



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2012 – 907 Newsy Stuff

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#### USA, NEB, YUTAN, NOVEMBER 16 2012. CORPS: SOIL CLEANUP COMPLETE AT SITE OF FORMER ARSENAL

*algis j. laukaitis*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it has cleaned up all of the contaminated soil at the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant near Mead. The clean-up represents a significant milestone, project manager Kristine Stein said. All that is left is cleaning up groundwater at the old munitions plant. "At this point, there is no risk to human health and the environment. It's within the acceptable risk range," she said Wednesday. Any contamination left in the soil is within health standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Stein said. The Corps began a preliminary investigation of contaminated soil and groundwater at the former ordnance plant in 1991. The plant sits on 17,250 acres and produced bombs and other munitions during World War II and the Korean War. The work left dirt and groundwater contaminated with explosive compounds and toxic solvents. Today, about 8,650 acres are owned by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, some is used by the Nebraska National Guard and Army Reserves and some is owned privately. The Corps held a public meeting Wednesday night at the Yutan Veterans Country Club to close the book on the last soil clean-up site, called Operable Unit 3 and made up of 27 small areas in which the Corps found contamination. A former Atlas missile waste area was among the 27 sites. There also was a landfill, burning grounds, production buildings, demolition and paint areas and several creeks. The Corps dug up 1,590 tons of contaminated soil in Unit 3, hauled it to disposal site, back-filled the excavated areas with dirt and reseeded the ground, Stein said. The special meeting was called to give the public a chance to comment before the Corps issues a "record of decision" on the soil clean-up. The Corps is recommending no further action be taken to clean up soil, saying there is no risk to the public or the environment. Larry Poell, 56, was the only member of the public who attended the meeting. He did not testify, but in an interview said he bought a repossessed acreage in April that is on the former arsenal site and has attended several meetings since. "I've never known ... anyone who has lived on a Superfund site. So, I just come to get as much information as I can." Although the soil cleanup is done, the Corps is continuing work on polluted groundwater. Stein said that task started 10 years ago and will continue for the next 120 years, because the groundwater contamination is much more extensive and covers a larger area. The Corps has found four groundwater plumes that are contaminated, each two or three miles long and 200 feet to half a mile wide. Sixteen wells are used to extract contaminated groundwater, which is then pumped to four treatment plants. Stein said the Corps has 300 to 375 monitoring wells near the plumes. UNL also is involved in clean-up activities. During the late 1970s and early '80s, the university hauled medical and radioactive waste to the site and buried it in trenches. Ken Rapplean, an EPA environmental engineer, said the university dug up the waste and hauled away contaminated soil, but traces of a stabilizing agent for solvents in groundwater in the dairy operations area and will have to be cleaned up.

[http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/corps-soil-cleanup-complete-at-site-of-former-arsenal/article\\_d7a26aaf-7152-56df-906f-46f5e0a428f7.html](http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/corps-soil-cleanup-complete-at-site-of-former-arsenal/article_d7a26aaf-7152-56df-906f-46f5e0a428f7.html)

#### USA, N.H, ROCHESTER, NOVEMBER 16 2012. CLEANUP ADDRESSED AT FORMER THOMPSON CENTER ARMS FACILITY IN ROCHESTER

*liz markhlevskaya*

The new owners of the former Thompson Center Arms property are taking steps to clean up contaminants at the old manufacturing site on North Main Street. Lead dust found in the firing range area, as well as chlorinated solvents and oil in the groundwater, were among the problems being addressed in the Remedial Action Plan currently being reviewed by the state Department of Environmental Services as part of the Brownfields Covenant Program. The former gun manufacturing facility, located at 400 North Main St., is scheduled to be redeveloped into a car dealership, according to the plan submitted to the DES. The planned demolition will give access to the previously inaccessible contaminated soil under the buildings. E. Molly Stark, a hydrogeologist and project manager at DES, said the property was sold several years ago to Smith & Wesson, a company that will now be responsible for conducting cleanup of the property. "The concentrations are in excess of the state standard, but there have been no violations of the state law at the property," said Stark. As part of the proposed Remedial Action Plan, soil in the bottom of the underground firing range, which contains lead dust, will be removed and disposed off site. Soil and groundwater impacted by a spill of lubricating oil is proposed to be excavated and either treated and reused on site, or disposed off site at an approved facility. "There was oil floating on top of the ground water, which we don't allow," said Stark. She said the oil in question is mineral oil, and while the DES does not want this type of oil distributed indiscriminately, it does not present a health concern for the public. Stark also stressed the groundwater around the property is not used as drinking water. The action plan also proposes to monitor the groundwater for levels of chlorinated solvents, which can be used during the manufacturing process to degrease metal and remove waxes and oils, said Stark. She said that when these solvents get



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into the soil, they tend to travel downward because of their density and then contaminate the groundwater. The levels of chlorinated solvents found in the groundwater near the former Thompson Center Arms property are slightly above the state standard, but "eventually it will dilute and go away on its own," said Stark. According to Stark, some contamination at the property may have dated back decades ago, when the practices in the manufacturing process didn't focus as strongly on containing and properly disposing of substances such as oils. Since Smith & Wesson purchased the property about six years ago, some cleanup of the site has already taken place, said Stark. The Remedial Action Plan was submitted to DES after Smith & Wesson chose to participate in the Brownfields Covenant Program. One of the program's incentives, said Stark, is that if the cleanup is executed according to the plan approved by DES, the owner of the property would not be subject to legal action by the state in regard to the contamination. As part of the Brownfields Covenant Program process, the public will have until Dec. 7 to make comments on the proposed Remedial Action Plan. Comments on the plan can be addressed to Stark by calling 271-2890; emailing [Molly.Stark@des.nh.gov](mailto:Molly.Stark@des.nh.gov); faxing 271-2181; or mailing comments or questions to Department of Environmental Services, Waste Management Division, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH, 03302-0095. The Remedial Action Plan can be viewed at the reference desk at the Rochester Public Library, or online through <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/IISProxy/IISProxy.dll?ContentId=4419938>, [http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121115/GJNEWS\\_01/121119535](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20121115/GJNEWS_01/121119535)

#### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, NOOSA, NOVEMBER 16 2012. FIREWORKS SPECIALIST SORRY FOR SPARKING FIRE THAT THREATENED HOMES

marissa calligeros



*Firefighters battle the blaze.*

A fireworks contractor has apologised for accidentally sparking a bushfire in the Sunshine Coast hinterland yesterday that threatened 20 homes. Clive Featherby from KC's Fireworks said he was conducting a daylight show for students when a stray firework landed in bushland. "We're terribly sorry. We really do apologise for anything we've done to anybody. We didn't wish for this to happen," he told 612 ABC Brisbane this morning. "It was a bad accident that happened." The fireworks display was intended to show Year Seven students at Noosa Pengari

Steiner School the effect of combustion. The school's principal, Janet Molloy, said emergency services were contacted immediately after the fire ignited about 10.45am. "As soon as the accident occurred all emergency services were contacted and the school's safety procedures successfully activated," she said in a statement. "We were in constant contact with the authorities during the day." Mr Featherby, who has been performing at the school for the past three years, said he conducted the demonstration in a safe location. "It was a very safe location where we went that's no more unsafe than where we do the fireworks down at Mooloolaba or anywhere else, but unfortunately this one just ... picked up one piece of grass and off it went," he said. The fireworks contractor said it was first time a fire had broken out in his 27 years in the industry. People living along Grays Road in the township of Doonan, south of Noosa, were evacuated at the height of the drama. No homes were damaged, but a disused caravan was destroyed. The blaze was burning within containment lines last night and homes were no longer under threat. Crews will monitor the fire today.

<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/queensland/fireworks-specialist-sorry-for-sparking-fire-that-threatened-homes-20121116-29fsn.html>

#### NIGERIA, LAGOS, NOVEMBER 16 2012. EXPLOSION AVERTED IN LAGOS AS TANKER SPILLS CONTENT

Tragedy was averted Wednesday when a fuel tanker fell spilling its content near a private school in Anthony Village, Lagos. The incident, which occurred near Cornoa School, located along Oshodi-Gbagada Expressway, had the tanker spilling its content in the neighbourhood but reports said the police and traffic officials were at the scene to prevent people from scooping the spilled content of the tanker. Although no casualty was recorded, the incident however led to a gridlock on routes connecting the spot. "It was not an accident as such, it was only a fuel tanker that fell and it contained fuel. The tanker fell off at the turning that goes to Oworonshoki from Ikorodu Road, just a little after Obanikoro bus stop. The tanker fell at about 11 am and people were so scared that it might explode and so instead of them taking that direction, they were now diverting to Anthony interchange and then head back to Oworonshoki. As expected this caused a lot of bottleneck on the road for those coming from Ojuelegba and even those going to Oshodi from Oworonshoki," a LASTMA official said. However, relevant



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emergency management agencies such as the fire service and police were alerted to be on ground to control the situation and the whole place was barricaded from vehicle entering. Policemen and traffic officials controlled the situation within few hours. The fire service also helped to contain the spill and preventing fire outbreak by spraying foam on the tanker and the surrounding areas.

<http://www.osundefender.org/?p=64315>

#### **USA, SALFORD TWP, NOVEMBER 16 2012. 3 VEHICLE ACCIDENT CAUSES 7,800 GALLON FUEL SPILL ON PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE IN SALFORD TOWNSHIP**

About 7,800 gallons of fuel being carried by a tanker truck spilled out onto the road during a three-vehicle accident on the Pennsylvania Turnpike in Salford Township about 4:01 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 15, Pennsylvania State Police at King of Prussia said. There were no reported injuries in the accident, which also involved another commercial vehicle and a passenger car, police said. At times during the cleanup, there were traffic backlogs of five to six miles, police said. The right lane was closed during that time, with the left lane periodically closed, police said.

[http://www.montgomerynews.com/articles/2012/11/15/souderton\\_independent/news/doc50a52df297d6a739352806.txt](http://www.montgomerynews.com/articles/2012/11/15/souderton_independent/news/doc50a52df297d6a739352806.txt)

#### **USA, MT, BILLINGS, NOVEMBER 16 2012. EXXON OFFERS TRAINING, EQUIPMENT AFTER MONT. SPILL**

Exxon Mobil Corp. is proposing to pay for emergency response training and equipment for future oil spills as part of its settlement over a major crude release into the Yellowstone River. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality is hosting a public meeting in Billings Thursday to take comments on the company's proposal. Exxon faced a \$1.6 million penalty for water pollution violations stemming from a pipeline break near Laurel last July that dumped more than 1,500 barrels of oil into the river. The company paid \$300,000 in cash and is paying off the remainder through providing several environmental projects. Others proposals from the company include the purchase of infrared cameras for gas leak detection, improvements to a fish bypass around a dam in Huntley and a contribution toward clean diesel school buses.

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245\\_162-57550537/exxon-offers-training-equipment-after-mont-spill/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-505245_162-57550537/exxon-offers-training-equipment-after-mont-spill/)

#### **USA, LOUISIANA, NOVEMBER 16 2012. GULF OIL SPILL DEATHS: THE 11 RIG WORKERS WHO DIED DURING THE BP DEEPWATER HORIZON EXPLOSION**

 **Watch the Video** [Gulf Oil Spill-- Looking Back](#)



*Fire boat response crews battling the blazing remnants of the oil rig Deepwater Horizon.*

Here is a list of the 11 workers who died after a blast on the BP-leased drilling rig Deepwater Horizon on April 20, 2010 about 50 miles southeast of the Louisiana coast in the Gulf of Mexico. The rig was owned by the Swiss firm Transocean Ltd. It was drilling the Macondo well, in which BP was the majority owner. On the morning of April 12 — after burning for about a day and a half — the Deepwater Horizon sank. It rests on the bottom about a mile below the Gulf surface. None of the men worked directly for BP. Two were employed by M-I Swaco, a division of oil field services company Schlumberger. The rest worked for Transocean. No bodies were recovered.

- Jason Anderson, 35, of Midfield, Texas. A father of two. His wife, Shelley, said Thanksgiving was his favorite holiday. Anderson began preparing a will in February 2010 and kept it in a spiral notebook. It sank with the rig.
- Aaron Dale "Bubba" Burkeen, 37, of Philadelphia, Miss. His death at the Deepwater Horizon came on his wedding anniversary and four days before his birthday. He was married with two children.
- Donald Clark, 49, of Newellton, La. He was one of six workers scheduled to leave the rig on April 21, the day after the blast.
- Stephen Ray Curtis, 40, of Georgetown, La., Curtis was married and had two teenagers.



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- Gordon Jones, 28, of Baton Rouge, La. Jones arrived on the rig the day before the explosion. He died three days before his sixth wedding anniversary and 10 minutes after talking to his pregnant wife, Michelle Jones. Their son, Max, was born three weeks later.
- Roy Wyatt Kemp, 27, Jonesville, La. Kemp was married. His daughter's birthday was 3 days before the explosion. Kemp was one of six workers scheduled to leave the rig on April 21.
- Karl Kleppinger Jr., 38, of Natchez, Miss. Kleppinger was a veteran of the first Gulf War and the father of one child.
- Keith Blair Manuel, 56, of Gonzales, La. Manuel had three daughters. He was a fan of LSU athletics and had football and basketball season tickets.
- Dewey A. Revette, 48, of State Line, Miss. Revette had been married to his wife, Sherri, for 26 years when the rig exploded. He was one of six workers scheduled to leave the rig on April 21.
- Shane M. Roshto, 22, of Liberty, Miss. His wife, Natalie, filed a lawsuit April 21, 2010, saying she suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after her husband was killed in the explosion. He was one of six workers who were set to leave the rig on April 21.
- Adam Weise, 24, Yorktown, Texas. Weise drove 10 hours to Louisiana every three weeks to work on the rig. A high school football star, he spent off- time hunting and fishing. He was one of six workers scheduled to leave the rig on April 21.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/15/gulf-oil-spill-deaths\\_n\\_2139669.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/15/gulf-oil-spill-deaths_n_2139669.html)

#### AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, PILBARA, NOVEMBER 16 2012. WORK STARTS ON EXPLOSIVES MATERIAL PLANT

Site preparation has begun for a \$775 million technical ammonium nitrate (TAN) plant in Western Australia's Pilbara region. TAN is the main raw material used in the production of explosives for the mining sector. The project is a joint venture between Australian explosives maker Orica, US-based energy giant Apache and Norwegian chemical company Yara International, which operates the adjacent Burrup fertilisers plant. The TAN project was delayed in May last year after Yara could not convince Burrup's founder, Pankaj Oswal, to back it. Construction of the TAN plant, which has an expected lifespan of more than 20 years, is expected to start in March 2013. "This project is a high value-adding investment, taking offshore gas that has been converted into ammonia and manufacturing into TAN," WA Resources Minister Norman Moore said. "Apache supplies natural gas to Yara Pilbara Fertilisers Pty Ltd from the Harriet gas field off Western Australia's coast and the existing facility will, in turn, supply ammonium feedstock to the TAN plant."

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/work-starts-on-explosives-material-plant/story-e6fr7kf-1226518376294>

#### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, NOVEMBER 16 2012. 2 BP WORKERS INDICTED ON MANSLAUGHTER COUNTS

michael kunzelman



*An American flag lays in a slick of oil that washed ashore from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico on July 4, 2010.*

Two men who worked for BP during the 2010 Gulf oil spill disaster have been charged with manslaughter and a third with lying to federal investigators, according to indictments made public Thursday, hours after BP announced it was paying \$4.5 billion in a settlement with the U.S. government over the disaster. A federal indictment unsealed in New Orleans claims BP well site leaders Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine acted negligently in their supervision of key safety tests performed on the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig before the explosion killed 11 workers in April 2010. The indictment says Kaluza and Vidrine failed to phone engineers onshore to alert them of problems in the drilling operation. Another indictment charges David Rainey, who was BP's vice president of exploration for the Gulf of Mexico, on counts of obstruction of Congress and false statements.

The indictment claims the former executive lied to federal investigators when they asked him how he calculated a flow rate estimate for BP's blown-out well in the days after the disaster. Earlier in the day, BP PLC said it would plead guilty to criminal charges related to the deaths of 11 workers and lying to Congress. "This marks the largest single criminal fine and the largest



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total criminal resolution in the history of the United States," U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said at a news conference in New Orleans. Holder said the settlement and indictments aren't the end of federal authorities' efforts and that the criminal investigation is continuing. Holder says much of the money BP has agreed to pay will be used to restore the environment in the Gulf. The day of reckoning comes more than two years after the nation's worst offshore oil spill. The settlement includes nearly \$1.3 billion in criminal fines -- the biggest criminal penalty in U.S. history -- along with payments to certain government entities. "We believe this resolution is in the best interest of BP and its shareholders," said Carl-Henric Svanberg, BP chairman. "It removes two significant legal risks and allows us to vigorously defend the company against the remaining civil claims." The settlement, which is subject to approval by a federal judge, includes payments of nearly \$2.4 billion to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, \$350 million to the National Academy of Sciences and about \$500 million to the Securities and Exchange Commission. The SEC accused BP of misleading investors by lowballing the amount of crude spewing from the ruptured well. London-based BP said in a statement that the settlement would not cover any civil penalties the U.S. government might seek under the Clean Water Act and other laws. Nor does it cover billions of dollars in claims brought by states, businesses and individuals, including fishermen, restaurants and property owners. Holder also said a civil lawsuit will go ahead in February seeking billions more in civil penalties. A federal judge in New Orleans is weighing a separate, proposed \$7.8 billion settlement between BP and more than 100,000 businesses and individuals who say they were harmed by the spill. BP will plead guilty to 11 felony counts of misconduct or neglect of a ship's officers, one felony count of obstruction of Congress and one misdemeanor count each under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Clean Water Act. The workers' deaths were prosecuted under a provision of the Seaman's Manslaughter Act. The obstruction charge is for lying to Congress about how much oil was spilling. The penalty will be paid over five years. BP made a profit of \$5.5 billion in the most recent quarter. The largest previous corporate criminal penalty assessed by the U.S. Justice Department was a \$1.2 billion fine imposed on drug maker Pfizer in 2009. Before Thursday, the only person charged in the disaster was a former BP engineer who was arrested in April on obstruction of justice charges. He was accused of deleting text messages about the company's response to the spill.

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/business/APNewsBreak-BP-gets-record-fine-in-Gulf-oil-spill--179478081.html>

#### **USA, IN, HAMMOND, NOVEMBER 16 2012. BP AGREES TO EXPAND WHITING REFINERY POLLUTANT MONITORING** *bowdeya tweh*

Leaders from the BP Whiting Refinery and two environmental justice groups said Thursday they reached a deal to expand pollutant monitoring provisions beyond the requirements from a consent decree filed in federal court earlier this year. The announcement was made on the same day the Indiana Department of Environmental Management held a public hearing on two draft air permits it could grant the facility. BP plans to install and operate a special light beam system that will analyze levels of harmful pollutants around more than 1,000 feet of the property's fence line in real-time, according to a joint news release. The system is expected to be installed at the facility as early as 2014 and will run for at least two years. In a consent decree filed in U.S. District Court in Hammond in May, BP agreed to pay more than \$400 million to upgrade Whiting Refinery environmental controls and \$8 million in civil fines to resolve violations of the Clean Air Act and other laws. The Environmental Protection Agency, IDEM, and several environmental groups signed on to the settlement. "BP has long been committed to being a responsible member of the Northwest Indiana community and this agreement is an example of that commitment," said BP Whiting Refinery manager Nick Spencer. The Hammond-based Calumet Project and El Cerrito, Calif.-based Global Community Monitor negotiated an expansion of the settlement with the company. They filed a separate appeal of the original BP permit issued by the state of Indiana on environmental justice grounds while supporting the appeals filed by other state and national environmental groups. Calumet Project President Steven Kozel Sr. said in the news release that the new program will help advance environmental justice causes in Northwest Indiana and show residents in neighborhoods important air quality information. IDEM's public hearing on the BP permits are the latest step in what was a highly contentious project within the environmental community as the company sought permits to modernize its facility. BP is retrofitting its refinery to increase the amount of heavy Canadian crude it can process as it makes products such as gasoline and jet fuel. The project started in May 2008 after receiving an IDEM permit that allowed construction to begin. Several environmental groups including Michigan City-based Save the Dunes challenged air permits issued to BP. Those permits eventually were rewritten and are under consideration by IDEM. The public comment period on the permits ends Monday. At the public hearing at the Hammond Civic Center, speakers representing the company, Northwest Indiana's business community and environmentalists spoke in support of the more stringent permits. But resident Joe Hero said without the public outcry, the permits revisions wouldn't have



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happened. "It (provides) the correct solution for big corporations to stand up and do the right thing," Hero said. The ultraviolet light based open path monitoring system will be located on the refinery's west side at Schrage Avenue and on the southeast corner of the refinery near East Chicago's Marktown neighborhood. It will analyze concentrations at levels of 10 parts per billion of benzene, toluene, xylene, ozone, carbon disulfide and sulfur dioxide, the news release said. The data is expected to be updated daily and be available to the public on a BP-maintained website. Other provisions in the consent decree require BP to install equipment at new and existing flares to reduce emissions by up to 90 percent, control emissions from its new coker, and establish a \$500,000 fund to be available to local public agencies through a diesel retrofit program, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council.

[http://www.nwtimes.com/business/local/bp-agrees-to-expand-whiting-refinery-pollutant-monitoring/article\\_03c5e49c-b9af-58c5-9b11-9400e192f46d.html?comment\\_form=true](http://www.nwtimes.com/business/local/bp-agrees-to-expand-whiting-refinery-pollutant-monitoring/article_03c5e49c-b9af-58c5-9b11-9400e192f46d.html?comment_form=true)

#### USA, TX, AMARILLO, NOVEMBER 16 2012. FIRM FINED \$200K FOR REFINERY VIOLATIONS

A federal judge ordered an industrial services company to pay a \$200,000 fine and placed it on five years of probation on Thursday for falsifying emissions data and releasing hazardous pollutants into the air at a refinery near Borger, federal prosecutors said. Team Industrial Services Inc., a company based in Alvin, provides leak detection and repair services, according to court records. The company said its facility on Florida Street in Borger is being placed on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of violating facilities, court records said. That distinction makes the facility ineligible to receive any federally funded contracts, grants or loans until the EPA removes it from the list, court records said. Federal officials did not identify the specific refinery where the violations occurred, and attempts to reach the U.S. Attorney's Office in Dallas were unsuccessful Thursday. As part of a plea agreement with the government, the company agreed to develop and implement an environmental compliance plan to address leak detection and reporting activities to comply with the Clean Air Act's leak detection and repair regulations, court records said. Some employees knowingly failed to follow required protocols on specific occasions from 2007 through 2009 while conducting emissions monitoring of certain refinery components, according to documents filed in the case. They also manipulated testing data to falsely represent emissions monitoring events that were not performed, court documents said. Their negligence in failing to properly monitor those refinery components allowed emissions to be released into the air, documents said. A supervisor knew the emissions monitoring data were false, but the supervisor and another employee altered the emissions monitoring database to falsely represent emissions monitoring to the EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, court records said.

<http://amarillo.com/news/local-news/2012-11-15/company-fined-200000-air-violations-borger-area-refinery-jacob-mayer>

#### USA, N.Y, NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 16 2012. IBM DECISION LIKELY TO LEAD TO APPEALS IN ENDICOTT SUIT



*Mark Bacon stands next to the ventilation shaft that is designed to keep out the toxic chemicals linked to IBM's operations in Endicott. A set of five legal decisions issued on Thursday is likely to lead to appeals and further significant delays to a trial in a lawsuit against IBM.*

Plaintiffs in a massive series of lawsuits over contamination at IBM Corp.'s former campus in Endicott will have to wait even longer for their day in court. A set of five key decisions issued by [Broome County Supreme Court Judge Ferris D. Lebous](#) on Thursday is likely to lead to appeals, adding significant delays to the resolution of the long-running dispute as appellate judges deliberate the legal ground rules for the trial. The five decisions are related to technical legal issues over whether allegations of negligence, nuisance, trespass, medical monitoring damages and

contamination from chemicals other than [TCE \(trichloroethylene\)](#) should be considered at the eventual trial. Two worked in favor of the plaintiffs; three went in favor of IBM. "I think that it's certainly an important day," said [Stephen Schwarz](#), a Rochester-based attorney representing plaintiffs in the case. "Unfortunately what it probably signals is a longer fight than maybe we had hoped for." An IBM spokesman and the attorney representing the company in the case did not respond Thursday to calls and e-mails. Thursday's decisions come more than three decades after thousands of gallons of [TCE and other contaminants were allegedly discovered in groundwater beneath Endicott in 1980](#) during testing that was triggered by a 4,100-gallon spill at the IBM facility the previous year. In the late 1990s, contamination from soil vapor intrusion was detected, and by 2002, IBM began testing the air at the request of state health and environmental agencies. Basement ventilation



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systems were eventually installed in more than 400 homes. In a series of [toxic tort lawsuits](#) filed beginning in January 2008, about 1,000 plaintiffs have argued the contamination has caused illnesses and deaths, damaged property values and hurt business. Swartz said two of the decisions Thursday worked in the favor of the plaintiffs:

- In his longest decision, at 29 pages, Lebus denied IBM's motion to prevent the jury from considering allegations by the plaintiffs that negligence on the part of the company led to groundwater contamination and eventual soil vapor intrusion.
- Lebus also ruled that allegations of trespass should be considered as a part of the case.

Three of the decisions went in IBM's favor:

- Lebus ruled, based on case law, that nuisance claims from the plaintiffs should not be considered from plaintiffs that are not owners of the affected properties — including legal residents. Swartz said this will likely be appealed.
- The plaintiffs cannot show significant enough [exposure and injury](#) to warrant their claim that they are entitled to damages as a result of continued medical monitoring, Lebus determined.
- While the plaintiffs argued that cancer developed from other chemicals in addition to TCE, IBM argued the plaintiffs shouldn't be able to raise this issue at trial due to lack of expert proof about the relationships of those chemicals to the diseases. Lebus agreed with IBM. Schwarz said although he respects the legal rationale of the decisions, it is likely the plaintiffs will appeal at least two of them.

For its part, IBM may appeal two decisions that did not work in their favor. A first trial in connection with the lawsuits was slated to begin by this October, but 11 motions filed by IBM in May cast uncertainty over the time frame for the court proceedings. Meanwhile, decisions are expected in the coming months on IBM's six other motions, in which the company argued expert opinions submitted by the plaintiffs should be thrown out due to lack of scientific basis, and therefore that the case should be dismissed due to lack of evidence. Following Thursday's decisions, Wanda Hudak, spokeswoman for the [Western Broome Environmental Stakeholders Coalition](#), said there is a growing sense of frustration in the community about repeated delays in the legal case. "They wouldn't have started the lawsuit if they didn't think that they had an issue with their house," she said.

"What are we waiting for here?"

#### Related Links

- [IBM officials say 'no basis' for lawsuits](#)
- [240 sign on to lawsuit against IBM over TCE](#)
- [Overview of TCE issue](#)
- [the Untold Story: THE IBM SPILL](#)
- [TCE health risks on many minds](#)
- [Read the first IBM TCE suit court decision](#)
- [Read the second IBM TCE suit court decision](#)
- [Read the third IBM TCE suit court decision](#)
- [Read the fourth IBM TCE suit court decision](#)
- [Read the fifth IBM TCE suit court decision](#)

[http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20121115/NEWS01/311150067/Judge-s-IBM-decision-likely-lead-appeals-delays-toxic-contamination-lawsuit?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE&nclink\\_check=1](http://www.pressconnects.com/article/20121115/NEWS01/311150067/Judge-s-IBM-decision-likely-lead-appeals-delays-toxic-contamination-lawsuit?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE&nclink_check=1)

## USA, GA, HARLEM, NOVEMBER 16 2012. CONTAMINATION WARNING ISSUED FOR PUMPKIN CENTER STORE KEROSENE

*steven uhles*

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is warning consumers who may have purchased kerosene on or after Nov. 3 at the Pumpkin Center Store in Harlem not to use the product. In a Thursday media release, Agriculture Commissioner Gary W. Black stated that kerosene from the Pumpkin Center pump may be contaminated with gasoline and could cause fires and explosions if used in home heaters or lamps. The Pumpkin Center Store pump will remain closed until the tank and lines have been cleaned and a new shipment of kerosene has been tested and deemed safe. No other stores or stations were involved.

#### Related Links [Gasoline mistakenly put in kerosene pump](#)

[http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2012-11-15/contamination-warning-issued-pumpkin-center-store-kerosene?mmo\\_ccc=xfinity](http://chronicle.augusta.com/news/metro/2012-11-15/contamination-warning-issued-pumpkin-center-store-kerosene?mmo_ccc=xfinity)



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#### USA, PA, WASHINGTON CO, NOVEMBER 16 2012. PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT FRONTS FOR FRACKERS

*betsey piette*

For years, Pennsylvania families living near natural gas drilling activity have relied on the state's Department of Environmental Protection to determine if hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, was impacting their well water. Little did they know that the DEP was systematically withholding information on potential contamination by issuing incomplete test results. This practice, dating back to 1991, was confirmed by the testimony of DEP employees Tara Upadhyay and John Carson in connection with a lawsuit brought by eight Washington County homeowners against Range Resources and 12 of its subcontractors. John Smith, an attorney representing the plaintiffs, described the DEP's water contamination findings as "based on a system designed not to identify contamination." (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Nov. 2) Under oath, Upadhyay, a DEP Bureau of Laboratories technical director, stated that the DEP's lab identified volatile organic compounds, known components of fracking fluid, in one plaintiff's water well. Exposure to these compounds has been linked to serious sinus, skin, neurological, liver and kidney problems. Yet the agency's letter to the plaintiff dismissed these findings as laboratory error, claiming his water was not contaminated by drilling activity 3,000 feet from his home. While water may be tested for 24 metals related to gas drilling under state guidelines, reports given to homeowners routinely identify only eight of them: barium, calcium, iron, magnesium, manganese, potassium, sodium and strontium. Depositions from the DEP whistle-blowers alleged that the presence of other heavy metals, including boron, chromium, cobalt, lithium and titanium, are tested for but deliberately not reported, even when levels violate safe drinking water standards. Testing results for the volatile organic compounds acetone, chloroform and t-butyl alcohol are also not reported. These compounds, as well as several of the omitted metals, are known fracking-related contaminants and carcinogens. The tainted DEP reports have often been used to dismiss claims of Pennsylvanians who suspect their water and their family's health are at risk from drilling. Complaints about water contamination in legal cases in Washington County, the Woodlands area of Butler County near Pittsburgh and Dimock in Susquehanna County were all dismissed because of DEP's reports. This limited reporting clearly serves the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry's claim that fracking is "perfectly safe." Adding insult to injury, DEP spokesman Kevin Sunday said, "That the lab is capable of doing additional analysis for a particular investigation doesn't mean that our analysis was inadequate or incomplete." (Associated Press, Nov. 2) Sunday also threatened that "the DEP may not be able to invoke the presumption of liability to hold drillers [responsible]" if people don't allow the gas companies to do pre-drill sampling. This sampling supposedly determines if contamination existed before drilling. (Shalereporter.com Nov. 3) In his deposition, Carson, a DEP water quality specialist, stated that a special lab code, "942 Suite," is used for Marcellus Shale water contamination complaints. Upadhyay confirmed that this code means "don't test for or report on certain chemicals" found in fracking fluid, limiting the information going back to DEP field offices and to property owners. Suite codes 942 and 946 are also used by the DEP to omit or hide testing for drilling-related compounds. Pennsylvania DEP Director Michael Krancer has publicly stated that "at the end of the day, my job is to get gas done." Krancer was appointed by the current and openly pro-drilling governor, Tom Corbett. He directed DEP investigators to not issue violation notices to shale gas drillers, even when an active leak or major violation is ongoing, without first getting approval from the state's capital in Harrisburg. A storm of protest forced the reversal of this policy. Despite DEP claims that the omitted chemicals were not linked to fracking, a 2009 study clearly connects them to the practice. In samplings of water at 19 locations before and after fracking, the study found several of the metals in the post-fracking flowback water. The study, "Sampling and Analysis of Water Streams Associated with the Development of Marcellus Shale Gas," was prepared for the industry-funded Marcellus Shale Coalition. (Shalereporter.com, Nov. 3) State Rep. Jesse White called for state and federal government investigations of the DEP for alleged misconduct and fraud, calling the situation "beyond outrageous." (Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Nov. 2)

<http://www.workers.org/2012/11/15/pennsylvania-environmental-department-fronts-for-frackers/>

#### ENGLAND, WORCESTERSHIRE, NOVEMBER 17 2012. KIDDERMINSTER ROCKET FIRM BLAZE CAUSES EVACUATION.

A fire at a Worcestershire company which makes rocket engines for missiles has now been put out, police have said. A 600m exclusion zone was set up at Roxel in Summerfield Lane, Kidderminster and residents and businesses were evacuated. Six fire crews tackled the blaze, which started at about 08:30 GMT. West Mercia Police said the exclusion zone has been lifted and the A449 Kidderminster to Worcester road has reopened. A rest centre for those evacuated was set up at Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre. Roxel designs and manufactures rocket motors for tactical missiles.



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### Police Cordon

Supt Kevin Purcell said the closure of the A449 was necessary for public safety. He said officers were deployed to maintain the cordon placed around the site and give support to the fire service. Police said they were liaising with local authorities to co-ordinate their response to any community impact the fire may have. There were no reports of injuries at the scene, West Midlands Ambulance Service said. One of the firms evacuated, Eco2Solar on Hoo Farm Industrial Estate, which provides renewable energy installations, said some staff were working from home.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-20357482>

### SOUTH AFRICA, JOHANNESBURG, NOVEMBER 17 2012. FUEL CONTAMINATION HITS MAIN SUPPLY LINE AT JOHANNESBURG

*anne paylor*



Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) on Friday said that flights at Africa's Johannesburg O.R.Tambo International Airport (JNB) have not been disrupted by fuel contamination in the airport's main Jet A1 supply line. ACSA confirmed that "off-specification" fuel in the pipeline between National Petroleum Refiners of SA (NATREF) and JNB had rendered approximately 7 million liters of Jet A1 stored in two tanks unusable. These tanks have been isolated and certified fuel in the other tanks is currently being used for refueling. However, this left the airport with just under one a half day's supply of fuel Friday. JNB normally receives approximately 3 million liters of fuel daily through the dedicated pipeline from NATREF. In a statement, ACSA said: "The fuel supply industry, led by Air BP, is working tirelessly to address the situation." It said the airport was working closely with airlines on a number of measures, including the uptake of fuel at ACSA's other airports, to minimize the potential negative

impact on airport operations. ACSA pointed out that JNB receives fuel via two alternative supply routes in addition to the primary NATREF source. These are dedicated rail tank cars from the coast, and a pipeline from Durban. ACSA Group Communications Manager Solomon Makgale said Friday: "At this point the airport is operating normally. We remain hopeful that the fuel suppliers will find a solution as a matter of urgency. ACSA will provide all the necessary support."

#### Related Links

- [S Africa's top airport hit by fuel problem](#)
- [We're on top of fuel issues, Acsa says](#)
- [Fuel contamination not affecting flights, says Acsa](#)
- [Natref storage system being flushed](#)
- [New fuel found after supply contamination](#)
- ['OR Tambo fuel contaminated'](#)
- [Fuel contamination hits main supply line at Johannesburg](#)
- [Fuel pipeline to OR Tambo contaminated](#)
- [Fuel contamination won't impact King Shaka](#)

<http://atwonline.com/operations-maintenance/news/fuel-contamination-hits-main-supply-line-johannesburg-1116>

### USA, MD, BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 17 2012. HESS CORP. SETTLES WITH LOCH RAVEN HOMEOWNERS >> DUPLEXES WILL BE RAZED, AREA TRANSFORMED TO OPEN SPACE

*alison knezevich & yvonne wenger*

Hess Corp. has agreed to buy eight duplexes in Loch Raven and demolish them to settle homeowners' claims of contamination from a nearby gas station, the company said Friday. Residents of Yakona Road had filed more than a dozen lawsuits against the company over the past two years. Terms of the settlement were confidential, but a Hess spokesman said the agreement includes razing the buildings — likely in the spring — to make way for green space. The gas station, which is still open, is located in the 1600 block of E. Joppa Road. "Hess Corp. agreed to purchase eight duplex buildings on the north side of Yakona Road to settle a claim with homeowners who were concerned about residual amounts of gasoline on or near



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their properties," Hess spokesman Jon Pepper said. "This is in addition to the remediation efforts Hess has undertaken under the review and approval of the Maryland Department of the Environment, and in compliance with state and local requirements." Pepper said the company "felt that the best course to address any remaining neighborhood concerns was to demolish the houses, ensure that the cleared land is safe for use with [state environmental] oversight, and transform the land into an attractive public space, which will be donated to a local organization that has expertise in maintaining such properties." Residents in the 1600 block of Yakona Road had contended that a leak in the underground storage tank at the service station caused health and environmental hazards and produced strong vapors that permeated the area. The cases were pending in [Baltimore County](#) Circuit Court when the settlement was reached and were dismissed as part of the agreement. Pepper would not say exactly when the settlement was finalized, but said it was recently. Attorney Roy L. Mason, whose [Annapolis](#) firm concentrates on environmental law, represented the residents and said he could not discuss details of the settlement. "I can say this is an excellent result for the entire community," Mason said. Baltimore County Councilman [David Marks](#) said he's been communicating with Hess officials, community leaders and state environmental officials about the issue. Hess plans to assemble an outreach team to keep residents informed, Marks said. "I don't want the Loch Raven community to be surprised when the houses start to get demolished," said Marks, a [Perry Hall](#) Republican. "I want them to know what's happening and to understand there's a plan for preserving the site as usable open space." Turning the area into an attractive space could become "a net positive for the neighborhood," he said. "This is a neighborhood that's had some challenges from time to time with crime and other things, and maybe this is a way to improve and stabilize the community," he said. The gas station was the site of a shooting in 2010, in which owner William R. Porter was killed. His wife, Karla Porter, was accused of ordering the killing and is awaiting trial. Barbara Hopkins, executive director of NeighborSpace, said her nonprofit is considering taking over the land once the homes are razed after lawyers representing Hess approached the organization. The decision will hinge on whether the land is safe for the public after the state Department of the Environment issues cleanup requirements to the oil company, she said. "Our primary interest in coming into any community and acquiring land — whether we buy it or it is given to us — is what does the community want," Hopkins said. "The process has a while to play out for us to understand what the existing level of contamination is. We want to make sure it's safe for people." Hopkins said if NeighborSpace were to preserve the land in a trust, the organization would seek feedback from the community about how to proceed. Area residents would need to be willing to help take care of the land, she said. "We can't do it by ourselves," she said. Preserving land for open space is of big interest in the congested area of Baltimore County, including Loch Raven Village, she said. "It's a real opportunity for this community to get some open space," Hopkins said. "There is a cluster of homes; there is no open space. There is no park that people can walk to." The nonprofit spends an estimated \$1,300 a year per property it maintains on expenses such as liability insurance. It is funded from a mix of sources, including private donations and a portion of waiver fees from developers that do not meet the county's requirement for open space. Earlier this month, [Exxon Mobil Corp](#) asked the Maryland Court of Appeals to erase most of the more than \$1.5 billion awarded in two lawsuits over a large gasoline spill in 2006 at a service station in Jacksonville, in Baltimore County. Residents contended that gasoline that leaked from a tank there had polluted their well water, put their health at risk and ruined property values.

### Related Links

- [Vindication mixes with continued uncertainty for Exxon plaintiffs](#)
- [Damages in Balto. Co. Exxon leak suit rise to \\$1.5 billion](#)
- [\\$495 million award from Exxon in Balto. Co. gas spill could grow](#)
- [Exxon Mobil accused of 'fraud' in Jacksonville gas spill trial](#)
- [Verdict sealed in Exxon gas spill trial; proceedings continue](#)

[http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/bs-md-co-hess-settlement-20121116\\_0.6104010.story](http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/baltimore-county/bs-md-co-hess-settlement-20121116_0.6104010.story)

### ENGLAND, MANCHESTER, NOVEMBER 17 2012. TRAFFORD PARK CHEMICAL LEAK: RESIDENTS WARNED

Residents were warned to stay indoors after a leak of hydrochloric acid gas in Greater Manchester. About 50 firefighters dealt with the spill at the Chemtura chemical plant on Trafford Park. The building was evacuated and several roads in the Tenax Road area were closed as a precaution. By late on Friday night Greater Manchester Fire Service had managed to contain the leak. There were no reports of any injuries. Supt Chris Ullah, from Greater Manchester Police, said: "Emergency services have been working at the chemical plant at Trafford Park this evening and have isolated the leak. "There are no reports of injuries or any people requiring medical attention. "We are now starting to scale down the emergency service response and return



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normality to the area as quickly as possible. "The cause of the leak is not yet known but will be investigated once the building is safe." Chemtura Corporation is a global specialty chemicals company.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-20371841>

### USA, WYO, WIND RIVER RESERVATION, NOVEMBER 17 2012. LOOPHOLE LETS TOXIC OIL WATER FLOW OVER INDIAN LAND

*elizabeth shogren*

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 [Slideshow \[8\]](#) [View Slideshow](#)



The air reeks so strongly of rotten eggs that tribal leader Wes Martel hesitates to get out of the car at an oil field on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. He already has a headache from the fumes he smelled at another oil field. Martel is giving me a tour of one of a dozen oil and gas fields on the reservation. These operations have the federal government's permission to dump wastewater on the land — so much that it creates streams that flow into natural creeks and rivers. And this water contains toxic chemicals, including known carcinogens and radioactive material, according to documents obtained by NPR through Freedom of Information Act requests. The fumes hitting Martel's nose are hydrogen sulfide, which can be deadly. So Martel makes sure the wind is at his back before walking over to a pit the size of several tennis courts. Pipes are emptying dirty brown water that came up from oil wells into the pit, which is

completely covered in goopy black oil. The oil is supposed to float to the surface, and then a truck will vacuum it up. Any solid stuff should fall on the bottom of the pit, before the water rushes out and forms a stream. But there are still chemicals in the water — some from the earth, some from the oil, and some the companies add to make the oil flow faster. About a half-mile from the pit, Martel stops the car on a bridge over that stream of murky gray water. A shiny film covers the water in some places. "I wish a lot of people could see this," says Martel, the vice chairman of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council, the tribal government. "This is something that's going on in the reservation: This don't look too cool." In most of the country, this would be illegal. Most oil fields reinject wastewater far underground, where it cannot cause harm. So why is this wastewater being released into a desert wilderness of sagebrush-covered foothills and sandstone cliffs that blaze with reds and oranges? The few cows grazing nearby provide a clue. "You can see the tracks into the water here," says Martel. "This is one of their watering holes."

#### Inside EPA, Distress over Dumping Loophole

Without the wastewater, this area would be bone dry most of the year. In the 1970s, when the Environmental Protection Agency was banning oil companies from dumping their wastewater, ranchers, especially in Wyoming, made a fuss. They argued that their livestock needs water, even dirty water. So the EPA made an exception, a loophole, for the arid West. If oil companies demonstrate that ranchers or wildlife use the water, the companies can release it. Off the reservation, Western states get to decide what oil companies must do with wastewater; over time, states' rules have become stricter than the EPA's. Some states have all but outlawed dumping. But on the Wind River Reservation, the EPA controls whether companies can release wastewater on a case-by-case basis. The EPA refused multiple requests for interviews, but in a statement, the agency said it was evaluating the permits it gives some of the companies to expel this water on the reservation. "EPA is reviewing new information associated with these permits and intends to meet with the Tribes in upcoming weeks to discuss next steps," the statement reads. The responses to NPR's two Freedom of Information Act requests include emails between staffers, correspondence with the companies, results of water-quality tests, the permits, and documents justifying each permit. Most of this information had not been public before. The documents show hints of mutiny inside the EPA. Some EPA staffers clearly are appalled by the wastewater releases. One wrote in an email to colleagues: "Can we get together and discuss a strategic approach for sending our message of concern? I have attached pictures of this ridiculousness." Another staffer warns that the chemicals in the water could have "irrevocable human health and environmental impacts." The documents also show recent detective work that some EPA staffers did to try to figure out what chemicals companies are putting in the water. Their research reveals that some of the waste streams sometimes include chemicals from hydraulic fracturing, an engineering



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technique designed to increase the flow of wells. They also include chemicals whose warning labels clearly state "toxic to aquatic organisms," "prevent material from entering sewers or waterways," and warnings about cancer and birth defects at low levels. The documents suggest that at least some people inside the EPA are advocating for stricter rules. But much of this debate has been kept secret. The EPA refused to give NPR 757 documents about the loophole, claiming they can be kept secret because they are between the EPA and its attorneys or among EPA staffers.

#### **'We Should Know Better by Now'**

Experts, including scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey, say it's very rare for oil field water to be released into drainages or streams because it nearly always contains harmful chemicals. "It's a very uncommon situation in the United States and, I believe, most of the rest of the world," said John Veil, a retired wastewater expert at the Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, who now works as a consultant. In one analysis that Veil did for Argonne, he found that 98 percent of the water that companies pump up with oil is reinjected deep underground. Veil says it's usually far too salty to discharge. Some scientists were alarmed when they learned about the oil field wastewater releases, especially given that it is happening on tribal land. "I was shocked when I heard this," says Rob Jackson, a Duke University environmental scientist. "I was very surprised this was allowed. It's just something that we should know better by now. We should know that dumping our waste onto the surface of the ground is a bad solution." Other experts agreed that the chemicals in the water raise concerns. However, some scientists, including staffers from the U.S. Geological Survey, felt uncomfortable commenting for the record without doing their own testing. Jackson reviewed many of the EPA documents released to NPR, including analyses of the chemicals in the wastewater streams and warning labels for some of the chemical treatments that companies add to the wells. He stresses that they include hazardous air pollutants such as hydrochloric acid and naphthalene, and carcinogens like benzene and ethyl benzene. "There are many things in this water that you don't want in the environment or in people's drinking water. You don't need to be a genius to know this is a bad idea," Jackson says. He urges the EPA to consider the consequences of its policy and how it looks. "Are we doing something on tribal lands we wouldn't allow somewhere else? I think that's something we have to be asking ourselves."

#### **On the Reservation, Dead Ducklings, Dangerous Fumes**

Outside the reservation, Western states decide how oil field waste is handled — and their rules are stricter than the EPA's. For instance, off the reservation, the state of Wyoming requires companies to inject wastewater deep underground and out of harm's way if they've added toxic chemicals to the wells. Other states have set tougher water quality standards that have nearly eliminated these releases. On the Wind River Reservation, these oil field wastewater streams have flowed for several decades without attracting much interest, even from the tribes, according to Wes Martel and other officials of the two tribes that share the reservation, the Eastern Shoshoni and Northern Arapaho. "Most of our elders were very trusting, very trusting people. They were glad they had the opportunity to get some revenue. Most of them were just thinking, 'We're being watched over, and things are being taken care of,'" says Martel, 65, who was in tribal government many years ago and was elected two years ago to return to government. But in 2005, the Wind River Environmental Quality Commission sampled the water downstream of some of the oil fields. Researchers found toxic levels of some chemicals, stretches of streams that were lifeless, and streambeds splotted with black ooze, white crystals and purple growths. They recorded water temperatures as high as 125 degrees, and found dead ducklings, according to a draft report prepared by the tribes' environmental department. During tours of four of the oil fields earlier this fall, I witnessed visible violations of the plain language of the permits that the EPA gave these companies to discharge wastewater. For instance, I saw streambeds covered in white crystals and rock-like formations below outfall pipes. The permits prohibit visible deposits in the receiving waters or shoreline. They also prohibit any visible foam or sheen — I saw both. At the wastewater discharge site at one oil field, company officials warned us to leave after a few minutes because of the danger of respiratory distress or death from hydrogen sulfide fumes. The companies were reluctant to talk. One agreed to meet at its oil field on the reservation but backed out the night before. Others failed to return multiple phone calls. Houston-based Marathon Oil Corporation, which runs three oil fields on the reservation, agreed to an interview but refused to be recorded. "As far as I know, there has never been concerns and opposition for the quality of the water that I'm aware about," says Bob Whisonant, Rocky Mountain operations manager for Marathon Oil, which has three oil fields on the reservation. Whisonant stresses that the water from his oil fields meets EPA's requirements. "We're really fortunate within Wyoming that the water is extremely fresh, very suitable for livestock and agriculture purposes. That's why we're able to discharge," Whisonant says. But the EPA's permits, which are reissued every several years, tell a different story. Even the state of Wyoming, which is known to be pro-industry, questioned the fact that the EPA's requirements didn't seem to protect aquatic life. The EPA's response was that the tribes had not adopted their own water quality standards. The EPA



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permits acknowledge that oil field water may not meet the agency's own water quality criteria. The agency requires only minimal water testing at most of the oil fields, and it does not do its own testing to verify the companies' claims; nor does it sample water quality in the streams receiving the wastewater. In 2007, the EPA required one company to test aquatic animals to see if they'd die in the water flowing from one oil field — it's a standard test of water quality known as whole effluent toxicity. The minnows and bugs in the sample died within an hour. The EPA asked the company to figure out what was killing the animals and propose remedies, but it let the company go on releasing the water for years. Five years later, the company, Marathon, says it is waiting for the EPA to OK a plan to lower high levels of sulfide in the water. Wes Martel says he's been pushing the EPA to thoroughly study the wastewater and then require the companies to purify it or inject it underground. He worries about water quality and wildlife — and about food safety, too. Oil field water abounds on the reservation, and the cows that graze there will eventually end up on dinner plates. "So it really makes you wonder: What impacts is this having on not only aquatic life, but our wildlife?" Martel says. "You've got to wonder, what types of chemicals are those beef retaining? And when that goes to the slaughterhouse, what's in your steak?"

#### Ranchers Still Want the Water

But Eastern Shoshone member Darwin Griebel, one of a handful of ranchers whose livestock use the oil field water, pooh-poohs Martel's concerns. "Animals drink it. People aren't going to drink it. Hell with the quality of the water," says Griebel. Griebel has known Martel for nearly 60 years, since they were in elementary school and slept over at each others' houses. But he says they don't agree on this issue. Griebel says his cows haven't suffered health problems from drinking the water, and the impurities clear up after the streams have run for a while. (The tribes' water study backs up that idea: Concentrations of various harmful chemicals tend to decrease the farther you get from the oil fields.) What's most concerning to Griebel is that the water has been crucial to his family's business for generations. Without it, he says: "There would be no water for the cows. There would be no water for the deer, the antelope. Nothing. It would put us out of business is what it would do." But Martel says that if the EPA does not put a stop to this, the tribes will step in. If the oil companies say that reinjecting or cleaning the water would be so expensive that it would no longer be profitable to pump oil, Martel knows what his response will be: "Good riddance." "We'll take it over ourselves and do it right," he says. Martel dreams of putting tribal companies in charge of their oil fields. Then the tribes would get all the profits, instead of just the royalties the companies pay them. They'd also be able to protect water quality for future generations.

<http://www.npr.org/2012/11/15/164688735/loophole-lets-toxic-oil-water-flow-over-indian-land>

#### USA, S.C, HORRY CO, NOVEMBER 17 2012. SC 31 NEAR SOCASTEE REOPENS AFTER TANKER FIRE

sean maginnis

 [Watch the Video SC 31 Reopens after Tanker Fire](#)



Horry County Fire Rescue officials have reopened all lanes of traffic on SC-31 between SC 544 and US 501 after a tanker fire late Thursday night. At 4 a.m. all lanes were reopened except for the inside southbound lane, according to Battalion Chief Jim Walker of Horry County Fire Rescue. Justin Gibbons of Horry County Fire Rescue says the call came in just before 11 p.m. Thursday night stating that a diesel tanker was on fire. A volunteer firefighter happened to be driving by the scene and witnessed the blaze; he then called for help. The driver of the truck also called emergency crews after he was unable to contain the fire with an extinguisher. Gibbons says the fire likely started in the wheel well or the braking system, but right now they're not exactly sure what caused the blaze. The truck driver reported seeing sparks and then pulled over to find the vehicle on fire. The fire caused some heat damage to the fuel tanks, but Gibbons says fire crews were able to put the flames out before the integrity of

the fuel containers was compromised. Gibbons credits good luck and quick action by fire-fighters for minimizing the damage and hazard. "Obviously [with] the [volunteer] fire-fighter being in the right place at the right time, we got the resources here quickly," Gibbons said. "The guys did an excellent job." A company contracted by the fuel tanker company was called from Wilmington to offload the fuel from the truck. Highway 31 Northbound was reopened a short time after the call, but the



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Southbound traffic was limited to one lane for much of the night. Gibbons says the fuel company planned to have the diesel offloaded and the tanker removed by 5:30 Friday morning. All lanes of traffic were reopened by 6 a.m. Friday.

<http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/20113960/sc-31-shut-down-due-to-tanker-fire>

### USA, MI, BERLIN TWP, NOVEMBER 17 2012. TANKER JACKKNIVES, SLAMS INTO OF BUS OF YOUTH FOOTBALL PLAYERS >> BUS WITH 9 AND 10-YEAR-OLD FOOTBALL PLAYERS INVOLVED IN CRASH

paula tutman,

 **Watch the Video** [Tanker Jackknives, Slams into Bus of Football Players](#)

 **Photo's [8]** [Bus, Tanker Crashes on I-75 in Monroe County](#)



Thirty-eight-year-old Dederic Carpenter was heading southbound on I-75 Friday morning when police say he swerved to keep from hitting a deer, lost control of his tanker and jackknifed. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said the semi, which was carrying an empty tanker, swerved to hit a deer north of Sigler Road just after 4 a.m. and crashed into a guardrail. The freeway was dark. There were no lights flashing on the tanker. 57-year-old Kaye Chatman was the charter bus driver for the Southfield Jayhawks traveling football team said she did not see the tanker stretched across I-75. With a busload of 9 and 10 year olds, she struck the tanker head on. Rian Harrison was on the bus when it collided with the tanker. The team was traveling to Tennessee for a national

tournament. They were in a caravan of four charter busses. It was the lead bus that hit the tanker. The other busses were able to react in time. Kay Chatman, though seriously injured, managed to get the bus to the side of the road some 200 yards from the crash. Tony Chambers, one of the coaches for the Jayhawks, said the bus driver was no less than heroic. "The entire driver's side of the bus was torn -- the driver was in pretty bad shape -- we're so thankful for the bus driver." Chatman is hospitalized in Trenton where she is being treated for serious injuries. Two of the young football players suffered minor head injuries. They were released from the hospital and insisted on continuing on with the team, though they won't be allowed to play in the big tournament in Knoxville on Saturday. The interstate was closed down in both directions but reopened just before 7 a.m. Berlin Township is located about 30 miles southwest of Detroit and about 25 miles northeast of Toledo, Ohio.

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/Tanker-jackknives-slams-into-of-bus-of-youth-football-players/-/1719418/17445308/-/10car7p/-/index.html>

### ENGLAND, SUFFOLK, HADLEIGH, NOVEMBER 17 2012. FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE MAJOR PETROL TANKER BLAZE IN HADLEIGH

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Tanker Blaze in Hadleigh](#)
- [Hadleigh Petrol Tankers Blaze 'Under Control'](#)

 **Photo's [11]** [Major Fuel Tanker Blaze in Hadleigh](#)



*Witnesses described seeing fireballs shoot 100ft into the air as three fuel tankers exploded into flames.*

More than fifty firefighters from across Suffolk were called to the UKAY Fuel Limited storage depot on Lady Lane Industrial Estate in Hadleigh at 6.40pm. Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mark Hardingham said crews battled for 90 minutes to prevent flames spreading to an underground tank of fuel containing 50,000 litres of gas oil. Police set up a 300m cordon and warned those living near the site, to close their windows and stay inside. Louis Callaway-Rush, 22, was at a petrol station in Lady Lane when a woman rushed in and broke the news. "I went round the corner and then I heard two almighty bangs as two of the tanks went up. "It is the biggest fire I've ever seen up close. "The flames were probably 100ft high. I was shocked something like this was



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happening in Hadleigh." The chemical engineer, who works for Hadleigh-based CK Chemicals, said when he left the scene, and reached the A1071, he could feel the heat of the blaze through his car window. The A1071 was later closed to all traffic as emergency services set up a command post to deal with the situation. The road was reopened about at 10.50pm. Ross and Samuel Stone of Hadleigh said "explosions were constant" as the blaze took hold, while Jimmy Moore, 34, of Hadleigh, described how the sky over the town had been "lit up" with an orange glow. Dep Chf Hardingham said the first of the tankers had been empty but the second vehicle contained 12,000 litres of kerosene. The third tanker contained 15,000 litres of gas oil and 2,000 litres of road fuel. The tankers were parked a short distance away from an underground storage unit that held about 50,000 litres of fuel. Firefighters sprayed the tank, which was said to already be hot, with cold water to prevent the gas oil from igniting. Dep Chf Hardingham, who praised the efforts of his crews and other emergency services at the scene, said: "Our main concern was about the storage tank. If the fire had spread it would have been much more significant for the premises and the surrounding businesses." All of the tankers were extinguished by about 9pm, although two fire engines are expected to stay at the site throughout the night. A site inspection and investigation into the cause of the fire is due to begin tomorrow morning. Paramedics, police and environment agency officers were also at the scene. There have been no reported injuries.

[http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/video\\_gallery\\_firefighters\\_battle\\_major\\_petrol\\_tanker\\_blaze\\_in\\_hadleigh\\_1\\_1696951](http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/video_gallery_firefighters_battle_major_petrol_tanker_blaze_in_hadleigh_1_1696951)

### USA, MD, SALISBURY, NOVEMBER 17 2012, TOXIC MYSTERY SURROUNDS SALISBURY-AREA WELLS >>DOZENS GET BOTTLED WATER AS TESTING FOR TOXIC CHEMICAL EXPANDS

timothy b. wheeler

**Photo's [8] Contaminated Wells Worry Salisbury Area Residents**



Home owner Brian Bracken stands next to the 1500 gallon water tank that was installed in the back of his house to replace his contaminated well. Bracken said his well tested at a reading of 550 where the safe level for a single family house should be below 5. The EPA have hooked up several large water tanks in some homes where the contaminate are high.

In the 20 years she's lived on the outskirts of Salisbury, Arlene White said she'd never noticed anything unusual about her tap water. Now, though, White and dozens of neighbors are drinking bottled water and limiting their bathing after tests found unsafe levels of a toxic chemical in their household wells. A handful of residents, including Brian Bracken, have had large tanks hooked up to their homes, filled with treated water trucked in from nearby Fruitland. Local, state and federal officials are scrambling to provide safe, clean water to homes southeast of the Eastern Shore's largest city even as they acknowledge that

they don't know the source or extent of the groundwater contamination. Trichloroethylene, an industrial solvent that health authorities have deemed likely to cause cancer, has been found in 46 of 113 wells tested in two neighborhoods, and results are pending for 75 wells sampled this week, according to Dennis DiCintio, environmental health director for the Wicomico County Health Department. "One is too many," DiCintio said, but that may lead to "an extreme level of concern." The contamination was uncovered in late July when a resident who thought his home's water smelled strange had the well tested. The resident reported the results to the county Health Department, which sampled nearby wells. When those came back contaminated, too, the search expanded and drew in state and federal agencies. The Maryland Department of the Environment has sent letters to about 250 homes asking to sample their wells, according to spokesman Jay Apperson, and officials are working to reach or gain consent from those owners. It is unclear how the chemical got into the groundwater. The area used to be farmland and there are still open fields nearby. Horacio A. Tablada, the MDE's director of land management, said agency records do not indicate that there were ever any dumps or landfills in the vicinity. Neither does it appear that there were machine shops or other businesses that might have used large quantities of the chemical, which is often used to clean metal parts and electronic equipment. It also is found in paint removers, brake cleaners, adhesives and some household products. "Given the extent of the contamination," Tablada said, "we think it's more than somebody dropping a little bit of stuff on the ground." Residential wells there are generally drilled 60 to 80 feet down, he said. It's possible, he acknowledged, that the contamination has been there, and spreading, for years. For now, government officials say, they're focused on finding and helping all the households with contaminated wells. Once residents are assured of having safe water, the officials will turn to



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investigating how the chemical got into the groundwater and who is responsible. White, 65, said she hopes health and environmental agencies quickly get a handle on the problem and come up with a solution. "I'm certainly not happy about the situation," she said, "and I, along with my neighbors, want to get to the bottom of this and find out what happened." Drinking or breathing high levels of trichloroethylene can damage the nervous system, liver and lungs, and can cause abnormal heartbeat, coma and death, according to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. It is one of the most common contaminants in U.S. groundwater, but levels are generally well below those that could cause acute health problems. Inhaling small amounts can cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness and difficulty concentrating, according to the federal agency. Drinking low levels over a long period can cause liver and kidney damage, impaired immune systems and impaired fetal development in pregnant women, the agency said. Rats fed high doses in laboratory tests have gotten cancer, and some studies have found higher cancer rates among people exposed to high levels through drinking water or in the workplace. The federal safety threshold for trichloroethylene in drinking water is 5 parts per billion, but officials say they're also concerned about the possibility of inhaling the chemical when bathing or showering or in vapors given off by the water. Samples have shown 33 homes above the safe drinking-water threshold, according to Apperson. The state has furnished bottled water to 34 households, Apperson said. The Environmental Protection Agency has bought eight large water tanks holding 500 or 1,500 gallons each for homes with the highest health risks, where contamination is high and there are vulnerable occupants, such as pregnant women or women of child-bearing age. Bracken, 59, who is single, said he's glad to have the 1,500-gallon tank hooked up to his house, where a test of his well turned up TCE at 550 parts per billion. He said he never noticed anything unusual about his well water in the 13 years he's lived there. Now, though, he said he can tell the difference in the tank water trucked in from Fruitland's municipal system. "I could smell the chlorine right when it came in," he said. "I'll get used to it if I have to ... if it's safe." The EPA is contracting to install carbon filtration systems on about 25 wells, according to spokeswoman Bonnie Smith. Once the systems are installed, she said, "they'll have safe drinking water and also reduced vapor exposure to TCE during showering and bathing." The costs of the tanks and the filters are being covered under the federal Superfund program, set up to get hazardous sites cleaned up by the government when responsible parties cannot be found. Over the longer term, officials say, they plan to examine whether residents would be better served by drilling a deeper community well or by hooking up the affected neighborhoods to a municipal water system — Fruitland's is little more than a half-mile away. Chris O'Barsky said his family is among those waiting to find out whether their well is contaminated, but they are taking precautions just in case. "We're already kind of heavy bottled water drinkers anyway," said O'Barsky, 40, an assistant fire chief in Salisbury. He said he and his wife, Tara, a school vice principal, have begun buying gallon jugs of water instead of the small bottles they'd been getting for school lunches for their 8-year-old daughter and son, 13. "We try as much as possible not to use the tap water," he said. "Showers, of course, are a different monster. We've cut our showers down." There's a bright side to that, O'Barsky noted: "It's sped my son's showers up." Some residents, including O'Barsky, are not keen on the prospect of getting municipal water, noting that there's usually a fee for hookup plus monthly bills. "That was the reason we wanted to live here, so we didn't have to pay for city water," he said. For now, though, O'Barsky and others say they're pleased with the swift government response. "All I care about is clean water right now," Bracken said. "Then we'll worry about who's paying for this and that."

[http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-gr-salisbury-well-contamination-20121116.0.3364095.full\\_story](http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-gr-salisbury-well-contamination-20121116.0.3364095.full_story)

#### USA, LOUISIANA, NOVEMBER 17 2012. OIL RIG FIRE LEAVES TWO MISSING OFF US COAST



##### *Oil Rig Fire Leaves Two Missing Off US Coast.*

Two people are missing and four more are in hospital with burns after an explosion and fire ripped through an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico. A small amount of oil spilled from the rig when workers using a torch cut into a pipeline on the platform. US Coast Guard Captain Ed Cubanski said the well was not producing at the time of the explosion and no oil was leaking. The fire had since been extinguished, said Coast Guard spokesman Drake Foret. He said Coast Guard aircraft and boats were searching for two missing people. Nobody was believed to have been killed in the fire. The platform is for oil production from an established well, unlike the Deepwater Horizon rig, which was drilling an exploratory well for oil giant BP in deep water when it blew up and triggered a massive oil spill in 2010. That site is well to the east of Friday's incident. Taslin Alfonzo, of West Jefferson Medical Centre in



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New Orleans, said four workers were airlifted to hospital in critical condition with second and third-degree burns over much of their bodies. The production platform, owned by Black Elk Energy, is about 25 miles southeast of Grand Isle, Louisiana. The Coast Guard said 26 people were aboard the platform at the time of the explosion. Capt Cubanski said the platform appeared to be structurally sound. After the April 2010 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon, that rig burned for about 36 hours before suffering structural collapse and sinking to the Gulf floor. The Black Elk platform is in 56 feet of water. Capt Cubanski said 28 gallons of oil were in the broken line. A federal official in Washington said a team of environmental enforcement inspectors was flying by helicopter to the scene. They will scan for any evidence of oil spillage and investigate the cause of the explosion. Black Elk is an independent oil and gas company headquartered in Houston, Texas. The company's website says it holds interests in properties in Texas and Louisiana waters, including 854 wells on 155 platforms.

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/oil-rig-blaze-gulf-mexico-fire-leaves-two-164620814.html>

#### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, NOVEMBER 17 2012. 2 MISSING, 4 BADLY BURNED IN OIL PLATFORM FIRE

- Initial reports suggest the explosion occurred as workers used a torch to cut into a pipe with oil inside.

#### Watch the Video's:

- [Search Continues for 2 Missing after Gulf Platform Fire](#)
- [2 Missing, 11 Hospitalized in Gulf Oil Rig Explosion](#)
- [Raw Video: Explosion, Fire Damage Gulf Oil Platform](#)

 **Photo's [12]** [Oil Platform Blaze off Louisiana Leaves Workers Missing](#)

 **Photo's [10]** [Big Environmental Disasters](#)



*Burned out areas of the oil rig are seen Friday after the fire was extinguished.*

The Coast Guard was searching late Friday for two workers missing after a fire erupted on an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, sending an ominous black plume of smoke into the air reminiscent of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion that transformed the oil industry and life along the coast. The fire, begun while workers were using a torch to cut an oil line, critically injured at least four workers who had burns over much of their bodies. The images were eerily similar to the massive oil spill that killed 11 workers and took months to bring under control. It came a day after BP agreed to plead guilty to a raft of charges in the 2010 spill and pay a record US\$4.5 billion in penalties. There were a few important differences with the Deepwater Horizon explosion that killed 11 workers and launched one of the nation's biggest environmental disasters: Friday's fire was

put out within hours, rather than burning for more than a day and causing the rig to collapse and sink. It's a production platform in shallow water, rather than an exploratory drilling rig looking for new oil on the seafloor almost a mile deep. Still, the accident was a vivid reminder of the dangers involved in offshore drilling and the risk it poses to the Gulf of Mexico's ecosystem and shoreline. A sheen of oil about a half-mile long and 200 yards wide was reported on the Gulf surface, but officials believe it came from residual oil on the platform. "It's not going to be an uncontrolled discharge from everything we're getting right now," Coast Guard Capt. Ed Cubanski said. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Bobby Nash said late Friday that monitoring continues to show no oil is coming from the well. He said a Coast Guard cutter was continuing its search into the night, and that a broader rescue effort would resume after daybreak Saturday. Eleven people were taken by helicopter to area hospitals or for treatment on shore by emergency medical workers. Taslin Alfonzo, spokeswoman for West Jefferson Medical Center in suburban New Orleans, said four injured workers arrived in critical condition with second- and third-degree burns over much of their bodies. Two were sent by ambulance to the burn center at Baton Rouge General Medical Center. Two others were sent later. The production platform owned by Houston-based Black Elk Energy is about 40km southeast of Grand Isle, on the western side of the Mississippi River delta. The Coast Guard said 24 people were aboard the platform at the time of the fire.

#### Comparisons with Deepwater

After the April 2010 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon, that rig burned for about 36 hours before collapsing and sinking to the Gulf floor. The depth of the well blow-out - a mile below the Gulf surface - proved to be a major challenge in bringing the disaster under control. The Black Elk platform is in 17m of water - a depth much easier for engineers to manage if a spill had



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## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2012 – 907 Newsy Stuff

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

**December 03 2012**



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happened. A federal official in Washington said a team of environmental enforcement inspectors was flying to the scene. David Smith, a spokesman for the Interior Department's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, said the team was dispatched from a Gulf Coast base by helicopter soon after the Coast Guard was notified of the emergency. Smith said the team would scan for any evidence of oil spilling and investigate the cause of the explosion. "This is yet another reminder that our work on oil drilling safety is not complete," said U.S. Rep. Ed Markey, the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee.

<http://www.todayonline.com/World/EDC12117-0000066/2-missing,-4-badly-burned-in-oil-platform-fire>


### USA, TX, GARLAND, NOVEMBER 17 2012. FIREFIGHTERS TO LET MASSIVE BLAZE AT GARLAND CHEMICAL PLANT BURN ITSELF OUT; EXPECT IT TO TAKE HOURS

wayne carter

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Garland Chemical Plant Fire mostly Burns itself Out](#)
- [Firefighters to let Massive Blaze at Garland Chemical Plant Burn itself out](#)
- [Massive Explosion & Chemical Fire at Garland Plant](#)

 **Photo's [11] Chemical Plant Fire n Garland**

 **Slideshow Dramatic Photo's: Industrial Facility Catches Fire**



Firefighters are now letting the chemical fire burn itself out at the Nexeo plant in Garland.

**Update at 6:36 p.m.:** The Associated Press quotes company spokeswoman Christina Reynolds as saying all 41 employees who were present when the fire erupted are safe. Also, fire Capt. Merrill Balanciere identified the chemicals fueling the blaze as toluene and methanol.

**Update at 6:13 p.m.:** Moments ago, Dallas Fire-Rescue spokesman Jason Evans sent a detailed timeline concerning the fire at the Nexeo plant. It reads, in full:

*At 15:33 Dallas Fire-Rescue was called out the Nexeo Chemical Plant to assist the Garland Fire Department with a fire at the location.*

*Responding companies could see a large plume of black smoke from miles on approach. Because of the plant's contents, firefighters staged a perimeter at*

*half a mile in all directions, and ordered evacuations of all businesses within that perimeter.*

*In the meanwhile, Command formed a joint task force with Garland FD to formulate a plan of attack. DFR's HazMat Team and Garland Fire personnel went inside the plant and accessed shut-off valves controlling the flow of the chemicals feeding the fire, enabling Garland FD to move in for a defensive attack.*

*Despite the remaining plume of smoke, the fire is slowly decreasing in size and intensity as Garland FD continues to do an outstanding job in containing the fire.*

*There are no available details (from DFR) on how many people were at/in the facility at the time of the incident; and as of now there have been no reported injuries.*

*Currently, DFR is significantly scaling back its response as Garland FD takes sole command of the scene. DFR's HazMat (and a few other units for manpower) will remain on location to monitor for the possibility of run-off.*

**Update at 5:33 p.m.:** Staff writer Tasha Tsiaperas spoke with Garland Fire Department spokesman Merrill Balanciere, who says they expect this to last well into the night — several more hours, at least. Right now, said Balanciere the main concern are tanks filled with methanol. Crews aren't spraying at the fire, out of fear they'll create a spillover, but rather at the surrounding tanks in an effort to keep them cool. Word is there's 80,000 gallons of flammable fluid in that "put" alone. The spokesman said they're still not sure what cause the fire, only that a train was bringing in chemicals and attempting to "download them," per Balanciere, when the fire began, triggering an explosion that rattled surrounding businesses. The Dallas County Health Department has just arrived on the scene to see treat firefighters — and anyone else — feeling the ill effects of the thick smoke that some observers believe is only getting darker the longer the blaze burns. News helicopters are also being ordered to leave the scene. Besides, says Tasha, "The photos don't do it justice. And the smell is awful."



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**Update: 5:07 p.m.:** Staff writer Tasha Tsiaperas reports that officials are evacuating the industrial area where the plant is located. Jupiter Road is shut down, and people whose cars are parked in the evacuation area are stuck for a while until officials start allowing people back in.

**Update, 4:50 p.m.:** The explosion reportedly occurred as a train was offloading methanol. A Garland fire captain tells Daniel Lathrop that the first call came in at 3:33 p.m. and that hazardous materials teams from Dallas and Garland are on the scene. Earlier reports indicated that there were no injuries that required transportation to hospitals. Reports now are that no one was injured.

**Update at 4:40 p.m.:** Garland firefighters, who had been letting the blaze burn down, have begun to spray down the fire.

**Update at 4:34 p.m.:** As Twitter fills with photos of the Garland fire visible citywide, this update. Officials say that the first blast, about an hour ago, cracked windows near the chemical plant. Jupiter is closed at Kingsley; traffic in the area is stopped. And officials say no one has been taken to the hospital.

**Update at 4:05 p.m.:** Right now the fire's at two-alarm, and Dallas and Garland fire crews are at the scene. Dallas Fire-Rescue's public information office has no further information, given the fire's not yet at three alarms. Officials, who appear to be letting the fire burn out, are asking people within a quarter-mile of the fire to evacuate the area, fearing the flames will trigger further explosions. The area is predominantly industrial, and Jupiter Road near the plant has been shut down.

Garland rescue officials say they have not heard of any injuries. According to the National Weather Service, the smoke plume is at 7,000 feet and moving southwest.

**Original post at 3:47 p.m.:** The video above from Channel 11 shows the scene at [3101 Wood Drive](#), off S. Jupiter Road, in Dallas, where [Ashland Inc.](#) — a chemical manufacturer — has triggered a huge blaze. The company's motto: "With good chemistry great things happen." They make, among other things, lubricants, paints and polymers. (Update: It's also known as the [Nexeo Solutions](#) plant, as Ashland sold to Nexeo last year.)

<http://thescoopblog.dallasnews.com/2012/11/firefighters-battling-huge-blaze-after-refinery-explosion-in-garland.html/>

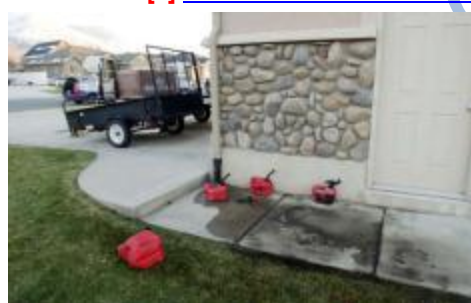
## USA, UT, BOX ELDER CO, PERRY, NOVEMBER 17 2012. 5 BOYS PLAYING WITH GASOLINE BURNED IN PERRY ACCIDENT; 2 UPGRADED TO SERIOUS CONDITION

pat reavy & mike anderson

**Watch the Video's:**

- [5 Boys Hospitalized after being Burned](#)
- [5 Young Boys Burned in Fire Involving Gasoline](#)

**Photo's [6] Condition of Gas Burn Victims Slightly Improves**



Five boys were hospitalized Thursday after suffering burns while playing with gasoline. Perry Mayor Jerry Nelson said two of the boys who were initially listed in critical condition had been upgraded to serious condition by 8 p.m. Thursday. Two others were being held for observation, and one boy had been released. "It's going to be a long, hard recovery for two of these boys," Nelson said. The boys were walking home from school when they found gas cans and were "involved in a burning accident" next to a home in the "middle of town," Nelson said. Neighbors reported hearing an explosion. The boys, between the ages of 7 and 10, were injured about 3 p.m. "I'm still looking at gas cans, grass that was burned and tennis shoes laying on the ground," said Jim Buchanan, Brigham City's director of emergency services. Cody Neilson said he was inside his home

when he heard a "big bang." "I looked out there, and kids were running around and everything," Neilson said. He went outside and saw a fire in a neighbor's yard. "I grabbed the hose and put that out while the next-door neighbors were tending to the kids," he said. "A couple of them got burned pretty bad." Damage to the house on South Linda Way, where four gas cans and a small black patch could be seen, was minor. But the neighborhood was shaken by the incident. "It was shocking, of course. I mean you don't really expect five kids ... to be burned," said Skyler Limb. "I was sitting inside watching TV when I heard all the sirens and stuff." Limb said he ran from his house nearby to help bandage the kids. He said he knew all of the kids and was too upset to discuss their injuries. The victims, whose names were not released, were taken to Brigham City Hospital. Four of the boys were then transferred by medical helicopters to University Hospital in Salt Lake City. Two were in critical condition in



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the burn unit Thursday night and the other two were being treated in the emergency room. Nelson said the accident has been difficult for him because he personally knows some of the boys and their families. "Our thoughts and prayers are definitely with the parents," the mayor said. "This is one of those things that we grow up with, and it's just really sad and hard." Brinley Hyde, 10, and Kourtney Small, 9, are friends with one of the boys, who is believed to have inhaled the fumes. "He was so young and so I don't think he knew that this was dangerous. I hope that they're OK," Brinley said. "I'm sad for them," added Kourtney. "I just hope that their families are feeling that people are caring for them."

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865566875/5-children-burned-in-Perry-fire-injuries-range-from-minor-burns-to-more-serious.html>

### USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, NOVEMBER 17 2012. MISFORTUNE STRIKES AGAIN FOR SHELL OIL RIG RETURNING FROM ARCTIC

*eric christopher adams & alex demarban*



A drill rig involved in Shell Oil's inaugural season of Arctic oil exploration briefly caught fire Friday morning in Dutch Harbor, an international port in Alaska's Aleutian Islands, according to the Unalaska Fire Department. Firefighters responded to calls of a fire at the U.S. Coast Guard docks at 10:22 a.m. Friday, where a plume of black smoke was seen coming off of a vessel, according to Unalaska Fire Chief Abner Hoage. As firefighters approached the docks they received reports that there had also been an explosion aboard the Noble Discoverer, Hoage said. The rig wasn't actually docked but was still hooked to tugs and its planks were not yet down. Hoage said responding firefighters spoke with the captain, who declined Unalaska fire department assistance since Shell's on-board personnel had the small flame under control. Curtis Smith, Shell's Alaska spokesman, said the small "flash fire" was put out immediately, adding

no one was injured and the ship was never in danger. Smith described it as an engine backfire in the rig stack, a description Hoage compared to a car backfiring. Such fires are common aboard ships and happen when residual gases and fumes, left over in exhaust stacks, combust. "Ever seen a small flame out of a car when it backfires? This is the same. It is a minor issue. It is not an incident," Smith added. Others described it a bit differently. Peggy McLaughlin, Unalaska ports director, told [KUCB Radio](#) that she felt the blast in her office, about 200 yards away. "It was almost like a backfire, a ginormous ... backfire is what I would equate it to, but because of the size of the vessel, it was pretty big. And when we looked out we could actually see the smoke coming out of the top of the landing pad there and so it was one of those, 'we need to make a call and make sure it doesn't get out of control,'" McLaughlin said in the [KUCB report](#).

#### Shell Blazes Arctic Trail Under Intense Scrutiny

Shell used the 514-foot ship to launch preliminary well work this summer. It was the first such work offshore in the U.S. Arctic in two decades, and the project has been under intense scrutiny due largely to environmental concerns related to drilling in the pristine Arctic. Preliminary drilling that did not reach oil-bearing zones began this year. Shell hopes to return next year to drill into deeper zones and find oil. Shell's program slipped well behind schedule this year thanks largely to delays in completing an overhaul of a unique oil-capturing barge it's required to have on scene before deep drilling. Coastal sea ice that lingered longer than usual and [wayward ice floes](#) also helped put the work off track. The [Noble Discoverer is the same ship that drifted on its moorings](#) at Dutch Harbor in July. The event offered Arctic oil drilling opponents fresh evidence that Shell wasn't prepared for unpredictability in a hostile yet pristine climate. Four months later, the drill rig is back in the Aleutians stealing headlines again. From there it heads to Seward, where the rig will port at the Alaska Railroad dock, Smith said. The Noble Discoverer's sister rig, the Kulluk, should arrive in Dutch Harbor in less than a week. Kulluk began preliminary well work in the Beaufort Sea this year. Both ships will stay at those locations for an undetermined amount of time this winter, said Smith.

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/misfortune-strikes-again-shell-oil-rig-returning-arctic>



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