



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 914 Newsy Stuff

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

**December 23 2012**



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#### COLOMBIA, VALLE DEL CAUCA, DECEMBER 9 2012. 13 BUS PASSENGERS INJURED IN COLOMBIA FIREWORKS BLAST

At least 13 people were injured in the southwestern Colombian province of Valle del Cauca when a fireworks-filled suitcase exploded on a bus which then caught fire, government officials said. A local official in Candelaria, the town where Friday's blast occurred, told reporters that a passenger apparently put his suitcase near the vehicle's motor, which caused the fireworks to heat up and explode. Eberto Riveros said that for now it is "pretty difficult" to establish which of the passengers owned the explosive material, but added that authorities are investigating the matter. Most of the injured were hospitalized, including four who are in fairly serious condition and were later transferred to another medical center. Though exactly how many passengers were on the bus remains unknown, estimates indicate there were at least 25.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=654752&CategoryId=12393>

#### CANADA, B.C, VANCOUVER, DECEMBER 9 2012. HEATING OIL SPILL INTO GORGE TRACED TO NEARBY HOME'S ABANDONED TANK

*louise dickson*



*Heavy equipment works on Adelaide Avenue in Saanich where heating oil has been leaking into the Gorge.*

A contractor using ground penetrating radar has found the source of two heating oil spills that flowed into public storm drains, then into the Gorge Waterway this year. The abandoned oil tank with 2,000 litres of an oil-water mixture was discovered Thursday in a yard adjacent to Gina Dolinsky's home on Adelaide Avenue, said Graham Knox, B.C.'s environmental emergency program manager. The discovery of the old tank is a relief for Dolinsky, who was on the hook for thousands of dollars in cleanup costs when oil started running through her property into the Gorge Waterway

- even though the oil did not originate from her home. The abandoned tank was emptied and removed from the site. The area around the hole was excavated and contaminated soil hauled away. Then the hole was lined and topped up with clean fill, Knox said. "At this point, we don't know how long it's been there and whether the former owner, who sold the property between March and now, knew about it," Knox said. The first spill occurred in March and was assumed to be coming from a house farther up Adelaide where an oil company driver delivered more than 300 litres of home heating oil to a disconnected tank. That house was demolished but subsequent tests showed the oil on Dolinsky's property did not come from there. On Sunday, oil spilled from her Adelaide Avenue property a second time, even though her heating oil tank is not leaking and her oil furnace is working properly. Because the Environment Ministry didn't know who was responsible and needed to identify the source to prevent further spills, it hired contractors to trace the source of the oil. Gavin Edwards, the current owner, was not aware there was an abandoned tank buried in the yard and is using electricity to heat his home, not home heating oil, Knox said. The ministry's next step is to restore Dolinsky's and Edwards' backyards to the way they were before the problem, Knox said. A temporary road was built to allow for the removal of the tank. The homeowners will have to decide in the next few days whether they want the ministry to leave the temporary road in place while they do additional work on their properties. They might need the road to get equipment in, he said. Knox estimated that the cost to find and remove the tank may be less than \$10,000. The question now is who will pay. "We're seeking legal advice from our solicitors to determine whether our costs will be passed back to the original owner or split between the original owner and the current owner," Knox said. It's also possible the government could decide not to recover its costs, he said. Dolinsky can talk to the neighbour about whether he will cover costs, Knox said. Edwards could not be reached for comment.

#### Related Links

- [Province will trace oil leak from Saanich home](#)
- [Oil leak at Saanich home a mystery as owner pays to investigate](#)

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Heating+spill+into+Gorge+traced+nearby+home+abandoned+tank/7671058/story.html>

#### USA, NORTH DAKOTA, DORE, DECEMBER 9 2012. NO DEATHS IN DORE OIL TANK INCIDENT

No one died the night of Nov. 29 when two men were reported to have died inside an oil tank at Dore, N.D. McKenzie County Sheriff Ron Rankin told the Herald on Thursday – after requests for comment – that McKenzie County Sheriff's deputies



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responded to a call from Circuit Trucking employees who said two men appeared to be unconscious, and they were not able to free them from the tank. Deputies arrived on scene and found the men were actually trapped inside a semi-truck's oil tank. Rankin said the men were drilling holes in the tank, but the fumes were too strong, even though it was recently cleaned. "They were just so disoriented," and they weren't able to respond to co-workers who checked on them and to get out, Rankin said. Fairview fire-fighters cut the side of the tank open with torches and freed the men who were treated at Sidney Health Center and later released. Fairview and Sidney ambulance crews also responded.

[http://www.sidneyherald.com/news/article\\_afd8cc34-416f-11e2-8373-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.sidneyherald.com/news/article_afd8cc34-416f-11e2-8373-0019bb2963f4.html)

### USA, NV, LAS VEGAS, DECEMBER 9 2012. 8 ESCAPE INJURY IN FUEL-SPARKED FIRE AT VEGAS HOME

Authorities in Las Vegas say eight people escaped serious injury when a fuel-sparked fire gutted the garage of their two-story house. Clark County spokeswoman Stacey Welling says the father was working on the car when fumes from spilled gasoline were ignited by a natural gas dryer pilot light about 7:30 p.m. Friday. The man and his wife got their six children to safety before firefighters arrived at the home near Christy Lane and Charleston Boulevard to find the garage engulfed by flames. Welling says the fire caused \$80,000 in damage to the garage and three vehicles. The American Red Cross was helping the family late Friday.

<http://www.mynews4.com/news/story/8-escape-injury-in-fuel-sparked-fire-at-Vegas-home/hLeNbgNI90mw6B5sKv8SvQ.csp>

### USA, N.J, MONMOUTH CO, DECEMBER 9 2012. MISTAKEN JET FUEL DELIVERY SHUTS TWO GASOLINE STATIONS IN MONMOUTH CO >> SEVEN CUSTOMERS OF DELTA STATION IN KEYPORT REPORTED DAMAGE; LUKOIL STATION IN MANASQUAN ALSO AFFECTED

*kristi funderburk*

Police shut down two Monmouth County gasoline stations on Friday that each received deliveries of jet fuel. At least seven customers of the Delta station on Route 36 in Keyport reported damage to their vehicles, police Chief George Casaletto said. Police in Manasquan, where the Route 71 Lukoil station also received the jet fuel, said Saturday afternoon they hadn't received any damage reports yet. Casaletto said there are no criminal charges for what he called "a mistaken delivery." The gasoline station will be responsible for any damage, he said. Casaletto wasn't exactly sure what adding jet fuel to a car's gas tank can do, though he could say there is no concern of a fire. People calling to report damage after receiving gasoline from the station said their vehicles had become disabled or just broke down, he said. Nothing like this has happened in his 30 years with the department, he said. Keyport police received notice of the jet fuel situation from Monmouth County Sheriff's Office at 6:52 p.m. Friday and officers immediately responded to the station to stop operations. It wasn't clear how long the station supplied the jet fuel, how many gallons of the jet fuel were dispensed or from what fuel tank it came from. The gas station will remain closed until Monday, Casaletto said. "They have to pump out the tanks and jet fuel," he said. He wasn't sure what company delivered the jet fuel or if it was the same company that delivered jet fuel to the Lukoil in Manasquan. Manasquan police Sgt. Michael Stoia said the department also learned of the incident from the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office at 6:42 p.m. and shut down the Lukoil station immediately afterward. Stoia said he isn't sure if any customers received jet fuel in their tanks before the station closed, but the department has not received any reports from customers. Monmouth County's hazardous materials team, Keyport Fire Department and the state's Department of Environmental Protection, Weights and Measurements office and Service of Emergency Response Team were all notified of the incident, Casaletto said. The state Service of Emergency Response Team is investigating the matter, he said. Anyone who received a fuel delivery from the Delta station who is having car trouble should contact Keyport Police Department at 732-264-0706. Callers should keep their receipts and report the time they received the fuel.

<http://www.app.com/article/20121208/NJNEWS/312080042/Mistaken-jet-fuel-delivery-shuts-two-gasoline-stations-in-Monmouth-County>

### CHINA, HANGZHOU, DECEMBER 9 2012. TWO SEPARATE FACTORY BLASTS KILL 2, INJURE 17 IN E. CHINA

Two separate factory blasts in East China on Saturday have left two people dead and 17 others injured, authorities said on Sunday. An explosion in an iron smelting factory in Zhejiang province has left one dead and seven others injured, local authorities said. The accident occurred around 9:30 pm Saturday at the coal feeding workshop of Yuanli Metal Products Co Ltd in Quzhou city, according to the government of Quzhou. Conditions of the injured are not immediately available. The Quzhou government has ordered a work safety check in the city after the accident. Also on Saturday, a blast in a chemical



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plant in Anhui province killed one and injured 10 others, local authorities said. The blast occurred around Saturday noon at Anhui Hongsifang Holding Company, a subsidiary of China National Salt Industry Corp in the provincial capital city of Hefei, said company deputy manager Ding Mingzhi. One worker died after being hospitalized and four others suffered minor injuries, Ding said, adding that six workers were also sent to hospitals for observation due to exposure to toxic gas. Investigations into the causes of the two accidents are under way.

[http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-12/09/content\\_15999793.htm](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-12/09/content_15999793.htm)

#### NEW ZEALAND, BAY OF PLENTY, KATIKATI, DECEMBER 9 2012. EXPLOSION DURING AOS RAID

genevieve helliwell

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Armed Police Raid Turns Explosive in Katikat](#)
- [Police Question Trio after Explosion](#)



*Thick smoke bellowed from a shed that had caught alight in Katikati.*

Explosions were heard at a residential address in Katikati, Bay of Plenty, today as armed police executed a drugs warrant. Neighbours were told to stay indoors while police approached a shed on Park Rd about midday. One neighbour told the Bay of Plenty Times she heard a loud bang, then the building caught alight. The woman, who did not want to be named said big plumes of thick, black smoke erupted from the shed. Witnesses told One News about hearing the explosions, followed by a chemical smell in the air. Jo-Anne Russell said the explosions might have been caused by combustible fuels in the building. "I don't think it's rifle shots, even though the Armed Offenders are carrying weapons at the moment. "The Armed Offenders came over with their rifles, all geared up ... and gas masks, and told us that there was a lot of toxic fumes in the air and to please move away." A woman, who did not want to be named, said she was told by a member of the Armed Offenders Squad to stay indoors as the shed contained volatile chemicals. A reporter at the scene said more than a dozen firefighters were called to the property and used breathing apparatus when they were putting out the fire. The shed was gutted. Police said there was a large fire and a significant amount of smoke at an industrial style building at the property, requiring a number of fire appliances. As a result, police temporarily evacuated a small number of people from nearby buildings as a precaution. No one was injured. Julian Dickon said he thought the first blast was a blown out tyre "and the next explosion I came out and the smoke was absolutely billowing out". Another resident, Chris Marment, said she assumed the people who owned the building

had blown it up. Detective Senior Sergeant Lindsay Pilbrow said there was a family on the property, and they would be relocated for the night for their own safety and to help police carry out a scene examination. Police were unable to confirm media reports that a methamphetamine lab was at the scene, as it would not be possible to begin an examination until the area has cooled down. Two men and a woman are helping police with their enquiries.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=10852913](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10852913)

#### USA, CA, AROMAS, DECEMBER 9 2012. SULFURIC ACID SPILL IN AROMAS

chaas toborg

 **Watch the Video** [Sulfuric Acid Spill](#)

A 1,200 gallon drum carrying sulfuric acid tipped over Saturday morning, spilling the chemical in an ag field at San Juan and Murphy Roads. Some of the acid landed on a field worker. He was flown to a San Jose hospital for second degree burns, according to California Highway Patrol. CALFIRE crews and Monterey County Health Department's Hazmat team shut down Murphy Road between San Juan Road and Highway 129 just before noon Saturday as they began cleaning up. The road was still shut as of Saturday evening. CalFire, Monterey County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol all responded



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to the spill. The tank of sulfuric acid spilled about 500 yards from the banks of the Pajaro River and fire crews said the muddy ground from recent rains may have caused the spill but also helped stop the spread of the acid. "As wet as the ground is, I don't believe it's going to leak down into the river," said fire investigator Cliff Williams. But because the acid was diluted Monterey County Health Department's Hazardous Materials Unit said the spill wasn't as bad as it could've been, including the air the public was exposed to. "It's toxic in concentrated form, with it being out in the open field and everything like that and with the breeze that we've got there's no problem with the fumes," said Williams. Sulfuric acid is one of many chemicals that farmers use, according to Williams. It is used to control the PH levels in the irrigation systems so the acid goes into the ground diluted either way. The property owner is on the hook for the clean-up costs, no word yet on how much that will be.

<http://www.kionrightnow.com/story/20295173/sulfuric-acid-spill-in-a>

### BRAZIL, MATO GROSSO, DECEMBER 9 2012. DEADLY ETHANOL: BRAZIL'S SUGARCANE FARMS TAKE TOLL ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

ryan villarreal



*Sugarcane farms have overtaken much of the Guarani people's ancestral land in western Brazil.*

The chieftain's daughter-in-law watched as the rancher's four henchmen struck her father-in-law in the head with their rifle butts until he was lying breathless in the dirt. "I watched ... the death of Marcos, and I couldn't stand it, that murder they carried out," said Geisalia Veron, one of the indigenous Guarani people in Brazil, speaking on camera with the indigenous-rights group [Survival International](#). Eight years after the death of Marcos Veron, three of the men would be acquitted of homicide, charged instead with kidnapping, torture, and criminal conspiracy, and each handed relatively lenient 12-year prison sentences. The fourth man was never found. No charges were brought against their wealthy employer, Jacinto Honorio da Silva Filho, whose cattle ranch had

been built on the Guarani's ancestral land, amid the receding rain forests of western Brazil's Mato Grosso state. Veron, the leader of a group of 100 villagers who reoccupied the land, was 72 when he died in January 2003. They came with tools, and they began to rebuild their homes on the overgrazed pastures that had once been shaded by a dense forest canopy. Silva's men confronted them with guns. The old chieftain often said the land was his life and soul, and that he could not be separated from it. And his body was buried in the soil he died for, a final act of defiance.

#### A Developing Story

Veron's story is one that has played out in some form many times across the lands of the Guarani as cattle ranchers and sugarcane farmers encroach further and further into their territory every year. There are also gas drillers, loggers, and miners - spearheading the steady advance of development in South America's biggest country, now the world's seventh-largest economy in the International Monetary Fund national rankings. The story doesn't always involve murder or even direct violence. Sometimes, it is the pollution of a vital stream because of pesticides or mine runoff. Or malnutrition and poverty brought on as the traditional, self-sustaining lifestyles disappear with the land. Last month, a Guarani community in Mato Grosso complained that a stream, their main source of water, had been polluted with a thick layer of white foam in the midst of a bitter land dispute with a local rancher located upstream. The Guarani community told Survival International that its members used the stream "for drinking, bathing, cooking, and washing our clothes. Now we cannot use it ... we are very scared." The problem facing the Guarani is not merely the individuals who exploit their land for resources, but the industries that support them. In some cases, foreign companies are providing the economic incentive for these individuals' actions. The expansion of sugarcane cultivation, especially for the development of ethanol as Brazil aims to avoid dependence on oil imports, is a main driver of deforestation and the associated displacement of the Guarani. Bret Gustafson, associate professor of sociocultural anthropology at Washington University in St. Louis, said the issue of displacement is particularly prevalent in Mato Grosso, near the border with Bolivia. "Because of the boom in sugarcane and soy in this region, landowners have been able to mobilize local political power in their favor -- what is often referred to as the 'rural lobby,'" Gustafson said. Despite efforts by Brazil's federal government to protect indigenous lands, he added, local politicians have resisted, and allowed landowners to continue occupying disputed land. Meanwhile, multinational companies provide landowners with business.

#### Follow the Money



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Bunge Ltd. (NYSE:BG), based in White Plains, N.Y., purchases sugarcane for the production of sugar and ethanol from farms on lands that are in the process of being demarcated by Brazil's federal government as Guarani land. "It's clear it's indigenous land. It's just a matter of process," said Fiona Watson, Brazil researcher at Survival International. Watson's organization is currently appealing to Bunge to withdraw from its contracts with sugarcane farmers whose plantations lie within land she said has already been designated as indigenous. Susan Burns, a Bunge representative, said the company would withdraw from its contracts only when the land was officially demarcated, a process that could be prolonged by appeals from landowners. "Bunge purchases a portion of the sugarcane used at a mill in Mato Grosso do Sul in Brazil from farmers whose land is being claimed by members of a local indigenous group, but which has not been designated as such by the competent authorities," Burns wrote in an email. "Multiple contracts to purchase this sugarcane were entered into prior to Bunge's acquisition of the mill, and Bunge is legally required to honor them," Burns added. "The contracts expire over the course of the coming years, starting in 2013, and Bunge has decided not to renew them, although such sourcing is completely legal in terms of the law." Bunge declined to disclose the value of the contracts.

### 'Send a Message'

Watson said her organization is aware that Bunge is within its legal rights to buy sugarcane from the land until it is officially demarcated as indigenous, but she said that the ethical decision would be to withdraw now. Ending the contracts would "send a message" to other farmers who are exploiting indigenous land that they will not be receiving business from large companies like Bunge, and it would set an example for other multinationals. Bunge operates sugarcane mills in Brazil, where it produces both sugar and ethanol primarily for the Brazilian market. "Three Bunge sugarcane mills in Brazil are certified by Bonsucro, a multi-stakeholder organization focused on the social, environmental and economic sustainability of sugarcane production ... Bunge is working to have all its sugarcane mills in Brazil certified," reads [a statement on the company's website](#). However, the farmers who sell sugarcane to Bunge do not have such standards. Many Guarani end up doing manual labor for low wages on these plantations. "They've managed to convert the Guarani into a cheap labor force," Gustafson said. "This is some of the toughest work you can imagine, cutting sugarcane with a machete for 12 hours a day. You don't last very long doing this kind of work." Gustafson said the industry has had a severe impact on the Guarani way of life. Many have been forced off their land and live in overcrowded camps on the side of roads, dependent on limited government assistance to survive. The situation has also caused a breakdown of social cohesion within Guarani communities, with high rates of suicide, alcoholism, and self-destructive behavior, Gustafson added. According to Gustafson, a legal solution exists: The government could compensate the landowners and return the land to the Guarani. But the federal government has been more focused on economic development than on protecting indigenous people's rights. While Survival International is focusing on Bunge because it is a major corporation, it has also criticized the Brazilian government for failing to take enough action to protect the Guarani way of life. In particular, Watson said the government "must be more proactive on the landowners," meaning they need to be held accountable by local law enforcement officials and encouraged to respect the rights of indigenous peoples. "It is the Brazilian government's moral and legal responsibility to ensure that the human-rights abuses and the racial discrimination which the Guarani are suffering is stopped," [Survival International Director Stephen Cory](#) said in a statement. "If swift and efficient action is not taken, many more Guarani will suffer and die."

<http://www.ibtimes.com/deadly-ethanol-brazils-sugarcane-farms-take-toll-indigenous-people-912116>

### AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, THIRROUL, DECEMBER 10 2012. BULLI PASS CLOSED AFTER GAS TANKER ACCIDENT

*lisa wachsmuth*

[Watch the Video Bulli Pass Closed as Tanker Careers Off Road](#)

[Slideshow \[8\] Tanker Careers Off Road](#)



*The gas tanker is hidden in bush after crashing through safety barriers.*

Bulli Pass has been closed in both directions between Thirroul and Bulli Tops after a gas tanker crashed through safety barriers and into bushland around 5.30pm. A 100-metre exclusion zone was set up around 7pm to allow emergency crews to drain and then salvage the tanker which was holding around 8000 litres of LPG. Wollongong Police Inspector Brian Wyver said the salvage operation was not expected to be complete until tomorrow morning.

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"The truck driver was coming down the pass when he lost its brakes, it appears, and then he tried to go up the safety ramp but missed the safety ramp and has gone about 80 metres into the bush," he said. "...It appears as if the truck driver was trying to go up the safety ramp and he's clipped another car coming the other way. "No-one's been injured in the accident." Inspector Wyver said emergency services, including police, fire brigade and ambulance, were quickly on scene. The contents of the truck prompted the closure of the road. "As a result the fire brigade has declared it a hazard area so we've shut the pass, top and bottom," he said. "There are no houses in the immediate area so no evacuations are required - it's just a matter of retrieval." Fire and Rescue NSW Wollongong duty commander Inspector Don Pescud said while there were no major injuries, the truck driver was treated for minor injuries by ambulance officers. "The fire brigade has stabilised the truck and is monitoring the air," Inspector Pescud said at around 7pm. The road is not expected to open again until tomorrow morning. Motorists are advised to use Mount Ousley Road or Lawrence Hargrave Drive as an alternative route. Emergency services, RMS crews and a tow truck remain at the scene.

<http://www.illawarramercury.com.au/story/1177316/bulli-pass-closed-after-gas-tanker-accident/?cs=390>

### USA, CA, BARSTOW, DECEMBER 10 2012. EPA FINISHES HAULING OFF CONTAMINATED SOIL ON BARSTOW RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

*jim steinberg,*

After removing 98 truckloads of perchlorate-contaminated soil, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday purged a 5-acre parcel of residential property of a pollution source, which for a brief period in 2010 halted the drinking use of this city's water supply. The residence, on Poplar Street, had been occupied by the former owner of Mojave Pyrotechnics, a defunct pyrotechnics manufacturing company that operated in the 1980s. In late November 2010, a state of emergency was declared in San Bernardino County after perchlorate was detected - above the state limit of 6 parts per billion - in the city of Barstow's drinking water. As a result, Golden State Water Co., the water supplier for the city of Barstow, asked customers not to drink the water coming into their homes and businesses. After testing all its wells, the company found one well that was the perchlorate source and took it off line. Because the source had been shut down, Golden State's water was later reinstated as safe for consumption. Following an investigation, the contamination source was traced to the property where the deceased owner of Mojave Pyrotechnics had stored perchlorate-laced chemicals he no longer needed. During the 1980s, the company provided explosives used to provide realism in simulated battlefield scenarios at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, officials said. That business ended after another company won the bidding to bring that pyrotechnic "realism" to the NTC, officials said. After years of storage, perchlorate-containing materials either "accidentally or intentionally" spilled onto the ground where they seeped into the groundwater, said Will Duncan, an on-scene coordinator for the EPA. The contaminated soil - which was removed to a level of three feet - was hauled to U.S. Ecology landfill in Nevada, Duncan said. The EPA worked closely with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, which was the lead agency in the investigation to find the water pollution's source.

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/breakingnews/ci\\_22158659/epa-finishes-hauling-off-contaminated-soil-barstow-residential](http://www.dailybulletin.com/breakingnews/ci_22158659/epa-finishes-hauling-off-contaminated-soil-barstow-residential)

### CANADA, AB, EDMONTON, DECEMBER 10 2012. HYDROCHLORIC ACID LEAK IN EAST EDMONTON CAPPED >> CLEANUP CREWS WORKING TO NEUTRALIZE THE ACID, BUT SAY RISK TO THE PUBLIC IS MINIMAL

The hydrochloric acid leak that forced emergency crews to evacuate an industrial area east of Edmonton has been stopped. "It's no longer leaking. Now what we're going to be doing is cleaning up what is on the ground," said John Lamb, Deputy Fire Chief. The leak, which happened at Panther Industries, a facility near 121 Ave and 32 St. NE, was first noticed by an employee at 8:40 a.m., according to the company. "We have a [chemical] storage facility, it happened there," said Clayton Schneider, assistant manager with the Saskatchewan-based company. Police and fire crews evacuated nearby businesses and blocked off roads in the area, which is north of Sherwood Park. No injuries have been reported. Fire crews say they are still dealing with a cloud of acid that has formed over the spill, but that there isn't a threat to the public. Hydrochloric acid can burn skin on contact, and can cause lung damage if inhaled. Lamb says there was initial concern that the acid could leak into the city's drainage system, but that is no longer a problem.

#### Tight Bolts, Cold Weather may have Caused Leak

Schneider says the bolts on a viewing window installed on the acid tank may have been too tight. They appear to have sheared off because of the cold weather, causing the leak. He says the tanks are held in a berm, which seemed to collect most of the acid. Some of it escaped, but Schneider says it all remained on the company's property. "The reason we have



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such strict procedures on something like [this] ... is so that things are manageable," he said. Schneider says it is the largest leak the company has ever dealt with, but praised the actions of employees and emergency workers in containing the spill. With the leak capped, fire crews expect to spend four to five hours cleaning up the site. Cleanup crews are now working to neutralize the acid. They say the cold temperatures are helping to keep the liquid from spreading further.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/story/2012/12/09/edmonton-acid-leak.html>

### **SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, DECEMBER 10 2012. TANKER CRUSHES CAR, BAKKIE - 5 DEAD**



A multi-vehicle accident near Umbumbulu, south of Durban, on Saturday evening has left five people dead and two injured, paramedics said. "A tanker truck, single cab bakkie and a [car] collided into one another on the R603 near Umbumbulu this evening," ER24 spokesperson Vanessa Jackson said. "The tanker truck was carrying a load of molasses, and following the collision, the cabin had become disconnected from the rest of the vehicle, having been ripped from the body, tearing the tanker open." The cabin came to a rest on top of the car, crushing it beneath its weight and killing the person inside. Molasses was also spilled across the road, leaking out of the tanker which had been punctured. "Of the two occupants travelling in the tanker truck, one sustained fatal injuries and the other moderate injuries," said Jackson. "The man who had died on scene was found just outside of the cabin, face down in a pool of molasses." The other person was treated for his injuries on the scene and then transported to hospital for additional treatment.

#### **Dazed**

Inside the bakkie there were three passengers including the driver. A woman and girl had been sitting in the front cabin of the bakkie and a man in the enclosed back section. All

three suffered fatal injuries and were declared dead on the scene, trapped in the wreckage. "The second survivor of the accident was found walking around the scene, but there was no indication from the patient as to which vehicle he had been travelling in," Jackson said. "The patient was transported to hospital by ambulance for further care." The road remains closed in the area for clean up operations.

<http://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/Tanker-crushes-car-bakkie-5-dead-20121208>

### **CHINA, JIANGSU PROVINCE, NANTONG, DECEMBER 10 2012. GASOLINE STAND IN CHINA CAUGHT SELLING WATER AS FUEL**

*philip kendall*

According to reports by the Chinese media, a gas station in the eastern province of Jiangsu has been identified as the source of heavily-diluted fuel that has caused numerous vehicle breakdowns in the area. A number of cars in the city of Nantong suffered engine trouble just minutes after their tanks were filled at a Sinopec stand (owned by the China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation), with each car later found to have water in its fuel tank. It wasn't long before mechanics and motorists alike began to notice a pattern between the sudden engine failures and visits to the Sinopec stand. Late last month, a Chinese BMW owner pulled into the gas station to fill his thirsty car's tank. After paying for the fuel and travelling just 200 metres down the street, however, the car suddenly started sputtering and ground to a halt. Just 20 minutes earlier, another motorist suffered spontaneous engine failure after filling up at the same location. The cause of both breakdowns? Water in the fuel, with almost 80% of the liquid in one car's tank found to be made up of plain old H<sub>2</sub>O. When confronted, a representative from the Sinopec station admitted that the petrol sold by the stand may have contained water, but vehemently denied any wrongdoing, saying: "There is absolutely no way that the fuel sold here was diluted intentionally." Instead, the representative pointed to the possibility that water vapour had collected on the inside of the fuel's transportation tank and had found its way into the petrol during its delivery, suggesting that those involved in the fuel's shipping may have been negligent in checking the soundness of their containers. But with as little as 20% of the liquid being pumped into some customers' cars being actual fuel, one has to wonder just how decrepit the fuel tanks being hauled across China really could be...

<http://en.rocketnews24.com/2012/12/10/gasoline-stand-in-china-caught-selling-water-as-fuel/>

### **INDIA, HARYANA, PANCHKULA, DECEMBER 10 2012. 'TANKER CAUGHT FIRE FROM NEARBY DHABHA'**



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A Hindustan Petroleum oil tanker loaded with 20,000 litres of petrol caught fire on NH 73 between Panchkula and Naraingarh. The tanker was parked near a roadside food joint near Ramgarh when it suddenly went up in flames around 8:30am. Truck driver Saied Raja and dhaba owner Mohan Lal escaped from the spot. They came back when the fire brigade was at work. According to S K Gosain, senior station fire officer from Chandigarh, "Prima facie, it appears that when fuel was leaking or transferred, it caught fire from the kitchen of the nearby dhaba. It cannot not be ruled out that fuel caught fire when it was being transferred." Rules specify that the seal of an oil tanker can only be opened after it reaches its destination, he explained. DCP (Panchkula) Parul Kush Jain said, "The circumstances under which the tanker caught fire are being investigated."

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-12-09/chandigarh/35705368\\_1\\_oil-tanker-fire-brigade-truck-driver](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-12-09/chandigarh/35705368_1_oil-tanker-fire-brigade-truck-driver)

### ENGLAND, WALES, POWYS, DECEMBER 10 2012. A470 IN POWYS PARTLY SHUT AFTER GAS TANKER CRASH

A 23-mile stretch of the A470 in Powys has been closed after a gas tanker overturned in a field. The incident happened between Llanbrynmair and Dolfach, near Machynlleth, at about 13:00 GMT. Dyfed-Powys Police said the tanker was half full of gas, and the A470 had been closed between Caersws, near Newtown, and Mallwyd, near Machynlleth. A recovery vehicle was sent to the scene, but it was not clear when the road would reopen. Police said the lorry was on its side in the field, adding that it was the only vehicle involved. It was unclear if there were any injuries to the driver. Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service sent crews from Machynlleth and Newtown to the scene. Diversions were put in place.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-mid-wales-20660154>

### PUERTO RICO, SAN JUAN, DECEMBER 10 2012. COAST GUARD RESPONDS TO DIESEL SPILL IN SAN JUAN HARBOR

The Coast Guard is responding Sunday morning to a report of a diesel spill of at least 600 gallons of diesel in the San Antonio Channel of San Juan Harbor, Puerto Rico. The diesel spill reportedly occurred early Sunday during a vessel fuel transfer at Pier 10 and has reportedly been contained. Coast Guard pollution investigators and Coast Guard boat crews are responding to determine the extent of the spill and impact to the waterway. The diesel spill was initially reported to the National Response Center, who in turn reported the incident to Coast Guard Watch standers in Sector San Juan as well as other commonwealth agencies at 6:20 a.m. Sunday. Coast Guard pollution investigators are describing the smell of fuel in the area and a sheen currently impacting the San Antonio Channel. The diesel fuel is a light fuel that is evaporating quickly. Mariners should report any impacted areas or diesel spill sightings to the Coast Guard Command Center in Sector San Juan at 787-289-2041 or the National Response Center at 1800-424-8802. The incident is under investigation.

<http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/coast-guard-responds-to-diesel-spill-in-san-juan-harbor>

### USA, N.Y., NEW YORK, DECEMBER 10 2012. CHEVRON AIMS AT AN ACTIVIST SHAREHOLDER

*gretchen morgenson*



*Workers at a site in Ecuador that was owned by Texaco Petroleum, a Chevron unit.*

Public corporations routinely tell shareholders that their views matter. The [Chevron Corporation](#), for example, said in its 2012 proxy statement: "Your board welcomes dialogue on the topics presented in the stockholder proposals on the following pages." So it might seem odd that last month Chevron subpoenaed one of its investors, Trillium Asset Management, which has sponsored numerous shareholder proposals at Chevron over the years. The [oil](#) company demanded documents related to those proposals. The subpoena also asked for records of discussions Trillium had about these proposals with the media. It is unusual to make such a demand from a shareholder, corporate governance experts say.

While companies often try to keep shareholder resolutions off the ballot by contending that they do not follow the rules, going beyond that is rare. [Trillium](#) oversees \$1 billion in assets and specializes in what is known as sustainable investing. It focuses on environmental, social and governance factors in its investments and pursues shareholder advocacy programs on these issues. In an interview last week, Jonas Kron, Trillium's director of shareholder advocacy and corporate engagement, declined to discuss the subpoena. But it is part of a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations lawsuit Chevron has filed against an army of parties involved in bringing an environmental case against the company in Ecuador almost two decades ago. In



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February 2011, the court in Ecuador ruled against Chevron, awarding the plaintiffs more than \$18 billion. The Ecuadorian matter centered on claims that Texaco Petroleum, which Chevron acquired in 2001, had polluted sections of a remote region in the Amazon. Chevron maintained that Texaco successfully remediated the site years before, in a \$40 million cleanup. Chevron has not paid the judgment. The company [has said](#) it does not believe that the Ecuador judgment is enforceable "in any court that observes the rule of law." It maintains that the Ecuadorian case was riddled with fraud and says it will "continue to pursue relief against Ecuador in our pending arbitration and against the plaintiffs' representatives in our RICO action pending in New York." Last July, a federal judge in the United States declined to declare the judgment unenforceable; he did note that aspects of the trial in Ecuador were tainted. And a judge in Argentina froze the assets of a local Chevron unit last month as the court determines whether it should enforce the Ecuadorian judgment. Trillium is not a defendant in Chevron's RICO suit. But it, along with other shareholders, has questioned how Chevron has handled all this. Earlier this year, for example, 40 Chevron shareholders overseeing \$580 billion in total assets signed a letter asking to meet with company management to discuss the matter. Chevron declined. When asked about the company's subpoena to Trillium, Justin Higgs, a Chevron spokesman, acknowledged that it was not standard operating procedure. But, Mr. Higgs said, it reflects the company's belief that Trillium was working closely with plaintiffs in the Ecuador case to pressure Chevron into a settlement. That belief, he said, is supported by documents produced in the suit. In an interview on Friday, Randy Mastro, a lawyer at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher who represents Chevron in the case, said: "Our case is about a massive fraud and extortion scheme for billions of dollars. The conspirators enlisted a network of not-for-profits, so-called shareholders who were acting independently but really acting in collusion to get out their false story. We have a right to take discovery of those shareholders and those groups they enlisted to try to find out the methods of the scheme." Among the concerns Trillium has raised are Chevron's disclosures to investors about the potential liabilities associated with the judgment. In 2011, the [fund manager asked](#) the Securities and Exchange Commission's corporate finance unit to review whether Chevron had adequately explained "the scope and magnitude of financial and operational risk arising from the Ecuador judgment." In the letter, Trillium noted Chevron's public contention that the uncertain legal environment in Ecuador meant the company could not estimate "a reasonably possible loss" in the case. But Trillium contrasted this stance with deposition testimony in the RICO case from Rex Mitchell, Chevron's deputy controller. Mr. Mitchell said the company faced "irreparable damages" if the Ecuador plaintiffs succeeded in enforcing their judgment by seizing Chevron's assets. It is unclear how the S.E.C. responded to this request. Mr. Higgs, the Chevron spokesman, said all of the company's disclosures had been appropriate. As this legal battle has raged, Trillium has sponsored several shareholder proposals. In 2011, Trillium co-sponsored a proposal asking that Chevron nominate an independent board member with expertise in environmental matters relative to energy. Chevron urged shareholders to reject that proposal, saying its board's "qualification standards adequately recognize the importance of environmental expertise." About one-quarter of the shares supported the 2011 proposal advocating a director with environmental expertise. "We have been outspoken on environmental and social issues we think are important, material and relevant to the financial performance of the companies in our portfolio," Mr. Kron said. "Looking at some of the corporate missteps in recent years, all of those companies would have benefited greatly by having a more active and engaged shareholder base." TRILLIUM'S activities do not seem outlandish. Hiring an independent environmental expert to sit on a board is a common shareholder request these days and asking the S.E.C. to review a company's disclosures is fair game for shareholders. And yet, the receipt of the subpoena seems to indicate that Trillium's work has drawn the company's wrath. It is not alone. Last month, Chevron [filed an ethics complaint](#) against [Thomas P. DiNapoli](#), the New York State comptroller. As overseer of the state's Common Retirement Fund, Mr. DiNapoli has also sponsored shareholder proposals at Chevron. In its ethics complaint, Chevron contends that Mr. DiNapoli and the plaintiffs' lawyers in the Ecuador case had "an illicit and unethical quid pro quo arrangement" in which the comptroller put pressure on Chevron in exchange for campaign donations. Eric Sumberg, a spokesman for Mr. DiNapoli, said the accusations were baseless and an attempt to intimidate. "Shareholders have the right to protect their investment, and that is exactly what the Common Retirement Fund is doing," he said. Chevron is entitled to be as aggressive as it likes in this court case and it may well prevail. But its actions against a shareholder are nonetheless remarkable. Timothy Smith, a vice president at Walden Asset Management, another socially oriented investment firm, said: "A shareholder making a legitimate appeal to the company doesn't deserve this kind of counterattack." <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/09/business/chevron-takes-aim-at-an-activist-shareholder.html>

**NEW ZEALAND, DUNEDIN, DECEMBER 11 2012. BP STAFF TRAINED ON CONTAMINATION**

*vaughan elder*



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Staff at BP petrol terminals around the country have undergone extra training to ensure an incident where petrol was contaminated with water at a terminal in Dunedin last month is not repeated. This comes as an investigation confirmed the contamination happened during "routine pipeline testing" on November 2 at the industry terminal in Dunedin, which is owned by BP and operated by New Zealand Oil Services Ltd. As a result of the contamination, about 30 cars encountered engine problems. They had been filled up with 91-octane petrol at three BP sites, two in Dunedin and one in Oamaru, and Mobil Northgate in Cumberland St. BP communications and external affairs manager Jonty Mills said an investigation into the contamination found it occurred when staff were undertaking "routine integrity pressure testing of a pipeline" using water. He said the test was done once every five years. "It is important to note that water is used as a safety precaution, due to the nature of pressure-testing procedures. It's a normal procedure. It's just that there were some deficiencies in the process around doing it," Mr Mills said. Since the incident, operational and management staff from around New Zealand had attended workshops in Wellington where the incident and the proper way of pressure testing were discussed. Mr Mills would not reveal the amount BP had spent repairing damaged engines, saying it was "commercially sensitive" and the claims process was continuing.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/238624/bp-staff-trained-contamination>

### USA, LOUISIANA, DECEMBER 11 2012. HIGH ACCIDENT RATE FOR LOUISIANA'S REFINERIES REPORTED >> THE LOUISIANA BUCKET BRIGADE AND THE UNITED STEELWORKERS RELEASED THE REPORT ON 2011 ACCIDENTS AT THE 17 REFINERIES LAST WEEK.

**PDF Document** - [The Report Indicates Total Pollution Increased from the Previous Year.](#)

A new report says Louisiana's 17 refineries reported 301 accidents to the state of Louisiana during 2011. The data come from self reports that have been criticized for underestimating actual releases; even so, they show more than 1 million pounds of toxicants into the air and some 1.3 million gallons into the state's water and soil. "This report offers a window into what is really going on at Louisiana's refineries. They help our union make the case for how unsafe this industry can be. Instead of ignoring the results of this report or doubting the accuracy of the public records on which the data is based, refiners should work with our union and the community to make these plants safer," said Gary Beevers, International Vice President of the United Steelworkers. "No one wants these refineries to shut down, but refiners can do more to ensure the safety and health of their workers and the community. ExxonMobil definitely has the financial resources to do a better job." The report, titled "Common Ground: the Call for Cooperation to Reduce Accidents at Refineries in Louisiana," was released by the union and the [Louisiana Bucket Brigade](#), an environmental health and justice organization supporting neighborhoods' use of grassroots action to create informed, sustainable communities free of industrial pollution. They say the report's goal is to solve the ongoing problem of refinery accidents. "Every year, we repeat our call to refinery management to sit down with us and with the workers to get to the bottom of the industry's accident problem," said Anne Rolfes, founding director of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade. "Refinery managers continue to act as if they don't have an accident problem. Until they face the facts, the oil industry, our economy, our environment, and our health will suffer."

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2012/12/10/high-accident-rate-for-refineries-reported.aspx?admgarea=news>

### IRELAND, DUBLIN, DECEMBER 11 2012. NEW ADR GUIDE PUBLISHED

The Health & Safety Authority has published a new guide, which is geared towards businesses that are involved in the consignment, loading/unloading and carriage of dangerous goods by road. The guide has been arranged to provide a comprehensive summary of the legal provisions of the ADR (European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road). In instances where access to the detailed provisions of the ADR is required, it is available and free to download at [http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr\\_e.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/publi/adr/adr_e.html). All businesses that carry significant quantities of dangerous goods by road have a legal obligation to appoint a dangerous goods safety adviser (DGSA), i.e. a competent person able to advise on the safe transport of dangerous goods nationally and internationally. This guidance does not exclude this group, but is primarily geared towards businesses that operate below the threshold where a DGSA is legally required and therefore may not have immediate access to a DGSA. In these circumstances such businesses may still require a DGSA from time to time and this guidance is not intended to replace that expertise. It is intended to allow all businesses to be better informed in the decisions made in the process of ensuring compliance with current legislation and in controlling risk when handling dangerous goods. The guide can be downloaded from the Health and Safety Authority's website, [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)



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<http://www.hgvireland.com/12/10/new-adr-guide-published/>

#### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, NARANGBA, DECEMBER 11 2012. FIRE DESTROYS FORMER TANNERY NOW OIL HOLDING FACILITY ON BOUNDARY AND POTASSIUM STREETS, NARANGBA

robyn ironside

##### Watch the Video's:

- [Prime Movers Razed in Industrial Fire](#)
- [Fire Tears Through Northside Warehouse](#)

##### Photo's [9] [Fire Tears Through Warehouse](#)



Queensland's Environment Minister has ruled out any redevelopment of the Narangba Industrial Estate after nearby residents were left gasping for breath from an oil holding facility fire early today. The former tannery now oil holding facility on the corner of Boundary and Potassium Street caught fire just after 1am, the fire spreading from two prime movers in a tin shed, consuming half of it by 2.30am. Fran Jell from the Narangba Community Action Group said some residents considered leaving their homes during what she said was the 10th fire at the Narangba industrial estate in eight years. "It smelt awful," she said. "It caught the back of your throat and had a chemical taste." Ms Jell wants the Queensland Government to move the estate, or at the very least implement an evacuation plan for the fast growing area. But Environment Minister Andrew Powell said the industrial estate was approved and developed in the 1960s and 70s. "The industrial estate has been there for longer than I've been on this planet," Mr Powell said. "My responsibility is to continue to ensure that industrial developments in that location meet the highest environmental standards." He conceded that poor planning had not helped the situation. "There has been incremental creep of residential estates towards industrial estate," he said. "The North Lakes development in particular has a 1.5km buffer from the industrial estate itself." Ms Jell said there were houses just 300m away. "I'm very angry over this fire. It is very unfair to our community. It's criminal that they allowed people to live so close when there's been so many fires," she said. Environmental officers remained on site, conducting air and water monitoring, and ensuring that "environmental compliance" had been met, Mr Powell said. "We'll continue that investigation until we discover the results." Earlier, it was reported that fire investigators believe a burning car may have caused a major blaze that gutted an oil holding facility at Narangba early Tuesday morning. Furious locals were left gasping for breath as toxic fumes from the fire spread over the nearby community. The former tannery now oil holding facility on the corner of [Boundary and Potassium Street](#) caught on fire just after 1am, the fire spreading from two prime movers tin shed, consuming half of it by 2.30am. Fran Jell from the Narangba Community Action Group said some residents considered leaving their homes during what she said was the 10th fire at the Narangba industrial estate in eight years. "It smelt awful," she told AAP. "It caught the back of your throat and had a chemical taste." Ms Jell wants the Queensland Government to move the estate, or at the very least implement an evacuation plan for the fast growing area. "I'm very angry over this fire," she said. "It is very unfair to our community, houses are just 300 metres away. It's criminal that they allowed people to live so close when there's been so many fires." Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Superintendent Lance Duncan said the fire "may have started in a car beside the building". The blaze was fought by 50 firefighters. The facility is believed to have been completely destroyed, with the fire extinguished about 5am. No one was inside at the time but several fire crews rushed to the shed, believed to be about 60mx20m and used for storing industrial oils for export. Supt Duncan said no other buildings had been damaged, despite a "very high potential threat to other premises". Fire crews reported several internal explosions and were forced to fight the fire externally. He said the first officer on scene "identified a vehicle on fire which he believes 'communicated' to the building and this is how it started". "It spread rather rapidly from there and there were some large explosions from gas cylinders inside," he said. Police closed the north section of Potassium Street due to smoke, as firefighters worked to ensure the fire did not spread to gas bottles in the area. Supt Duncan said while all smoke had some level of toxicity, wind conditions at 4am on Tuesday had lowered the concentration of the smoke and it was now "not a concern". Firefighters conducted atmospheric testing and the areas has been declared safe. Supt Duncan said workers were



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able to access neighbouring sites. Motorists have been advised to avoid the area as the roads are expected to remain closed for some time. The cause of the fire is yet to be officially determined.

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/fire-destroys-kangaroo-leather-tannery-on-boundary-and-potassium-streets-narangba/story-e6frg6n6-1226534154118>

#### **NIGERIA, LAGOS, DECEMBER 11 2012. SHELL MUST FACE UP TO ITS LIABILITIES IN THE NIGER DELTA**

The oil giant is responsible for cleaning the spills and leaks throughout Nigeria's southern regions, a new report says. The shareholders of Royal Dutch Shell could be waking up to a multi-billion dollar headache this morning, after a [University of Essex report](#) concluded that the FTSE-listed company is responsible for cleaning up the mess it has made of the Niger Delta. The findings are the results of nearly two years of research. The Niger Delta, an area roughly the size of Scotland, used to be a picturesque wetland. It is home to 31 million people, but over the past six decades, many of the villagers there have seen their livelihoods devastated by oil pollution. Commercial oil production began in the region in 1958 after the discovery of crude oil at Oloibiri by Shell British Petroleum (now Royal Dutch Shell). Today, the oil industry is highly visible in the area. Royal Dutch Shell's subsidiary [Shell Nigeria](#) alone operates over more than 31,000 square kilometres. Over that period there have been thousands and thousands of oil spills. Between 1976 and 2001 the [United Nations Development Programme recorded](#) 6,800 spills. Earlier this year, Amnesty International [exposed](#) [PDF] the real picture of Shell Nigeria's legacy at the site of one of the worst spills - in Bodo, Ogoniland, in 2008. Shell's official investigation claims only 1,640 barrels of oil were spilt. But based on an independent assessment carried out by the US firm Accufacts, Amnesty International found that the total amount spilt is, at a bare minimum, some 103,000 barrels - a massive 63 times Shell's estimate - and could be as high as 311,000 barrels. But it appears Shell failed to learn their lesson and, since 2008, there have been two further major spills in Bodo, including one [in June this year](#) which reportedly took Shell at least ten days to fix. The spills have hit those at the bottom hardest. Reliant on fishing and agriculture, they have seen their livelihoods destroyed and have been pushed deeper and deeper into poverty. Fish, which remains the staple of villagers' diets, have been contaminated, the air has a stench of oil, and the water is stained black from the pollution. Last year, the United Nations Environment Programme published [a report](#) based on two years of in-depth scientific research. One of the most serious facts to come to light was the scale of contamination of drinking water, which had exposed communities to serious health risks. And today's report highlights a shifting legal environment in which Royal Dutch Shell can expect to face an increase in lawsuits as a consequence. Historically, Shell has tried to hide from the consequences of its actions. When confronted with the serious problems in its Niger Delta operations, it focused on defending its corporate image. It has consistently failed to own up to its responsibilities, hiding behind a complex legal structure, and operating to lower standards in the Niger Delta than elsewhere, because it thinks it can get away with it. Very rarely has it admitted liability. That argument is now over. The University of Essex report concludes that the responsibility not only for the maintenance of the pipelines, but also for pipelines' protection, for spill clean-up and for the pollution lies squarely with the oil companies. And that the parent company, Royal Dutch Shell, can be held liable for its subsidiaries' failure to operate to acceptable standards. Shell can no longer shrug off its legal and financial liabilities with effective PR. The day of reckoning for the company's cavalier attitude towards addressing its environmental and human rights impacts is approaching. The time to pay up has arrived. And Amnesty International believes the final bill could run into many billions of pounds.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/12/2012129122836827844.html>

#### **USA, IN, POSEYVILLE, DECEMBER 12 2012. SEMI TANKER FLIPS IN SOUTHERN INDIANA**

 **Photo's [4]** [Tanker Crash in Southern Indiana](#)



*Indiana State Police are investigating why a tanker flipped onto its roof.*

Monday morning at approximately 9:00, Indiana State Police and Posey County Sheriff's Department responded to an overturned tanker on S.R. 165 north of Poseyville near Mulkey Road. Preliminary investigation revealed John O. Schmitt, 59, of Poseyville, was driving a 2006 Freightliner tractor and pulling a tanker full of fuel northbound S.R. 165 north of I-64. Schmitt was transporting fuel for Country Mark. For unknown reasons, the tractor and trailer left the roadway on the east side near Mulkey Road, struck a utility pole and overturned. The vehicle came to a final rest on its top and the tanker spilled fuel onto the roadway and into a nearby ditch. Trooper Matt Jacobs and three Samaritans cut

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the driver's seat belt and pulled him from the tractor before EMS arrived. Schmitt was transported to Deaconess Hospital in Evansville where he is being treated for a non-life threatening head injury. As of 2:30 p.m., S.R. 165 remains closed while crews clean up the site and remove the tractor and tanker. Nearby residents were not evacuated.

<http://www.wthitv.com/dpp/news/semi-tanker-flips-in-southern-indiana#.UMgyCINOSM4>

### USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, DECEMBER 12 2012. TANKER TRUCK CLIPS I-35 BRIDGE, SPILLS CRUDE



Crude oil is unloaded from one tanker truck to another after one of the trucks (left) hit a bridge pillar shortly before 3:00 a.m. Monday December 10, 2012 under Interstate Highway 35 near Loop 410 North and Randolph Boulevard. San Antonio Fire Department Assistant Chief Oscar Gonzalez about half of the 8,500 gallon load of crude in the truck leaked out but was contained and remediated by the Texas Department of Transportation. Gonzalez said Randolph Boulevard was blocked under IH-35 and there were no injuries during the incident. A sign on the door of the truck read "Alpha Petroleum Transport" from Houston.

A tanker truck clipped a bridge pillar under Interstate 35 near Loop 410 this morning, spilling about half of its 8,500-gallon crude oil load. The Alpha Petroleum Transport truck was turning under I-35 at Randolph Boulevard shortly before 3 a.m. when it struck the concrete pillar and ruptured its tank. The driver wasn't injured, and Assistant Chief [Oscar Gonzalez](#) of the [San Antonio Fire Department](#) said the [Texas Department of Transportation](#) was working to contain the spill. Traffic on I-35 appeared to be unaffected.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/default/article/Tanker-truck-clips-I-35-bridge-spills-crude-4104910.php>

### USA, LA, DOYLINE, DECEMBER 12 2012. EXPLOSIVES COMPANY BLAMED FOR LA. TOWN'S EVACUATION FACED SCRUTINY BEFORE



This undated file aerial photo provided by the Louisiana State Police via The Shreveport Times shows part of the smokeless explosive powder improperly stored outside Explo Systems Inc., a munitions dismantling facility at Camp Minden at Doyline, La. Explo Systems is currently under investigation for improperly storing millions of pounds of a military propellant, prompting the evacuation of the nearby town of Doyline. Documents reviewed by The Associated Press show Explo Systems Inc. was previously cited for safety violations in 2007 after old Army explosives were used in mining operations in West Virginia.

The explosives recycling company that caused the evacuation of a Louisiana town has come under scrutiny for explosions and its handling of dangerous materials before, and it was so far behind on its rent that the Louisiana National Guard refused to lease it more space. Explo Systems Inc. was cited for safety violations by the federal government in 2007 for its use of old Army explosives in mining operations in West Virginia, where a blast with "outdated deteriorated military ordnance" injured one worker and exposed others to toxins. And the company had fallen hundreds of thousands of dollars behind on its rent at a Louisiana National Guard base even as it processed an Army contract to

demilitarize hundreds of thousands of propelling charges used for artillery. The company's most recent problems began with an explosion in October at that northern Louisiana facility. Authorities investigating the blast found an estimated 6 million pounds of a propellant called M6 — used for artillery rounds — haphazardly stored. Some boxes were stacked in buildings, some were packed into long corridors that connect the buildings and still more were found stashed outside. Some of the containers were spilling open. Authorities feared that ignition of any of the propellant could set off a massive chain reaction that would race through the corridors and blow up multiple buildings, threatening the town of Doyline. Its 800 residents were put under a voluntary evacuation order for several days ending late last week, with kids out of school and some people living at camp sites in a nearby state park. The company is now under a criminal investigation for its storage of the materials, which have are being secured. Lt. Col. Michael Kazmierzak, a Louisiana National Guard spokesman, said Explo officials asked earlier this year to lease more space at the base but that the request was turned down because the company was roughly \$400,000 behind on rent. He said the company never again brought up the need for more space, but the Guard eventually worked out a payment plan for the rent that was owed. He said Explo has made at least one payment under that plan. State



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Police spokeswoman Julie Lewis has said the materials found outside appeared to have been "hidden" among trees. It's not clear if they were put there after the National Guard refused to give the company more space. Explo Systems has not responded to numerous messages. An attorney who has represented the company declined to comment when a reporter visited his office last week in Shreveport, La. Webster Parish Sheriff Gary Sexton said Tuesday that Explo's owners have not been in contact with authorities and there has been limited communications with the company's attorneys. "They wish this thing would go away, but it's not going to," Sexton said. The October explosion wasn't the first at the Explo facility. A series of at least 10 explosions there in 2006 caused an evacuation of Doyline, shut down Interstate 20 and forced officials to move students to schools in a nearby town, Sexton has said. The company also came under scrutiny in West Virginia where it was using an old military explosive called tetryl in mountaintop removal mining for Catenary Coal Co. in 2006 and 2007, according to documents reviewed by The Associated Press. A February 2007 blast injured one worker and exposed others to toxins. Some of the tetryl dated back to 1940. Among the allegations in the reports, federal regulators said Explo used a Chevy pickup truck to haul 350,000 pounds of the explosives around the mine site, but the vehicle did not have "suitable sides to confine" the loads. On one trip, about eight wooden boxes fell out of the truck, broke open and spilled explosives on the ground. The company also failed to properly separate explosives and detonators while hauling the material, the report said. Explo Systems "displayed a reckless disregard for the health and safety of miners and by giving no consideration to the mining laws applicable to these activities," the Mine Safety and Health Administration said in report dated April 3, 2007. The report said Explo was working as a contractor at the mine. The company paid fines of \$2,000 for each of at least three violations related to the handling and transporting of explosives, according to federal records. West Virginia mine safety officials also said Explo violated state regulations, but it wasn't immediately clear what penalties the state may have imposed. Some workers filed lawsuits claiming the exposure to tetryl made them sick. The substance can cause symptoms including nosebleeds, yellowing of the skin, headaches and, in prolonged exposure, liver damage, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Explo Systems had planned to use more than a million pounds of tetryl for mining, according to the federal report. That would have enabled the company to dispose of outdated explosives for the Department of Defense while also making money from the mining industry. Explo Systems, which was registered in Louisiana in 2001, has made millions from contracts with the military. Last year, the company listed its annual revenue as \$3 million with 70 employees, according to the Federal Procurement Data System. The Army awarded Explo Systems a contract in 2010 to demilitarize hundreds of thousands of propelling charges for artillery rounds. The contract was for \$2.9 million with options for renewal for four years. The contract called for the demilitarization of as many as 450,000 propelling charges per year. Demilitarizing explosives generally entails changing a device or chemical in a way that it can't be used for battle. Stephen Abney, a spokesman for the Army's Joint Munitions Command, said it's possible the M6 at the site came from the Army propellant charges, but he couldn't be sure. Abney said Explo requested on Nov. 27 that the government hold all shipments because Louisiana authorities would not allow them to receive it until inspections and investigations have been completed. Abney said the Army is gathering information about the events in Louisiana to help it decide whether to continue the contract. The contract also raises questions about what Explo told the Army when bidding on the job and in subsequent reports. The solicitation for the contract required the company to provide "a detailed description of storage capacity." A July 2011 report from the Government Accountability Office related to a dispute between Explo Systems and General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc., over a military contract said the military rated Explo Systems' safety approach as "good." It was rated "satisfactory" in areas like its program management plan and "exceptional" for past performance. It wasn't clear from the report if the 2006 explosion in Louisiana or the problems in West Virginia were taken into account as part of that assessment. The Explo facility is located on Camp Minden, a Louisiana National Guard base. The U.S. government had acquired the land in 1941 to build the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant. It was handed over to the state of Louisiana in 2005. Because it was set up as a munitions factory, the site was suitable for private companies in the explosives business. Kazmierzak, the Guard spokesman, said Explo is responsible for cleaning up its mess. "As a commercial tenant, they are responsible for all their operations and abiding by the laws and regulations, both state and federal. It's upsetting that they would allow this to occur," he said. Authorities had said it's not clear exactly what Explo was planning to do with the estimated 6 million pounds of propellant that prompted the evacuation, though some experts say it can be used in the manufacturing of explosives in the mining industry. Authorities say the explosions at the Louisiana facility in October and in 2006 were caused by a different kind of material.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/company-blamed-for-la-towns-evacuation-faced-scrutiny-before-over-its-handling-of-explosives/2012/12/11/2765e840-4378-11e2-8c8f-fbebf7ccab4e\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/company-blamed-for-la-towns-evacuation-faced-scrutiny-before-over-its-handling-of-explosives/2012/12/11/2765e840-4378-11e2-8c8f-fbebf7ccab4e_story.html)



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### **MALAYSIA, JOHOR BARU, DECEMBER 12 2012. EIGHT INDONESIANS NABBED OVER OIL TANKER HEIST**

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) has detained eight Indonesian men who were believed to have staged a heist on an oil tanker off Pengerang near Kota Tinggi, here early Tuesday. MMEA Southern Region chief, First Admiral Adon Shalan said the suspects aged between 23 and 46, who did not have any valid identification documents were believed to be from Batam, Indonesia. "They used a boat to approach the tanker, MT Merlion 2 which was anchored three nautical miles south of Tanjung Stapa," he told reporters here on Tuesday. Adon said MMEA received a distress call at 2.30am from the tanker, which had a crew of 11 Myanmar nationals and one Singaporean, and assigned a rescue and special task team in a boat, 'Petir 11', followed by a ship and four speedboats. "The eight suspects were found hiding at the tanker's bridge and cabin. They were detained by 4.15am. However, two of their accomplices are believed to have escaped in the boat," he said. According to Adon, a parang was recovered at the scene while two pistols and other weapons were believed to have been thrown into the sea by the suspects to destroy evidence. Meanwhile, three members of the crew who suffered injuries in the incident were being ward at the Malaysian navy hospital in Tanjung Pengelih, Pengerang while the suspects have been brought to the MMEA southern region office to facilitate investigations, he said.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/12/11/nation/20121211192159&sec=nation>

### **USA, N.J, HILLSBOROUGH, DECEMBER 13 2012. HILLSBOROUGH, STATE OFFICIALS CONTINUE EFFORTS TO CONTAIN, REPAIR GAS LEAK**



The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Hillsborough Municipal Utilities Authority are investigating the report of raw gasoline leaking into the sanitary sewer system in the area of Route 206 and New Amwell Road. The investigation was prompted by several reports of a gasoline odor in the area. Stores in this Sunnyland Plaza in an adjacent parking lot, remained open, during the work. Shop owners were asked to keep their doors propped open.

The township's Office of Emergency Management confirmed Tuesday afternoon that an investigation was continuing in regard to reports of gasoline vapors by area businesses and residents. A statement provided to New Jersey Press Media said that the leak was determined to be a gas line in the area of Route 206 northbound and New Amwell Road belonging to Buckeye Partners, a pipeline operator. The first report of the gasoline leak occurred at

approximately 1:30 p.m. Monday. According to spokesman Bob Considine at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, "The DEP was alerted to "gasoline vapors in the sanitary sewer lines in Hillsborough" around 10 p.m. on Saturday. He added that the Somerset County Hazardous Materials Response Team arrived in the area and indicated that nearby residents were affected and their homes were being ventilated. Considine said the local fire department flushed more than 1,000 gallons of water down the affected sewer line in an effort to disperse the vapors. While the vapors temporarily dissipated, the township's Office of Emergency Management notified the DEP that they had returned on Monday morning, Considine said. The DEP stated that the problem was traced to a 20-inch diesel pipe and 16-inch gasoline pipe located directly on top of the affected sewer line. The Somerset Raritan Sewerage Authority "fiberglassed its sewer line in the area that gasoline is believed to have entered the line," Considine said. He added that there have been no vapor issues reported since that time. Considine said Buckeye representatives have isolated the lines in question and reduced the pressure, which they will continue to monitor. He said the company had recovered more than 700 gallons of fuel from the site as of Monday morning. The DEP is continuing to monitor the air in the location of the link and the DEP's Bureau of Emergency Response and the Somerset County Hazmat team will be on site until the leak is found and repaired, he said. Considine added that there is no danger to nearby residents.

#### **Related Links**

- [Section of Route 206 still closed after fuel spill in Hillsborough](#)
- [Gas leak shuts down part of Route 206 in Hillsborough](#)
- [Expect traffic delays on Route 206 in Hillsborough due to major gasoline leak, OEM says](#)

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20121211/NJNEWS10/312110019/Hillsborough-state-officials-continue-efforts-to-contain-repair-gas-leak>



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