out of commission. Docks were flooded and damaged, along with equipment that lifts refined product to the barges from pipelines and tanks. The surge blew out control-room windows and lifted and damaged marine docks and lifting equipment essential for putting the products on the barges. "Hurricane Sandy gave us a major shot to our distribution network," said James Benton, the director of the New Jersey Petroleum Council, a trade organization. He said the northeaster was a blow, as well, since "it delayed damage assessments for the larger facilities and recoveries for some of the smaller facilities." The extent of the damage to the gas-distribution network was not fully understood by state and city officials, said Ralph Bombardiere, executive director of the New York State Association of Service Stations and Repair Shops. A New York State energy office created amid gas shortages in the 1970s was dissolved in the 1990s. And, Mr. Bombardiere said, there was little if any coordination or monitoring of the entire distribution network before the hurricane. "There's more damage than anybody knew," he said. "There was no plan or diagram of how this industry worked or who you can call to find out what's happening." Connecticut, which did not experience a gas shortage, established a task force before the hurricane arrived that took steps to prevent a gas shortage. In New York, some critics have also charged that state and city officials simply took too long to act when the gas crisis started escalating. "I think that the city, state and federal government need to do a better job of coordinating their responses to this gas crisis," said Councilman David G. Greenfield of Brooklyn. "Quite frankly, it's shocking." Howard Wolfson, a deputy city mayor, said that discussions about gas rationing began shortly after the storm ended but took on urgency only after it became clear that it would continue longer than anyone in the industry or region had said. "Within the last 48 hours," Mr. Wolfson said, "it was clear that the problem wasn't getting any better."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/10/nyregion/in-new-york-gas-shortage-missed-opportunities-and-diverted-focus.html?adxnnl=1&ref=nyregion&adxnnlx=1352575019-wStSXACPCtAPDOixfel6Zw>

USA, AKA, ST LAWRENCE ISLAND, NOVEMBER 10 2012. COAST GUARD: NO SIGN OF SPILL IN AREA WHERE OILED WILDLIFE WAS FOUND

kyle hopkins



St. Lawrence Island residents have discovered several animals this fall -- including at least four birds and a spotted seal -- that appeared to have traveled through some kind of oil.

Investigating oiled wildlife found on St. Lawrence Island, a U.S. Coast Guard plane on Thursday found no signs of an oil spill along the Bering Sea island coast or surrounding waters. The HC-130 combed about 345 miles of St. Lawrence Island shoreline Thursday afternoon before extending the search toward the Bering Strait and north toward Shishmaref, said Petty Officer David Mosley. "(They) found no evidence of maritime pollution," Mosley said. St. Lawrence Island residents have discovered several animals this fall -- including at least four birds and a spotted seal -- that appeared to have traveled through some kind of oil, Mosley said. Another oiled seal was found on Labor Day near Shishmaref on the Seward Peninsula, he said. The source of the oil remained a

mystery Friday. A team from the Coast Guard and state Department of Environmental Conservation was scheduled to fly to St.



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Lawrence Island today. The group will meet with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife representative and local guides to begin searching the coastline for sources of the oil on Saturday, if weather allows, Mosley said. "We need to get our folks on scene, talk with people who made the reports and start searching the beaches," Mosley said. It's unclear how many animals are affected. No spills or sunken ships have been reported in the area, Mosley said. Russian authorities have told the Coast Guard there is no ongoing oil spill response or recent mishaps in Russian waters, he said. The first discovery came in September, on Labor Day, when a spotted seal killed by a subsistence hunter near Shishmaref was found to have some kind of oil on it, Mosley said. The second seal was taken by a hunter near Gambell -- about 230 miles away -- around Oct. 26, he said. The animals had oil on their bellies but were not coated in oil, Mosley said. Three common murrelets that also appeared to have traveled through oil were found on Sunday near Gambell and reported to the Coast Guard on Wednesday, Mosley said. One of the common murrelets was harvested for testing and two were seen swimming off shore, according to the Coast Guard. An oiled auklet was reported near Gambell on Tuesday, Mosley said. The state Department of Conservation plans to test oil samples taken from the seal and one of the birds found on St. Lawrence Island and is awaiting samples from the seal taken near Shishmaref to determine the type of oil. "We just don't know if there's a very isolated incident that's effected a few birds and a couple seals or it's something that could potentially be more impactful that we're going to need to address," Mosley said. A caller reported "oil-covered birds and seals" as well as oil-soaked debris on St. Lawrence Island to the National Response Center on Wednesday, according to the Center. Travis Akeya, of Savoonga, said hunters in the village are concerned about reports of common murrelets found with oil on their chest and oily rope washing up on the island shore. A coalition, or unified command, including the Coast Guard, the state Conservation Department and the villages of Savoonga and Gambell are creating an advisory that will tell subsistence hunters what to do if they encounter more oiled wildlife, according to the DEC. The area where the animals were discovered is an important habitat for eiders and other seabirds, as well as ringed and spotted seals, clams, crabs, orcas and other species, according to the state. Stellar sea lions are found in the area and are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Coast Guard says it has received no reports of oil found on any endangered species.

<http://www.adn.com/2012/11/09/2687653/coast-guard-no-sign-of-spill-in.html>

USA, N.C., RALEIGH, NOVEMBER 10 2012. NBC-17 INVESTIGATES: NC LAWMAKERS CALLING FOR CHANGE FOLLOWING WELL CONTAMINATION

charlotte huffman



EPA says a former circuit board manufacturer may be the source of water contamination in Wake Forest.

State lawmakers are calling for change following an NBC-17 investigation into toxic water in Wake Forest. NBC-17's investigation "[Poison In The Water](#)" revealed the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources knew about contaminated water in Wake Forest but failed to warn nearby residents. Rep. Pat McElraft, co-chair of the Environment Committee, tells NBC-17 she is "appalled" that DENR did not alert her to the problem or the families who were drinking water contaminated with TCE, a toxic chemical known to cause cancer. DENR told NBC-17 last month the department did not have the staff or funding to alert neighbors who could potentially be in harms way. "I just thank you for bringing this to my attention because it does need state attention,"

McElraft said. McElraft has been a member of the Environment Committee for six years, and for the past two years she has served as co-chair of the committee. "This is the first time I have heard anything about contaminated wells. I can guarantee you that saying there were not enough funds to test wells or warn residents is not an excuse that I would accept. If there were known contaminants, it is DENR's responsibility to warn citizens as soon as they knew," McElraft said. McElraft is suggesting a system is put in place on the county level that would alert homeowners digging wells near contamination sites. "It is my responsibility as co-chair of the Environment Committee to make sure this doesn't happen again and that we put legislation in place to protect the public." N.C. DENR maintains the list of contaminated properties across the state. Since counties issue the well permits, McElraft says the counties should know where their contamination sites are and be responsible for alerting homeowners when they apply for well permits. McElraft says the Commission for Public Health needs to write rules or there needs to be legislation that would create the requirement to test for TCE if a well is drilled near a known contamination site. "I think we are working in the right direction. I'm just sorry that maybe we might have missed something before," McElraft said. In



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2002, TCE was dumped from a building on Stony Hill Road. DENR was alerted about the contamination in 2005. Nearly seven years later, in June 2012, the EPA confirmed TCE had spread to the private water wells of 21 families. DENR is currently creating a database that identifies contamination sites. The public will be able to access that database to see if their home is near contamination. DENR expects a simplified version to be completed by March 2013. It could take another full year after that plus more funding before the full database is operational. DENR believes two circuit board manufacturing companies are responsible for the contamination.

Related Links

- [NBC-17 Investigates: Wake Forest residents drink contaminated...](#)
- [NBC-17 Investigates: Cleaning up toxic mess in Wake Forest will...](#)
- [NBC-17 Investigates: Toxic vapors found on 2 Wake Forest...](#)
- [NBC-17 Investigates: Who may be responsible for Wake Forest toxic...](#)
- [NBC-17 Investigates: Aqua NC to provide 40 more homes with clean...](#)

<http://www2.nbc17.com/news/2012/nov/09/2/nc-lawmakers-calling-change-following-nbc-17s-inve-ar-2768401/>

CANADA, QUE, SHERBROOKE, NOVEMBER 10 2012. BURN VICTIMS FROM EASTERN TOWNSHIPS EXPLOSIONS REMAIN IN CRITICAL CONDITION

lynn moore & anne sutherland

Watch the Video's:

- [Terrified Survivor Found in Rubble after Quebec Chemical Plant Explosion Kills 2, Injure 19](#)
- [2 badly burned in explosion at Bombardier plant in Quebec](#)

Photo's [4] Terrified Survivor Found in Rubble



The explosion at the plant on Thursday that left two people dead and many more with serious injuries.

The situation remains critical this weekend for six burn victims of two separate explosions in the Eastern Townships, with one man fighting for his life at Montreal's specialized burn unit. "He has very, very, severe burns to 90 per cent of his body and he also has inhalation injuries," Dr. Isabelle Perreault, head of Canada's second largest burn unit, said Friday. That man and three other middle-aged men were sent to her unit within CHUM's Hôtel Dieu hospital Thursday afternoon, two by air, two by ambulance. An explosion and fire at Neptune Technologies and Bioresources in Sherbrooke killed two people and sent 19 people to hospital, including the four sent to Montreal. With Perreault's

10-bed unit now full, Quebec's second burn unit, located within Quebec City's Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus, was alerted to receive burn victims if necessary. Sadly, that proved to be the case, within hours of the alert. At about 12:20 a.m. Friday, an explosion ripped through the research centre at the Bombardier Recreational Products (BRP) plant in Valcourt. Two men, a 38-year-old BRP employee and a security guard, 54, were transported to Quebec City. That burn unit remains designated to receive severe burn victims this weekend, hospital officials said. All six burn patients, from the two incidents, are in pharmaceutically-induced comas, Perreault said. Three of the four patients in Montreal are in critical condition, but there is no fear for their lives. One of the men in Quebec City is also in that category, according to hospital officials. The first 72 hours after injury are critical for people who suffer burns to more than 30 per cent of their bodies. Meanwhile, investigators are probing the two major incidents in the Eastern Townships. Firefighters and environmental experts are closely monitoring the cleanup operations in Sherbrooke, at Neptune. Its plant has large tanks of acetone, a highly flammable solvent that is believed to be the source of the explosion and fire. Investigators with the Sûreté du Québec and Quebec's workplace health and safety board, the CSST, are probing the BRP explosion. SQ spokesperson Bruno Beaulieu said that it appears the explosion came from the research centre's laboratory and was accidental.

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Burn+victims+from+Eastern+Townships+explosions+remain+critical+condition/7527698/story.html>



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ENGLAND, HAMPSHIRE, NOVEMBER 10 2012. DEFENCE COMPANY SENTENCED OVER EXPLOSION DEATH



The aftermath of the first explosion and scale of the fire.

Wallop Defence Systems Ltd (WDS) has been ordered to pay £376,000 in fines and costs for safety failings that caused a fatal explosion at its Hampshire factory. Anthony Sheridan, 37, from Over Wallop, was killed from injuries sustained in the blast at WDS, in Middle Wallop near Stockbridge, in June 2006. Mr Sheridan was emptying one of six industrial ovens used in the manufacture of military flares. The ovens contained high levels of nitroglycerin (NG) that exploded, causing an explosion that destroyed the factory building. Several other workers were injured in the incident, with blast debris landing up to 600ft away. Winchester Crown Court heard today (9 November) that WDS had realised in 2004 that their process for curing pellets as part of the production of military

flares produced the explosive chemical as a by-product. An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that none of the company's senior management team or technical advisers were competent to deal with the NG issue, but did not seek external professional assistance. Reviewing the company's procedures since NG was discovered in 2004, HSE found WDS was not complying with the basics in explosive safety and failed to adhere to licensing requirements for the storage and processing of explosive substances. Their failure to properly assess and manage the risks put workers and the public in danger. A second explosion occurred in December 2008 when the company attempted to dismantle the remaining NG contaminated oven on the company's second site. No one was injured in the explosion. The court heard that the company failed to engage with the HSE and seek competent expert advice on dismantling it and that the incident was entirely foreseeable and avoidable. Wallop Defence Systems Ltd, of Craydown Lane, Middle Wallop was fined a total of £266,000 and ordered to pay £110,000 in costs for three breaches of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, two relating to the fatal explosion and the other to the second blast. The company pleaded guilty to all three breaches in an earlier hearing at Andover Magistrates Court. In a victim statement Anthony's sister, Tracy Sheridan, said: "The loss of Anthony has been massively devastating on the whole family and particularly on me. We were very close. "Anthony was involved with the whole family and particularly my children. He played a big role in my children's lives and they still talk about him. He was a friendly person and liked by all, including all of his work mates at Wallop. "The family have gradually come to terms with Anthony's loss, although this was made even more difficult with the devastating injuries he suffered. The family wasn't able to lay an open coffin, an Irish tradition and say goodbye in a traditional way." Speaking after sentencing, Qamar Khan, Principal Inspector for HSE's explosives team, added: "Anthony Sheridan suffered horrifying injuries in the explosion that caused his death. "Both this explosion and the subsequent blast in December 2008 were foreseeable and preventable had the company sought and taken appropriate advice and implemented the correct measures. If these steps had been taken Anthony Sheridan would still be alive. "It is especially concerning that despite issues with the factory being reported to senior WDS management, nothing materially changed to safeguard employees and the public. The company deluded itself that everything was OK and in hand. "Companies working with dangerous substances must take extreme care at all times and in all aspects of their operations. That clearly didn't happen here, and the consequences were tragic."

Related Links

[Statement from Wallop Defence Systems](#)

[Firm Fined after Explosion Death](#)

[Verdict on explosion death worker](#)

[Blast factory process criticised](#)

[Blast debris 'found 600ft away'](#)

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2012/rnn-se-20412.htm>



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