



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2012 – 912 Newsy Stuff

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

December 17 2012



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USA, N.C, HICKORY, DECEMBER 1 2012. THE GAS THAT CAN KILL YOUR CAR IS CALLED E15

don bain



Caveat emptor is the legal phrase admonishing buyers to beware and the new blend of alcohol and gasoline known as E15 only reinforces that statement.

While a 10 percent blend of gasoline with ethanol, known as E10 or gasohol, has been used for years to lessen winter smog with no distinguishable harm to engines, boosting that mix up to 15 percent is another story entirely. Of the 240,000,000 cars on the road, 95 percent of them can be seriously damaged by the use of E15 gasoline according to the manufacturers themselves, claims AAA. "It is clear that millions of Americans are unfamiliar with E15, which means there is a strong possibility that many motorists may improperly fill up using this gasoline and damage their vehicle," said AAA President & CEO Robert Darbelnet. "Bringing E15 to the market without adequate safeguards does not responsibly meet the needs of consumers." A convenience store in South Austin TX had some sort of [fueling problem](#) last summer, causing cars to stall out within blocks of the station. Though an explanatory posting never came, we suspected

a refueling truck had mistakenly put E85 into an underground tank meant of E10 gasohol. Obviously, E85 gas is meant only for Flex Fuel vehicles, but a nearby gas attendant told us customers occasionally put it in normal vehicles in an unwise effort to save money when refueling. Though just an addition of five percent more ethanol, the sustained use of E15 can potentially cause accelerated engine wear and/or failure, damage to the fuel system, and perhaps even more troubling, false check engine alerts on any of the 228 million vehicles not approved by manufacturers to use E15. More importantly manufacturers are already stating that the use of the fuel may void warranties. BMW, Chrysler, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen have unequivocally stated their warranties will not cover fuel-related claims resulting from E15. Ford, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz and Volvo insist E15 fails to comply with specified fuel requirements and could void warranty coverage. Is this what a new car owner wants to hear or play around with? No way, José. In fact the fuel is only recommended for flex-fuel vehicles, Porsches built from 2001, 2012 and later GM vehicles and 2013 model-year Ford vehicles, covering cars, light-duty trucks and SUVs. E15 is specifically forbidden in heavy-duty vehicles, boats, motorcycles, power equipment, lawn mowers and offroad vehicles. So much like war, "What is it good for?" "The sale and use of E15 should be suspended until additional gas pump labeling and consumer education efforts are implemented to mitigate problems for motorists and their vehicles," continued Darbelnet. "Consumers should carefully read pump labels and know their auto manufacturer's recommendations to help prevent any problems from E15." The EPA approval of E15 was heavily promoted by corporate corn growers, over the objections of auto manufacturers, in a drought year that lowered corn production so much, cattle are being feed ground cornstalks to save money. Gas prices are holding a bit lower these days as the economy improves, so why let E15 kill your car? There's just no sense to it at all.

<http://www.torquenews.com/397/gas-can-kill-your-car-called-e15>

USA, TX, TYLER CO, HILLISTER, DECEMBER 1 2012. DRIVER KILLED WHEN GASOLINE TANKER TRUCK OVERTURNS AND EXPLODES IN FLAMES



The Tyler County Sheriff's Office said the truck was carrying gasoline, which ignited when the truck turned over near FM-1013.

The driver of a gasoline tanker truck is dead after his vehicle left the road, overturned and exploded in flames Friday morning in Hillister, according to information provided to KFDM News by Tyler County Sheriff David Hennigan. The accident shut down Highway 69 in both directions near FM 1013 in Hillister. One lane was reopened to alternating traffic and all lanes reopened by 12:30 p.m. The DPS identified the victim as Bertis Wood, 58, of Jasper. He worked for a company based in Jasper. Hennigan told KFDM News Wood's truck left Highway 69 near FM 1013 in Hillister, south of Woodville, at about 5:30 a.m.

Friday. The truck overturned and began burning. Wood was trapped in the vehicle. The flames spread to the front of a nearby home. The woman who lives in the home heard a series of explosions and ran to a nearby home to safety. It took more than



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two hours to put out the flames and remove Wood's body from the tanker truck. Firefighters from volunteer departments including Ivanhoe, Woodville, Colmesneil and Warren worked the scene. Hennigan said drivers should avoid the area.

http://www.kfdm.com/shared/news/top-stories/stories/kfdm_vid_2918.shtml

USA, TX, HOUSTON, DECEMBER 1 2012. FRACK SECRETS BY THOUSANDS KEEP U.S. CLUELESS ON WELLS



Anadarko Petroleum Corp. drills a series of wells on a pad on a Weld County farm near Mead, Colo. in the north-eastern part of the state.

A subsidiary of Nabors Industries Ltd. (NBR) pumped a mixture of chemicals identified only as "EXP- F0173-11" into a half-dozen oil wells in rural Karnes County, Texas, in July. Few people outside Nabors, the largest onshore drilling contractor by revenue, know exactly what's in that blend. This much is clear: One ingredient, an unidentified solvent, can cause damage to the kidney and liver, according to safety information about the product that Michigan state regulators have on file. A year-old Texas law that requires drillers to disclose chemicals they pump underground during hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," was powerless to compel transparency for EXP- F0173-11. The solvent and several other ingredients in the product are considered a trade secret by Superior Well Services, the Nabors subsidiary. That means they're exempt from disclosure. Drilling companies in Texas, the biggest oil-and-natural gas producing state, claimed similar exemptions about 19,000 times this year through August, according to their chemical-disclosure reports. Data from the documents were compiled by Pivot Upstream Group, a Houston-based firm that studies the energy industry, and analyzed by Bloomberg News. Nationwide, companies withheld one out of every five chemicals they used in fracking, a

separate examination of a broader database shows. Trade-secret exemptions block information on more than five ingredients for every well in Texas, undermining the statute's purpose of informing people about chemicals that are hauled through their communities and injected thousands of feet beneath their homes and farms, said Lon Burnam, a Democratic state representative and a co-author of the law.

Truck-Sized Hole

"This disclosure bill has a hole big enough to drive a Mack truck through," Burnam says of the law, which he called "much compromised legislation." "Is it meaningless because there are so many exemptions?" he asked. "I'm afraid it may be." The Texas disclosure bill marks a growing effort by the oil and gas industry to address public concerns about fracking, a drilling technique in which millions of gallons of water, sand and chemicals are pumped underground to free up more hydrocarbons. While the method has unlocked vast new sources of energy, safety questions center on the hundreds of chemicals used — many of them known carcinogens. The federal Environmental Protection Agency has little authority to regulate fracking; Congress decided in 2005 that the bureau wouldn't oversee the practice.

Flaming Faucets

The 2010 documentary film "Gasland" showed homeowners near fracked wells igniting the water that flowed from their faucets. A year later, the EPA linked fracking to contaminated drinking water in Pavillion, Wyoming. The agency is retesting the Wyoming wells. A separate report from the U.S. Geological Survey this year confirmed the environmental agency's initial finding; it detected levels of methane, ethane, diesel compounds and phenol, which the EPA had identified in 2011. Companies including Houston-based Halliburton Co. (HAL) have embraced the Texas law as a model that "provides an enormous amount of information to the general public" while protecting trade secrets from competitors, said Susie McMichael, a company spokeswoman. "Without such protection, companies would have no incentive to develop and put into use new technologies that are both environmentally beneficial and more effective," McMichael said in an e-mail.

Largest Withholders

In August, the largest well-servicing companies that worked in Texas withheld the most information about frack jobs. Wells serviced by Halliburton and Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc., the second- and third-largest oilfield services companies respectively, contained more than nine secrets per well according to reports filed by the companies. Frack jobs by Superior Well Services, the Nabors subsidiary, omitted the most information with more than 32 secrets per well. For neighbors of fracked wells, the omissions mean they can't use the disclosures to watch for frack fluids migrating into creeks, rivers and aquifers, because they don't know what to look for, says Adam Briggie, who is chairman of a citizen's group in Denton, Texas,



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called the Denton Stakeholder Drilling Advisory Group. "We can't test to see what is coming into the environment," says Briggie, 35, who also works as an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of North Texas in Denton. "If frack fluids are so harmless, why do they hold onto these trade secrets so strongly?"

Property Rights

Dennis Smith, a Nabors spokesman, didn't reply to several e-mails and phone messages requesting comment. Baker Hughes provides information on its fracking fluids "in a format that minimizes intellectual-property-rights risks to our products," according to a statement e-mailed by company spokeswoman Pamela Easton. Halliburton's McMichael noted that the Texas rules were written with input from environmental groups, including Environmental Defense Fund, a New York-based environmental group whose president, Fred Krupp, has called the supply of natural gas that may be liberated by fracking "a potential game changer." The Texas rules could "help industry do something that industry has trouble doing for itself — gain the public's trust," wrote Scott Anderson, a senior policy adviser to EDF, in an October 2011 letter to the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates oil and gas drilling in the state.

Watered Down

Yet the regulations "could wind up hurting public confidence rather than helping," particularly if companies report fewer chemicals than the public expects, Anderson wrote. In an interview this week, Anderson said that while EDF considers the Texas rule "landmark legislation" that won industry support for disclosing chemicals, the group doesn't support the final version because it was watered down. Industry lobbyists made it clear that they wanted strong trade-secret protections, "but they didn't say it would be this heavily utilized," said Cyrus Reed, acting director of the Sierra Club's Lone Star chapter, who worked with companies to develop the rule. "It is disappointing to see this many trade secrets being claimed." The law, signed by Governor Rick Perry, a Republican, in June 2011, requires companies to disclose their fracking chemicals on FracFocus, a national website that the energy industry helped create in 2011 to allow for voluntary disclosure. Bloomberg News reported in August that more than 40 percent of wells fracked in eight major drilling states last year had been omitted from the voluntary site.

Permitted Secrets

Oil and gas companies are permitted to withhold disclosure of chemicals and their concentrations in any product that they claim to be a trade secret under the Texas law. Such claims can be challenged by state regulators and landowners of well sites or adjacent parcels. Several other states that require disclosure of fracking chemicals, including Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico and North Dakota, also leave it up to energy companies to determine what chemicals can be labeled secrets. North Dakota's rule requires companies to report fracking chemicals to FracFocus, beginning last April. "We require whatever FracFocus requires," said Alison Ritter, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Mineral Resources' Oil and Gas Division. The FracFocus website states that chemicals should be disclosed unless they're a trade secret, as defined by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The operators of FracFocus, which is supported by funds from the industry, don't check trade-secret claims or offer a way to challenge an exemption.

Every Ingredient

Mike Paque, the executive director of the Groundwater Protection Council, a group of state water officials that's one of the operators of FracFocus, didn't respond to requests for an interview. "We have successfully fulfilled our commitment ... to ensure that Texans know every single ingredient used in the hydraulic fracturing process," said Elizabeth Ames Jones, then-chairwoman of the Texas Railroad Commission, when the law was signed last year. "Texans can be assured they will know more about what is going into the ground for fracturing than what goes into a can of soda," she said. Jones said this month that she's proud of what Texas did. "There are people who want to use scare tactics to drive an agenda that is not good for America," she said in an e-mail.

Descriptions Withheld

The 19,000 trade-secret claims made in Texas this year through August hid information that included descriptions of ingredients as well as identification numbers and concentrations of the chemicals used. Overall, oil and gas companies withheld information on about one out of every seven ingredients they pumped into 3,639 wells. In 5,000 other instances, Texas well operators failed to disclose information without saying why, filling in boxes on forms with "N/A" or "mixture," for example, or leaving them blank. Such omissions raised the total to almost seven secrets per well from about five. Nationally, companies claimed trade secrets or otherwise failed to identify the chemicals they used about 22 percent of the time, according to a Bloomberg News analysis of FracFocus data for 18 states. The data were compiled and released this month by SkyTruth.org, a website that uses data and digital mapping to investigate environmental issues. Among states with at least



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250 fracked wells, Oklahoma had the most unknown components; almost a third were listed as trade secrets or had no valid identification numbers attached to them.

August Sample

A smaller sample from Texas, the 370 wells that were reported in August 2012, showed that the number of secrets per well increased to almost eight when small frack jobs — those using less than 100,000 gallons of water — were excluded. Although oil and gas companies submit the disclosures, the well-servicing companies they hire decide which chemicals will be disclosed or kept secret, said Halliburton's McMichael and others. The number of ingredients they withhold from disclosure can vary widely, based on the August data. Wells serviced by Geneva-based Weatherford International Ltd. (WFT) averaged 0.1 secrets per well, while Baker Hughes (BHI) averaged 9.1; Halliburton, 9.3; and Superior Well Services, 32.5. Melanie Kania, a spokeswoman for Weatherford, declined to comment. Most of the secret chemicals are described only in general terms, such as "polymer" or "surfactant," leaving little clue about their contents, said Theo Colborn, president of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange. The Paonia, Colorado-based nonprofit, which is staffed by scientists, studies chemicals that interfere with human development and has criticized regulatory approaches to fracking.

Wyoming Approvals

Texas wasn't the first state to require disclosure of frack ingredients. In September 2010, Wyoming enacted a similar law, which requires an extra step to claim a trade secret. Companies need to apply with state regulators to explain why they need trade-secret protection for specific ingredients. Since that rule went into effect, the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission has approved 78 additives as trade secrets and rejected six such requests, according to Lori McCoy, a support specialist for the state agency. Recently, more states are following the Texas model — with an assist from industry. In December 2011, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a Washington-based public policy organization that brings together corporations and legislators to craft bills for states, adopted model legislation that is almost identical to the Texas rule.

Exxon Sponsorship

The model bill was sponsored inside ALEC by Exxon Mobil Corp. (XOM), which also advises the council from a seat on its "private enterprise board," according to ALEC documents obtained by Common Cause, a nonprofit group in Washington. So far, legislators in eight states have proposed bills based at least in part on the ALEC model, according to Todd Wynn, the director of the organization's task force on energy, environment and agriculture. The main author of the Texas bill said other states will tailor the language to their needs. "Can it be better and should it be better?" asked state Representative Jim Keffer, a Republican. "Yes, and I think it will be better. People are going to use this bill as a base and then make it fit their state's attitude or their industry." His Democratic co-author disagreed. It would be "a horrible mistake" for other states to use the Texas bill as a blueprint, Burnam said. "Texas state government has been a wholly owned subsidiary of national oil and gas interests for a century," he says. "Do not look at it for guidance on anything related to protecting public health and safety."

http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/11/30/frack-secrets-by-thousands-keep-u-s-clueless-on-wells/?utm_source=WhatCountsEmail&utm_medium=FuelFix&utm_campaign=FuelFixNewsLetter

USA, MA, BOSTON, DECEMBER 2 2012. EAST BOSTON GARAGE OWNER FINED, ORDERED TO CLEAN UP HAZARDOUS WASTE AT BELLE ISLE

jeremy c. fox

Suffolk Superior Court has ordered an East Boston auto repair shop owner to pay hefty fines and clean up hazardous waste polluting the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation. The court fined Manuele Scata, who owns D & M Auto Doctor at 1181 Bennington St., in the Orient Heights section, nearly \$180,000 and ordered him to clean up debris and petroleum products polluting the reservation, the last salt marsh in the city, which is owned by the Commonwealth and managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The owner said he has tried to comply with the state, but cannot afford the costs. He signed consent orders with the state Department of Environmental Protection agreeing to remove petroleum contamination in 2005 and again in 2006, but made no substantial effort to do so, Attorney General Martha Coakley said. "By failing to meet his commitments to the MassDEP time and again, the property owner has put the public at serious risk due to the contamination on his property," Coakley said. "We are pleased that the court has officially ordered him to eliminate the contamination that is impacting this valuable natural resource." In a phone interview, Scata, 40, said he is not responsible for gasoline in the soil or debris dumped behind his repair shop. Scata, who has owned the property since 2000, said fuel was allowed to leach into the soil when the site was a gas station in the 1980s, two owners prior to him. The area in back of the shop, he said, has been a



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dumping ground for 50 years or more. He regularly comes to work in the morning to find an unwanted sofa or refrigerator deposited there, he said. "I'm being blamed for ground contamination that I didn't cause," Scata said. He said he took ownership of the property unaware of the pollution. Under state law, a property owner is responsible for clean-up even if he or she did not own the property at the time of the release and had no role in it. Scata said he has tried to work with MassDEP but cannot afford the cleanup required or a lengthy court battle. "At this time, business is not good," he said. "I can't afford attorneys to fight them. It basically comes down to David and Goliath." Scata said he planned to appeal the ruling. A spokeswoman for the attorney general declined to comment on Scata's assertions. MassDEP spokesman Joe Ferson said the agency preferred not to relitigate the case in the news media. The court's judgment, issued Nov. 15, ordered Scata to pay \$170,000 in civil penalties and nearly \$10,000 in court costs and fees.

<http://bostonglobe.com/metro/2012/12/01/east-boston-garage-owner-fined-ordered-clean-hazardous-waste-belle-isle/2SwnjYE6V4BsybNv2iakFO/story.html>

SINGAPORE, MERSING, DECEMBER 2 2012. FIVE FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED IN CAR-TANKER CRASH IN JOHOR

mohd farhaan shah

Five family members, including two children, died when their MPV collided with a tanker along Jalan Endau-Mersing here at 7.30am on Saturday. Four of them died on the spot while the other died on the way to the Mersing Hospital. One person is seriously injured and is warded at the same hospital. The deceased have been identified as Abdullah M Yusof, 43, his wife Samsiah Maidin, 37, their children Muhammad Aiman Syakirin Abdullah, eight and Maisarah Abdullah, four, and their sister-in-law Noraini Maidin, 41. All of them were from Felda Air Tawar 5 in Kota Tinggi.

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/12/1/nation/20121201143415&sec=nation>

USA, N.J, PAULSBORO, DECEMBER 6 2012. EXPERT: 'THIS IS REALLY BAD STUFF' >> TOXICOLOGISTS SAY VINYL CHLORIDE A CARCINOGEN

sheri berkery



Dr. Richard Parent, an expert in toxicology, says the release of vinyl chloride has to be taken seriously.

Vinyl chloride might smell sweet, but it's anything but. "It has a pleasant odor, which is really deceiving," says Dr. Richard Parent, an internationally recognized expert in toxicology with Maine-based Cosultox. "This is really bad stuff," he says of the gas, which leaked into the air after a train derailment in Paulsboro early Friday. "It's heavier than air, so it can linger in the atmosphere." Parent said any community dealing with this spill should pay attention to which way the wind is blowing and evacuate anyone downwind of the leak. "It's that serious," he said. Officials initially evacuated people in the immediate area of the spill and some schools were locked down. Residents can move about freely now, but several tanker cars still must be removed from a bridge that collapsed into Mantua Creek between Paulsboro and West Deptford — a delicate operation that could result in another release of vinyl chloride. Staying out of the area when there is any danger of inhaling vinyl chloride is key, says Dr. Matthew Salzman, a toxicologist who works in the

emergency room at Cooper University Hospital. "If you start smelling it, remove yourself from the area and get as much fresh air as possible," Salzman says. "If you inhale it, it can be irritating to the mucous membranes. It can make you very, very sleepy and can get to the point of making it hard to breathe. It can even make you stop breathing." Vinyl chloride is a carcinogen and that is why it must be taken seriously, Parent says. "It's shown to be a human carcinogen," he says. "That's a real biggie." While some substances are animal carcinogens, epidemiological studies have shown vinyl chloride's direct risks to people. "Exposure increases the risk of cancer, particularly lung and liver cancer," says Parent, who added that the risk depends on the extent of the exposure. "No one really knows the effects of acute exposure," he says of the immediate type of exposure that could come from inhaling the gas. Salzman adds that vinyl chloride is associated with a very rare liver tumor, but that is mostly a concern for workers who are exposed to it on a daily basis. "It's more of an occupational concern than an environmental concern," Salzman says. People who are worried about long-term effects can follow up with their primary-care physician, who can order blood work to monitor the liver, Salzman says. Vinyl chloride was used in spray paint in the 1950s and '60s, Parent said. According to the New Jersey Department of Health website, it is now used to make polyvinyl chloride for pipes, wire and cable coatings, and in furniture, automobiles and adhesives. Schools in the Paulsboro area were locked down



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for a while after the gas leak, which both toxicologists said was an important precaution. "Kids are a lot more susceptible than adults," Parent explains. "Cells are dividing much faster than in adults. Every cell that divides is an opportunity for a mutation." Salzman agreed that children in particular need to be protected from inhaling vinyl chloride. "We always worry about kids a little more because they are smaller and some of the exposure is weight-dependent," he says. "Also, they breathe in more air than grown-ups, so they could breathe in the air for a shorter time (than an adult) and could get a bigger dose." Parent says that it would take a lot of exposure for anyone to be at a serious risk for cancer as a result of inhaling vinyl chloride. "We are hoping that no one gets exposed at this level," he says, adding that the risk from sudden exposure should be pretty small. "We still have to treat this with great respect because it is really toxic." One piece of good news is that Paulsboro should not be dealing with a long-term environmental impact, Salzman says. "In the soil, it evaporates quickly, and in water, it degrades in about a month," he says. Salzman said that anyone with concerns about having inhaled vinyl chloride should contact the U.S. Poison Control Centers at (800) 222-1222.

Related Links

- [Residents near Paulsboro derailment site evacuated overnight](#)
- [Paulsboro spill: Derailment forces evacuations, sends dozens to hospital](#)
- [Paulsboro bridge already collapsed in 2009](#)
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- [Kennedy doc describes symptoms of inhaling vinyl chloride](#)
- [What you need to know about the train derailment](#)
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- [Train derailment spills chemicals in Paulsboro](#)
- [71 treated after gas leak from derailed Paulsboro train](#)

http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2012311300061&qcheck=1&nclink_check=1

USA, CA, LOS ANGELES, DECEMBER 2 2012. LA OIL COMPANY FACES CRIMINAL CHARGES FOR SPILL

Los Angeles city prosecutors have filed criminal charges against an oil company for a 245-gallon crude oil and water spill last December. The city attorney's office said Friday that Brea Canon Oil Co. violated state regulations and unlawfully discharged crude oil and contaminated water into a flood channel. Prosecutors said an underground pipeline began to leak beneath a parking lot and moved through two storm drains before reaching the flood channel, which is home to several species of birds. The spill had minimal damage to the environment. The company has a history of pipeline spill violations dating back to 2005. An afterhours phone message left for Brea Canon Oil was not immediately returned.

<http://www.canadianbusiness.com/article/108759-la-oil-company-faces-criminal-charges-for-spill>

USA, AKA, ANCHORAGE, DECEMBER 2 2012. EMAILS SAY SHELL CONTAINMENT DOME 'CRUSHED LIKE A BEER CAN' IN TEST

alex demarban

Royal Dutch Shell's containment dome was "crushed like a beer can" earlier this year in Puget Sound, during failed sea-trial tests that raised questions about the oil giant's ability to respond to an oil spill in the U.S. Arctic Ocean, according to a Seattle radio station. The beer-can observation belongs to Mark Fesmire, head of the Alaska office of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). It and other details about what went wrong with the testing are included in emails obtained by KUOW through a Freedom of Information Act request. The containment dome is basically an undersea vacuum cleaner designed to suck up gushing oil beneath the water's surface, the article notes. In what Shell officials have called an unprecedented move, the company proposed including the containment dome in its Arctic efforts as a last line of spill-response defense, for use if drilling mud, a blowout preventer and a capping stack fail. [Federal regulators said the containment dome](#) must be on scene near the drilling areas before the company can tap into oil-bearing zones. The accident damaging the dome and the inability to certify its barge were key reasons Shell [downscaled its Arctic ambitions this summer](#). Instead of drilling deep into oil-bearing zones roughly a mile beneath the sea floor, the company was merely allowed to conduct preliminary well work to set the stage for next summer. The containment system is ready to accompany Shell's return to the Arctic next summer, said Anchorage spokesman Curtis Smith. "It is classified and certified," he said. The emails obtained by



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KUOW from BSEE provide a rare window into the mishaps associated with the dome's undersea tests. In a summary of email exchanges involving Fesmire and another BSEE official, the station reports:

- The containment dome test was supposed to take about a day. That estimate proved to be wildly optimistic.
- Day 1: The Arctic Challenger's massive steel dome comes unhooked from some of the winches used to maneuver it underwater. The crew has to recover it and repair it.
- Day 2: A remote-controlled submarine gets tangled in some anchor lines. It takes divers about 24 hours to rescue the submarine.
- Day 5: The test has its worst accident. On that dead-calm Friday night, Mark Fesmire, the head of BSEE's Alaska office, is on board the Challenger. He's watching the underwater video feed from the remote-control submarine when, a little after midnight, the video screen suddenly fills with bubbles. The 20-foot-tall containment dome then shoots to the surface. The massive white dome "breached like a whale," Fesmire e-mails a colleague at BSEE headquarters. "
- Then the dome sunk more than 120 feet, saved from crashing to the seafloor by a safety buoy. Recovering it took 12 hours. In other Shell news, a BBC report from the Alaska village of Point Hope, is getting a lot of attention for [a quote](#) attributed to Pete Slaiby: "There's no sugar-coating this, I imagine there would be spills, and no spill is OK. But will there be a spill large enough to impact people's subsistence? My view is no, I don't believe that would happen."

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/emails-say-shell-containment-dome-crushed-beer-can-test>

USA, CA, LOST HILLS, DECEMBER 2 2012. BLAST AT CHEVRON FACILITY UNDER INVESTIGATION >> EXPLOSION ROCKED PLANT THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DESTROYING ONE LARGE TANK



Photo shows damage to tank after explosion and fire near Lost Hills.

The explosion at a Chevron facility in Lost Hills Thursday afternoon destroyed a 5,000 bbl. tank and damaged two others. Chevron officials say they have no immediate estimate of the damage. "Chevron is still in the process of assessing the property damage and this will not be determined right away," Chevron Public Affairs Manager Carla Musser said. She said a \$10 million estimate from the Kern County Fire Department was premature. There were no injuries. The force of the explosion blew the lid from the large tank 150 feet, the Kern County Fire Department reported. The explosion rocked the Chevron processing plant west of Lost Hills Road just south of the two of Lost Hills about 2 p.m. Firefighters said it occurred in a large-diameter "wash tank" used to process oil. The fire initially sent up a large column of black smoke but it was quickly extinguished. Two other tanks were threatened for a time until the fire was knocked down.

About 40 firefighters responded to the incident in six engines, two ladder trucks and foam equipment. No cause for the blast has been determined.

Related Links [Explosion, fire reported at Chevron facility ...](#)

<http://www.mtshastanews.com/article/20121130/NEWS/121139975>

MEXICO, TOLUCA, ZACAZONAPAN, DECEMBER 2 2012. 3 CONTRACTORS KILLED AT PENOLES MINE IN MEXICO

cyntia barrera diaz

Three contractors were killed on Friday while working on the construction of a ventilation duct at a zinc mine in central Mexico owned by Industrias Penoles, the company said in a release. Miner and metals processor Penoles, which runs the world's largest primary silver producer, Fresnillo, operates the Tizapa mine in the central State of Mexico in the tiny municipality of Zacazonapan. Three other contractors also employed by Mineria Castellana were injured and are being treated at a local hospital, Penoles added. The miner could not say if the incident was an explosion, as local media reported previously, but added that an investigation was underway. Penoles said the Tizapa mine produces mostly zinc, although smaller quantities of lead, copper, silver and gold can also be found in the area. Some 900 people, including contractors, work at the mine, situated about two hours from the state capital of Toluca, Christian Gomez, a spokesman at the mine, told Reuters earlier on Friday. It was not immediately clear how many of those workers were miners. In August, the Mexican government suspended work at 32 small coal mines in the northern state of Coahuila due to safety concerns after 13 miners died in the space of three weeks.



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A 2006 methane explosion at another mine in Coahuila owned by Grupo Mexico, killed 65 miners. Penoles shares fell 2.91 percent to close at 646.13 pesos on Friday.

<http://www.euronews.com/newswires/1745154-penoles-mine-reports-incident-in-mexico-3-killed-says-media/>

NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, DECEMBER 2 2012. PETROL GENERATOR ORDEAL LIKE 'HORROR MOVIE'

russell blackstock

Watch the Video [Family Warns of CO Poisoning after Ordeal](#)



The generator was used in the garage.

A recovering family of five hospitalised after their house filled with petrol generator fumes say the ordeal was like a scene from a horror movie. The group was found semi-conscious inside the West Auckland bungalow by emergency services in the early hours of Monday. The two adults and their three children, aged 29, 14 and 9, were rushed to North Shore and Waitakere hospitals suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. Three were later given oxygen treatment in a hyperbaric chamber at the Devonport naval base. Sitting in the living room where the nightmare unfolded, the mother spoke to the Herald on Sunday to warn others about the dangers of using such generators indoors. Still clearly shaken, she asked to not be identified. The family had only just moved into the new-build home, she said. They had put a petrol generator in the garage

attached to the house because mains power could not be connected until the Monday. "It was very lucky that we were all out until late on Sunday night and the generator was only switched on for a few hours before we were going to go to bed," the mum said. "If we had gone to sleep I am convinced none of us would have woken up." The woman, a business owner originally from Fiji, said she at first thought the family had been struck down with food poisoning. "Within a short space of time we were all vomiting and were very disoriented. I was crawling around on my hands and knees trying to stay conscious. I kept thinking I had to stay awake to save my family and I don't know where I got the strength from. "One of my daughters was rolling around screaming and it was like something out of a horror movie. We were all very confused and terrified." The mum had the presence of mind to force her ill husband to phone a nearby family friend for help. "I crawled to the door and managed to open it. The next thing I remember was waking up outside surrounded by police and ambulance people. The emergency services could not have been better. "We are all recovering but it will be several days before we are back to anything like normal," she said. "I never want to see any other family go through what we did. We had no idea petrol generators could be so dangerous. They really can be a killer."

Related Links

- [Family offered hotel before poisoning](#)
- [CO-poisoned in stable condition](#)
- [Scene examination after CO poisoning](#)

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10851365

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, CERVANTES, DECEMBER 2 2012. CHEVRON RESPONSIBLE FOR RUNAWAY BARGE, MUA CHARGES

The Maritime Union of Australia has placed blame on Chevron for a runaway barge off Australia. They released the following statement today: Salvage crews are rushing to regain control of a barge, with approximately 12 on board, that has reportedly run aground on a reef off Cervantes this morning. The MUA's Western Australia Branch Secretary Chris Cain said the union has repeatedly warned Chevron about the risk of such an incident. "This ship should never have left the port. Lives are now at risk and the reef is at risk," Mr Cain said. "For two years the MUA has argued that a procedure needs to be put in place for this sort of event. We believe that had the MUA's recommendations had been heeded, this potential disaster would never have happened." The barge was under contract to Chevron and was carrying diesel fuel, construction equipment, vehicles and other items towards Barrow Island. Crews are fighting swells of up to six metres as they try to gain control over the barge. "Chevron claims it can predict the weather seven days in advance and will not go in a storm, yet this storm was predicted and Chevron



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took the risk anyway," Mr Cain said. "Now the companies are arguing they want to tow two barges at once, which is adding new risk.

<http://maritime-executive.com/article/chevron-responsible-for-runaway-barge-mua-charges>

CHINA, JIANGXI PROVINCE, WANZAI CO, WANZAI. GAN YI, DECEMBER 2 2012. FIREWORKS WORKSHOP BLAST KILLS 7, INJURES 6

An explosion and ensuing fire at a fireworks workshop in East China's Jiangxi province on Friday evening killed seven people and injured six, local government said Saturday. Among the deceased, five were killed in house collapse as the fire caused by the explosion destroyed five houses, the government of Wanzai county said in a statement. It said the workshop belongs to an enterprise of the neighboring Hunan Province. To evade supervision, the owner of the enterprise illegally operated the fireworks semi-manufacture workshop at a rural household in Wanzai. Gan Yi, the legal representative of the enterprise, has been held in police custody for further investigation, the statement said. China's work safety watchdog on Friday asked local authorities to organize safety checks at firework factories from December to January, as China's Spring Festival falls on February 9 next year, when fireworks will be widely released for celebration. In a circular, the State Administration of Work Safety urged provincial regulators to conduct selective examinations on firework factories and carry out checks at sales points and track flows of fireworks and firecrackers. China's firework plants have seen frequent accidents due to lax safety standards, especially among small producers.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2012-12/02/content_15977453.htm

USA, WA, ORTING, DECEMBER 2 2012. WAX TANK CATCHES FIRE AT ORTING CARDBOARD PLANT

Fire damaged a wax-storage tank at a cardboard plant in Orting late Thursday, firefighters said Friday. The blaze broke out about 11:45 p.m. in the 10,000-gallon tank at Commencement Bay Corrugated, Orting Valley Fire & Rescue said. Workers at the plant use the wax to manufacture water-resistant cardboard. Nearly 20 firefighters from three departments brought the blaze under control about 16 minutes after arriving, the agency said. Damage was estimated at \$3,000. Cause of the blaze was under investigation. No injuries were reported.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2012/12/01/2386541/orting-wax-tank-catches-fire-at.html>

USA, N,M, ALBUQUERQUE, DECEMBER 2 2012. NO KIRTLAND JET FUEL IN NEWEST TESTS

John Fleck

Preliminary test results suggest the Air Force may finally have found the edge of a plume of contaminated groundwater spreading outward from an old Kirtland Air Force Base spill. Water drawn from new wells beneath a southeast Albuquerque neighborhood, midway between the jet fuel contamination and the nearest municipal drinking water wells, appears to be clean of jet fuel contamination, according to Jim Davis, head of the New Mexico Environment Department's Resource Protection Division. Davis, speaking Wednesday to the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, said the new test results mean the current risk to drinking water is small. The Environment Department believes, based on the preliminary test data, that "the probability the wells will be affected by this contamination plume is relatively small," Davis said. Officials are awaiting confirmation of the results, but if they hold up, it would suggest the Air Force and Environment Department are zeroing in on the edge of the fuel plume. Air Force spokeswoman Marie Vanover issued a statement calling the results "encouraging". Vanover said the Air Force is awaiting quality control tests of the samples to ensure the results are accurate. The Environment Department also took its own samples from the wells as an independent test, and they showed no signs of contamination, Davis said. "This is really good news," said University of New Mexico professor Bruce Thomson, a groundwater contamination expert. The Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, worried about threats to the government agency's drinking water wells, took a more cautious approach to the results. While it is good news that the initial sampling results show no contamination, the Water Utility wants to see more sampling in future months before it will be convinced that the area's water is clean, said John Stomp, the utility's chief operating officer. "We're happy that the first sampling looks clean," Stomp said Friday, "but I think we need to have more sampling events." The Air Force discovered fuel leaking from an underground pipe in 1999. The leaking pipe was shut down and an investigation launched. After initially saying they believed the leak was small and confined to soil around the site, Air Force officials discovered in 2007 that the fuel had reached the aquifer, 500 feet below the ground. An Environment Department scientist earlier this year estimated that as much as 24 million gallons spilled over the years. Once reaching groundwater, the fuel apparently began spreading to the northeast, in the direction of drinking water



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wells that supply neighborhoods across southeast Albuquerque. Drinking water has tested negative for contamination, but the key open questions have been how fast the fuel might be traveling and how close it has gotten to municipal drinking water wells. If the new test results hold up, it means the fuel is likely decades away from contaminating Albuquerque drinking water, with a buffer of more than half a mile between the jet fuel contamination and the nearest drinking water well, Thomson said in an interview this week. That would provide time for cleanup efforts, Thomson said. The Air Force is in the midst of installing a large new pump system that will suck fuel out of the ground. That system is due to begin operation by the end of the year. The Water Utility has been pressing the Air Force on the issue because of the risk to the Albuquerque water supply. A resolution approved by the Utility's board Wednesday called for the Air Force to speed up the cleanup effort. Since discovery that the fuel had reached the groundwater, efforts have focused on drilling wells — 116 to date — to determine how far the fuel had spread. A small-scale cleanup effort is also under way, pumping fuel from the ground, and a larger pumping system is scheduled to come on line before the end of the year. The three new well sites are in the vicinity of Louisiana and Southern SE near Phil Chacon Park. The Air Force drilled them under pressure from state regulators after the state in April called the Air Force's efforts to determine the fuel plume's extent inadequate. The Water Utility will go ahead with plans to install additional monitoring wells between the known contamination and its drinking water wells, Stomp said.

Related Links

- [Water Utility, Kirtland reach jet fuel planning deal. Sort of.](#)
- [KAFB Widens Aquifer Search For Jet Fuel](#)
- [New Wells To Monitor Jet Fuel Leak Delayed](#)
- [No Groundwater PCE Near Kirtland](#)
- [Kirtland Jet Fuel Spill Prompts Teach-In](#)

<http://www.abqjournal.com/main/2012/12/01/news/no-kirtland-jet-fuel-in-newest-tests.html>

USA, S.D, KEYSTONE, DECEMBER 2 2012. GOLD EXPLORATION WORK AT KEYSTONE CAUSES ILLEGAL LEAK INTO BATTLE CREEK

kevin woster

 [Watch the Video Bentonite leaks into Battle Creek near Keystone](#)

 [Photo's \[4\] Illegal Leak into Battle Creek](#)



Wanda Carter, senior geologist with Mineral Mountain Resources, crosses Battle Creek on Friday after surveying with South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources engineers. After a malfunction during the exploration process, a drilling crew noticed bentonite was leaking, which led the company to stop exploration in that area.

State environmental officials are investigating an illegal leak into Battle Creek in Keystone caused by gold-exploration work by a Canadian mining company. The leak, a violation under state environmental law, developed Thursday, allowing bentonite — a clay material used in the process of drilling exploration wells — to seep into the creek along Highway 40 near the southeast edge of town. The crew working at the nearby drill site stopped drill work and reported the leak to the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which oversees the

gold exploration work that began in the Keystone area earlier this fall. The leak soon began to dry up, DENR engineering manager Mike Cepak of Pierre said Friday. "Two hours after they stopped drilling that flow had essentially stopped," Cepak said. "Until they figure out what was causing they leak, they won't be drilling, at least in that area." Cepak said it was too soon to say whether there would be a penalty for the mining company, Mineral Mountain Resources Ltd., of Vancouver, British Columbia. He said DENR would determine whether a clean-up effort was necessary, since the spill was relatively small and the material not considered hazardous. Cepak said it's unlikely there will be serious environmental impacts to the stream, which is classified as a cold-water fishery and supports trout in some reaches. "It's a bentonite clay with a little quartz that they use in drilling for lubrication and sealing cracks," he said. "It's milky in color and texture and looks out of place, but it's basically benign. But it's still a discharge that they shouldn't have done." DENR officials were at the creek Friday to look at the leak and take water samples. Contacted by email on Friday afternoon, Mineral Mountain Resources spokesman Brad Baker said he



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was away from the office and wouldn't be able to comment on the leak until next week. Stan Michals, energy and minerals coordinator for the state Game, Fish & Parks Department in Rapid City, said he didn't expect the leak to cause major damage to the stream or its fish life. "If this was a more harmful substance, we would have gotten involved," Michals said. "It's a pretty straightforward thing, probably more unsightly than anything." Cepak said Mineral Mountain Resources had drilled eight to 10 new exploration holes in the area under exploration permits with DENR. He said the crew was working on a steep hillside about 200 feet away and 50 higher than the creek. It's a previously mined area with broken rock that could have allowed the leak to reach the creek, Cepak said. The spill occurred the day after Mineral Mountain Resources released initial results of its exploration work in the area. Company officials were pleased with what they have found so far, company President and CEO Nelson W. Baker said in a news release. "Not only did the drilling demonstrate robust grades and widths potentially amenable to underground mining methods, but more importantly the exceptional exploration potential of the entire gold system in the Keystone area which we have just begun to explore," Baker said. Mineral Mountain officials have said the area seems well suited for an underground mining operation.

http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/gold-exploration-work-at-keystone-causes-illegal-leak-into-battle/article_77099ab1-04c1-54d8-9a27-c457a0fcbaba.html?comment_form=true

USA, TX, TERRY CO, DECEMBER 2 2012. EXPLOSIONS REPORTED AT TERRY COUNTY CHEMICAL PLANT

alison morris



Terry County Police say 2 explosions rocked the Venture Chemical Plant this morning. Residents reported hearing the explosions, seeing dark clouds of smoke and smelling fumes at the time it happened. Roads around the Plant were blocked off while multiple fire departments worked to put the fire out. Police say at least one part of the building collapsed. At least one person was injured and taken to Brownfield Regional Medical Center.

http://everythinglubbock.com/fulltext?nxd_id=138082

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, GEELONG, DECEMBER 6 2012. DIESEL LEAKS FROM REFINERY



Fire crews spent more than three hours at Shell Refinery early yesterday after oil leaked from a storage facility. A Country Fire Authority spokesman said four trucks attended the call to Corio about 2.40am and remained on scene to assist in the clean-up until 7am. Shell Australia spokesman Paul Zennaro confirmed the incident, but said the leak was minor. CFA operations officer Mick McGuinness said units from Corio, Lara, Geelong West and Geelong City attended the hydro- carbon leak. "The product that was leaking was a diesel fuel and was contained to the processing unit plant before being directed into the oil spill drain and captured by a gully sucker," he said. Shell yesterday said the refinery had been forced to ration fuel to its commercial customers after unrelated problems with two diesel production units at the site. "The issue with the diesel supply is based around two production units at Geelong," Mr Zennaro said.

Related Links

- [Shell has also confirmed a leak at Geelong Refinery in Australia](#)
- [Geelong Shell refinery leak contained](#)

http://www.geelongadvertiser.com.au/article/2012/12/06/356143_news.html

USA, GA, ATLANTA, DECEMBER 6 2012. DEEPWATER HORIZON CHEMICAL DISPERSANTS 52 TIMES MORE TOXIC THAN OIL

james burgess

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill is widely considered one of, if not the, worst environmental disasters in history. Around 4.9 million barrels of oil leaked into the Gulf of Mexico, polluting vast swathes of the ocean and local beaches, and proving deadly



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to much of the marine life in the region. After 3 months the leak was officially halted and clean-up to this day continues, and the Gulf slowly returns to its former self. Researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology and the Universidad Autonoma de Aguascalientes (UAA) have discovered that the chemical dispersants used to treat the oil and break it down have actually increased the toxicity of the oil by as much as 52 times. Over two million gallons of dispersants have been released to mix with the oil in attempts to break up the oil slicks and clean up the ocean. However tests have found that the mixed oil and chemical dispersant fluid vastly increase the mortality rates of rotifers, the microscopic, plankton-like animals that form the base of the Gulf's food chain. Roberto Rico Martinez of the UAA said that, "dispersants are preapproved to help clean up oil spills and are widely used during disasters. But we have a poor understanding of their toxicity. Our study indicates the increase in toxicity may have been greatly underestimated following the Macondo well explosion." Martinez and the other scientists involved in the [study](#) hope that further investigation into the effects of the dispersants on the oil and marine life should be carried out in order to understand and manage future oil spills more effectively. Terry Snell, the chair of the School of Biology, said that, "what remains to be determined is whether the benefits of dispersing the oil by using Corexit are outweighed by the substantial increase in toxicity of the mixture. Perhaps we should allow the oil to naturally disperse. It might take longer, but it would have less toxic impact on marine ecosystems."

<http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Deepwater-Horizon-Chemical-Dispersants-52-Times-More-Toxic-than-Oil.html>

USA, WA, SPOKANE, DECEMBER 6 2012. ECOLOGY, ARMY CORPS INVESTIGATE OIL SPILL

The Washington state Department of Ecology and the Army Corps of Engineers are investigating the source of an oil spill on the Snake River near Lower Granite Dam in southeast Washington. The Washington state Department of Ecology and the Army Corps of Engineers are investigating the source of an oil spill on the Snake River near Lower Granite Dam in southeast Washington. Ecology officials said in a statement Wednesday that the spill is estimated at less than 10 gallons. The Army Corps of Engineers reported the oil sheen on Tuesday. Absorbent booms were deployed above and below the fish ladder at the dam, which Ecology says has been ruled out as the possible source of the spill.

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2019839768_apwaoilspill.html

USA, WA, SEATTLE, DECEMBER 6 2012. SHELL'S FAILED ARCTIC OIL SPILL EQUIPMENT: 'BREACHED LIKE A WHALE' AND 'CRUSHED LIKE A BEER CAN'

kiley kroh



After struggling to get the last of their drilling equipment out of the Beaufort Sea as winter sea ice encroached, it appeared the [long list of criticisms and setbacks](#) that marked Shell's first Arctic Ocean drilling season had come to an end. That respite was very brief. Seattle's NPR affiliate KUOW has [released internal emails](#) between Interior Department officials, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, detailing Shell's failed test of underwater oil spill response equipment. Shell and the federal government kept a close hold on the specifics of what exactly went wrong during the test – and now it's clear why. The September sea trial was conducted in the temperate waters of Puget Sound – a long way from the harsh Arctic conditions in which it would be deployed – and was expected to last about day. As KUOW reports, the end result was a complete disaster: Day 5: The test has its worst accident. On that dead-calm Friday night, Mark Fesmire, the head of BSEE's Alaska office, is on board the

Challenger. He's watching the underwater video feed from the remote-control submarine when, a little after midnight, the video screen suddenly fills with bubbles. The 20-foot-tall containment dome then shoots to the surface. The massive white dome "breached like a whale" Fesmire e-mails a colleague at BSEE headquarters. Then the dome sinks more than 120 feet. A safety buoy, basically a giant balloon, catches it before it hits bottom. About 12 hours later, the crew of the Challenger manages to get the dome back to the surface. "As bad as I thought," Fesmire writes his BSEE colleague. "Basically the top half is crushed like a beer can." The oil spill containment dome is an important piece of response equipment that would capture spilled oil in the event of an uncontrolled blowout similar to the one that led to the catastrophic Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Shell first [unveiled plans](#) for its oil spill containment system back in 2010, saying it had "designed and equipped the most



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robust oil spill response system in the Arctic known to the industry.” As we’ve detailed numerous times, the region’s extreme and volatile conditions, coupled with the dearth of infrastructure and scientific knowledge, add an enormous and unpredictable amount of risk to any Arctic operations. And these warnings aren’t just coming from environmental groups – a major [insurance company](#), [bank](#), [legislative body](#), and even a [fellow oil major](#) have added their concerns to the growing chorus of opposition. Therefore, the importance of preparedness cannot be understated and Shell’s track record to date is far from comforting. Perhaps the greatest irony in the rush to drill the Arctic Ocean is the fact that climate change – the direct result of rampant burning of fossil fuels – is being felt more acutely in the Arctic than any place on Earth, manifesting itself in unprecedented warming and ice melt. The response? Digging up more fossil fuels, which will be burned and emitted into the atmosphere as CO₂, perpetuating the destructive cycle. In order to avoid catastrophic warming, the International Energy Agency estimates that we’ll need to [leave 2/3rds of global carbon reserves](#) in the ground before 2050. Continuing on our current path of fossil fuel consumption will drive oil companies into some of the most extreme conditions on the planet, like the fragile Arctic Ocean – a frightening prospect not just for the people and ecosystems that are threatened by their unpreparedness, but also the urgent need to curb our carbon emissions and slow climate change.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/12/05/1284301/shells-failed-arctic-oil-spill-equipment-breached-like-a-whale-and-crushed-like-a-beer-can/?mobile=nc>

CHINA, YUNNAN PROVINCE, HUANGHENI, DECEMBER 6 2012. SW CHINA MINE ACCIDENT KILLS 17, INJURES 6

fu yu



Seventeen people have been confirmed dead and six others injured in a coal mine accident that occurred in southwest China’s Yunnan province, authorities said early Thursday. A total of 66 miners were working underground when a gas blast occurred around 2:15 p.m. Wednesday in the Shangchang Coal Mine in Huangheni township of Fuyuan county, according to sources with the county government. Sixteen miners were killed on the spot and one died on the way to the hospital, according to the sources. Six of the 49 miners who survived the accident were injured and sent to a local hospital. One of them is in serious condition, the sources said, adding that the injuries are not life-threatening. A preliminary investigation showed that the mine was fully licensed and that the accident was caused by unauthorized operations conducted in a gas-stress accumulated region. With no proper gas buildup prevention measures, unauthorized operations, including blasting, caused the accident, according to

investigation results released by local authorities. Miner Yan Hanyong recalled that he and his co-workers were working on a platform when he received a phone call demanding that they return to the surface due to a dense buildup of gas in the mine. He was informed of the accident, which occurred on a different platform, after returning to the surface, Yan said. The owner and the manager of the mine have been taken into police custody for questioning, sources said. Located some 115 km away from the government seat of Fuyuan county, the coal mine went into operation in August 2007 with an annual capacity of 90,000 tonnes and exploitable reserves of 11.93 million tonnes. The government of the city of Qujing, which administers Fuyuan county, has ordered a thorough safety check of all coal mines in the city and overhauls of those found to have safety hazards. A further investigation into the cause of the accident is under way.

<http://english.cri.cn/6909/2012/12/06/2941s736853.htm>

HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE, QITAIHE CITY, DECEMBER 6 2012. 11 STILL MISSING 3 DAYS AFTER NE CHINA FLOODED COLLIERY

Eleven miners were still missing more than three days after a coal mine flooded in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, rescuers said Wednesday. As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, the undermine water level had declined by about 18 meters, said Li Shuguang, a rescue headquarters spokesman. Over 28,000 cubic meters of water has been pumped out as rescuers try to increase the drainage capacity, said Li. Rescuers have drilled a 40-meter-long hole planning to send oxygen and food to the miners. “Although more than 90 hours have passed, we still hold hope for life,” Li said. A total of 22 miners were working underground when the accident happened at 11:40 p.m. Saturday at the Furuixiang Coal Mine in Qitaihe City. Six miners



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escaped, with another two escorted out of the mine at noon Sunday before being taken to hospital. Three miners have been confirmed dead.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90882/8048320.html>

USA, OK, TULSA, DECEMBER 6 2012. DRIVER ARRESTED AFTER COLLISION WITH GASOLINE TANKER TRUCK >> TRUCKER ABLE TO AVOID GASOLINE SPILL

don bishop

A woman suspected of drunk driving is behind bars after clipping a gasoline tanker truck. We're told the truck driver was changing lanes about 1:45 a.m. Wednesday when the other driver suddenly speeded up. But the trucker chose not to swerve to keep his truck from overturning. That's when the woman tried to squeeze her car between the truck and a concrete wall, but she didn't make it. Gary Kruse with the News On 6 tells us her car spun around a couple of times and she kept driving. But someone saw it all. "Witnesses gave a description of the vehicle that left the scene and Owasso PD stopped it at the QuikTrip at 76th Street North and 169," Kruse said. An Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper arrested the woman. Kruse tells us there was only minor damage to the trailer and no one was injured.

<http://www.krmg.com/news/news/local/driver-arrested-after-collision-gasoline-tanker-tr/nTNFk/>

USA, ARK, NORTH LITTLE ROCK, DECEMBER 4 2012. TANKER TRUCK FIRE SHUTS DOWN I-440 TRAFFIC



Traffic is moving at the I440 interchange again but that wasn't the case Saturday afternoon around one. A tanker truck caught fire near 11400 Diamond Drive in North Little Rock. Police shut down the nearby I440 interchange for safety. The driver managed to make it out alive. The driver was pulling a Clean Energy natural gas tanker. No word on what cause the fire to break out. Firefighters believe that the fire may have started in the engine. The tanker carrying liquid nitrogen is flammable but didn't get caught in the fire that happened in the cabin.

<http://www.katv.com/story/20236186/tanker-truck-fire-shuts-down-i-440-traffic>

INDIA, KARNATAKA STATE, MANGALORE, DECEMBER 4 2012. SECRET OF FLEET OWNER'S RICHES LIES BELOW THE TANKERS

deepthi shridhar



Inspector V Prasanna points out how everything looks legal on the outside.

The former truck cleaner owned a fleet of seven tankers supplying petrol and diesel, which he had modified to siphon fuel. The CCB sleuths of the Mangalore police commissionerate on Saturday unearthed a diesel and petrol theft scam that was operational for almost four years. Police commissioner Manish Kharbikar told reporters that the scam involved some tankers under contract with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). The procedure is that after filling the tanker with fuel, IOCL personnel would lock the lid and the valve (to unload the liquid). The keys are available only with IOCL authorities and the pump owner to prevent pilferage. However, the accused had built a secret tank inside the tanker. When the fuel is unloaded at the bunk, at least 200 litres would remain in the secret compartment. This was taken out later by the owner of the fleet. CCB inspector Venkatesh Prasanna said, "A six-wheel tanker has three parts with a storage capacity of 12,000 litres while a 10-wheel tanker has four compartments with a capacity of 20,000 litres. The accused would steal about 100 litres from each tank. With his fleet of seven tankers, he would steal at least 700 litres every day. Most of his tankers catered to KSRTC depots. Nobody ever suspected the accused considering



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that a certain amount of fuel is lost to evaporation." Six persons have been arrested. The owner of the fleet is U B Ashok, a 33-year-old resident of Mani, near Bantwal. He began his career as a cleaner of a tanker. His tankers were operating in Mangalore, Karwar, Shimoga, Hassan, Udupi and Madikeri. Of his seven tankers, police have seized five. Sources said that on knowing that the tankers are being seized, the driver of one abandoned the lorry at Madikeri. Ashok's annual income is about 1.70 crore. He was using some of the stolen fuel for his fleet and selling the rest to acquaintances. He was charging Rs 30 for diesel and Rs 50 for petrol. Sources claimed that the moment Ashok learnt about the CCB seizing his tankers on Saturday, he offered a bribe of 3 lakh. By evening, he allegedly raised the amount to 10 lakh. The other accused are Sukumar (28) from Madikeri, Chidananda (21) from Puttur, Kushalappa (25) from Puttur, Udaya Kumar (35) from Shimoga and C K Smikil (20) from Belthangady. Two accused are absconding.

<http://www.bangaloremirror.com/article/73/20121202201212022004297878c1f5c15/Secret-of-fleet-owner%E2%80%99s-riches-lies-below-the-tankers.html>

MALAYSIA, JOHOR, MERSING, DECEMBER 4 2012. FAMILY KILLED IN CRASH WITH TANKER

sim bak heng



Five in a family, including two children, were killed while another child was seriously injured when their multi-purpose vehicle collided with a tanker at Km13 of Jalan Mersing-Endau here yesterday morning. They deceased, all from Felda Air Tawar 5 in Kota Tinggi, were accompanying a relative travelling in another car to Universiti Teknologi Mara in Jengka, Pahang, when the accident occurred at 7.30am. The dead were identified as driver Abdullah Yusof, 43, his wife Samsiah Maidin, 37, their children Muhammad Aiman Syakirin Abdullah, 8, and Maisarah Abdullah, 4, and Samsiah's elder sister Noraini, 41. Maisarah died at Mersing Hospital while the other four died at the scene. The injured, Amar Haziq

Abdullah, 3, is being treated at Mersing Hospital. Mersing police chief Deputy Superintendent Mohd Nor Rasid said it is believed Abdullah lost control of the vehicle and veered into the opposite lane before crashing into the tanker. He said the relatives travelling in another car ahead of them were Samsiah's parents, Maidin Mohamad, 66, and Minah Ismail, 60, and their son Muhammad Hakimi Maidin, 18, who was to register at UiTM the same day. "Initial investigations indicated that the slippery road surface could have caused the accident." The tanker driver, Azhar Mohd Othman, 29, was not hurt and police have taken a statement from him. He was sending a consignment of crude palm oil. Maidin, when met at the mortuary, said he was informed about the incident by a relative before he made a U-turn to the crash site and the hospital. "It is hard to accept that five people from two generations died in the crash. We were travelling in a convoy to UiTM in Kuantan. I am sad as I could not do anything to save them."

<http://motoring.asiaone.com/Motoring/News/Story/A1Story20121202-387164.html>

USA, VA, BRISTOL, DECEMBER 4 2012. TRACTOR TRAILER HITS GAS PUMP CAUSING FIRE AT LOCAL GAS STATION

laura halm

A tractor trailer hits a gas pump and sparks flames at a local gas station. Firefighters say around 11:30 Friday night, a tractor trailer ran over a fuel pump at the Valero gas station at Exit 7. Flames consumed the truck and the gas pump. Firefighters say it only took 15 minutes to put out the fire, but they were dealing with hazardous materials. "They were detailed to actually secure the drainage systems around the building, especially with the creek just to contain that run off. From that point, once that was contained we determined there was very little fuel spillage, it was mostly consumed in the fire," said Lieutenant Richard Thompson with the Bristol Virginia Fire Department. No one was hurt in the fire, but the tractor trailer and its contents are a total loss.

<http://www.wcyb.com/news/Tractor-trailer-hits-gas-pump-causing-fire-at-local-gas-station/-/14590844/17621248/-/i3fu9p/-/index.html>



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