



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 917 Newsy Stuff

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

January 03 2013



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USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, DECEMBER 21 2012. EXXONMOBIL REFINERY SAFETY CONCERNS WORRY RESIDENTS IN NEARBY STANDARD HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

diana samuels



Standard Heights residents, Bucket Brigade, sing Exxon-themed Christmas carol

Tyrone Chambers II leads residents of Baton Rouge's Standard Heights neighborhood and representatives of the Louisiana Bucket Brigade in song. They sang a rewritten, ExxonMobil-themed version of "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire," with lyrics that began "Benzene burning on the open flare / Sulfides stinking in your nose" and ended "Flare-y Christmas to you." Tonga Nolan, who lives in Baton Rouge's Standard Heights neighborhood, says she can't barbecue in her backyard without her eyes burning. She doesn't want to invite people over to her home, because she's embarrassed by the smell in her neighborhood. And when she speaks with neighbors, they're beset by health

concerns like headaches, nausea, sinus infections and kidney problems. Nolan and the other residents of Standard Heights live just south of the ExxonMobil refinery in Baton Rouge. And what they want, she said, is answers about the refinery and how its operations affect the health and safety of local residents. They began to get some of those answers Thursday with the public release of a report from the Environmental Protection Agency, which inspected the facility and found problems like corrosion of underground piping, and a failure to ensure that a minimum number of operators are on site in case of emergency. In June, a major leak at the facility released more than 31,000 pounds of benzene - which can cause breathing problems and unconsciousness in the short term, and bone marrow problems in the long term - into the atmosphere. The Standard Heights Community Association, where Nolan serves as secretary, and the Louisiana Bucket Brigade environmental group held a press conference Thursday to discuss the report's findings. But large swaths of the report are redacted, due to claims those sections would divulge Exxon's confidential business information. "It begs the question," Bucket Brigade Program Manager Anna Hrybyk said at the press conference, "what is it that they don't want the public to see?" An Exxon representative told NOLA.com that "safety is a core value for our company," and said the Bureau of Labor Statistics has given the Baton Rouge facility high marks for safety. The representative said the company "will be discussing the initial areas of concern with EPA in January to fully understand each allegation and share additional information." Hrybyk, of the Bucket Brigade, said the next step for Standard Heights residents is to determine projects that could benefit the neighborhood. If ExxonMobil is assessed penalties by the government, some of that money could possibly go to the community, she said. One resident suggested an air quality monitoring system. The residents and Bucket Brigade also signed a holiday card - heavily redacted, just like the EPA report - that they plan to deliver to the plant manager for the Baton Rouge facility. It says they hope his New Year's resolutions include improving the mechanical integrity of the facility and replacing corroded equipment. Shirley Bowman, a Standard Heights resident and president of the community association, said she's scared of the chemicals being used at the plant and the unknown health effects that could surface years from now. "Five to 10 years from now, what kind of effects will our kids have?" she asked. "It's very frightening."

http://www.nola.com/news/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2012/12/exxonmobil_refinery_safety_con.html

AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, DECEMBER 21 2012. INVESTIGATION INTO FATALITIES ON STENA CLYDE DRILLING RIG, BASS STRAIT, 27 AUGUST 2012

The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is continuing its independent investigation into a major accident involving two fatalities on the Stena Clyde mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) facility in the Bass Strait on Monday 27 August 2012. Pending the conclusion of its investigation, NOPSEMA would like to draw the attention of those working in the Australian offshore oil and gas industry to the following considerations in support of providing a safe place of work.

Preliminary Considerations

1. An appropriate risk assessment system should be implemented for all stages of work. Workers involved should have an opportunity to contribute to this assessment, including consideration of factors such as: stored energy; equipment design limits; and, impact of external conditions.
2. Communication is a key part of any work offshore. Supervisors should verify that all workers involved in any task understand their role and any associated risks.



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3. All equipment utilised in planned work should be fit for purpose and in good working order. If the equipment is not working correctly, a reassessment of the risks associated with the work or task should be conducted.

Chronology of Events

24 August 2012 – drilling operations were underway on the Stena Clyde MODU when the drill pipe string became 'stuck in the hole'.

27 August 2012 – instructions were given to rig up for a wire line operation to sever the stuck pipe in the well. The drill crew was preparing for the downhole cutting and removal of the stuck pipe when the accident occurred. While attempting to unscrew the top drive from the drill pipe string, to facilitate the wire line operation, two workers were struck by a manual tong that rotated at speed. Shortly afterwards, the two workers died. After the operator, Stena Drilling (Australia) Pty Ltd, notified NOPSEMA of the accident, the authority initiated an investigation and commenced mobilisation of its investigation team.

Contributing Factors

NOPSEMA will further examine the following contributing factors, as part of its investigation into the fatalities on the Stena Clyde:

Command and control: Operator and Titleholder decision-making and organisational authority in the context of well bore, met-ocean and surface rig equipment factors, work planning and communication of plans to the workforce.

Equipment rigging arrangement: The rigging arrangement of the break out tong at the time of the accident was a change from the usual arrangement, apparently arising from the circumstances of the stuck pipe, inclement weather and the consequential heaving motion of the rig.

Management of change: The investigation will address whether the changes to proposed operations were properly considered and communicated to the workers involved. Risk assessment: As noted above in relation to the equipment rigging arrangement, change associated with the chosen arrangement including snatch blocks and the tugger winch under the prevailing met-ocean conditions may have warranted additional risk assessment. The investigation will address the implementation of risk assessment processes as part of its investigation.

Equipment Failure: The rig was fitted with a top drive and integral pipe torque connector. The torque connector could not provide the necessary torque to disconnect the pipe, which led to the decision to use the manual break out tong. The investigation will focus on understanding these circumstances, integrity of the equipment and any other course of action that might have been taken.

Background Information

At the time of the fatalities, the Stena Clyde MODU was located in Commonwealth waters of the Bass Strait, approximately 100 kilometres south of Port Campbell in Victoria. The Stena Clyde was contracted by Origin Energy Resources Ltd (the Titleholder) to undertake drilling activities for the Geopraphe Development campaign (as part of the overall Otway Basin drilling campaign) in exploration permit VIC/L23. Stena Drilling (Australia) Pty Ltd was the Operator and drilling contractor for the Stena Clyde. NOPSEMA is Australia's national regulator for safety, well integrity and environmental management of offshore petroleum activities in Commonwealth waters. The authority performs its functions under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006 and Regulations.

<http://nopsema.gov.au/assets/media/Media-Announcement-17-October-2012-Fatalities-on-Stena-Clyde-facility-on-27-Aug-2012.pdf>

USA, UT, SALT LAKE CITY, DECEMBER 21 2012. EPA: DAVIS COUNTY REFINERY TO PAY POLLUTION FINE

paul foy

[Holly Refining and Marketing Co.](http://www.hollyrefining.com) said Thursday it has agreed to pay a \$115,000 fine for U.S. [Clean Air](http://www.epa.gov/cleanair) Act violations at the company's Davis County refinery. The Environmental Protection Agency said an inspection last year detected emissions from a dome-covered storage pit for propane. Holly maintains the pit, about 100 feet wide and 100 feet deep, is designed to vent small amounts of propane that mostly get recycled back into storage. The company disputed the violations but said it wasn't worth fighting the EPA. "It was less a fine and more a negotiated settlement," said [Michael Astin](http://www.hollyrefining.com), Holly's environmental manager. "The bottom line is, as much as we disagreed, our only option was to go to court. Our position is, we were following regulations." EPA inspectors used an ultra-violet camera to detect propane emissions from vents that Astin said were designed to circulate emissions. The pit circulates its own propane to freeze the ground around it, Astin said. The pit is topped



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by a rubberized polymer cover. Holly says it plans to decommission the more than 50-year-old storage pit and backfill the hole. Woods Cross is about 7 miles north of Salt Lake City.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/EPA-Davis-County-refinery-to-pay-pollution-fine-4135425.php>

USA, WASHINGTON DC, DECEMBER 22 2012. NEWS RELEASE: EPA & NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION SUPPORT RESEARCH FOR SAFER CHEMICAL DESIGN

latisha petteway

Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in collaboration with the National Science Foundation (NSF), announced two funding opportunities for up to ten grants totaling up to \$32 million for research on the design of safer chemicals. These two Requests for Applications (RFAs), which focus on sustainable chemical design and assessment of the life cycle impacts of chemicals from production to disposal, will support research to create chemicals that are safer for people and the environment. "Changes in our economy, society, technology and the environment itself are presenting the EPA with new challenges and opportunities," said Lek Kadeli, principal deputy assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Research and Development. "This joint effort with the National Science Foundation is an important step forward in realizing that vision and creating a more sustainable future." The research resulting from these two solicitations, "Networks for Sustainable Molecular Design and Synthesis" and "Networks for Characterizing Chemical Life Cycle" will enhance cooperation among the chemical sciences, materials research, geosciences, engineering, and biomedical and public health communities. The two RFAs are now open for submissions. The sustainable chemical design solicitation requests applications from trans-disciplinary research teams who want to replace toxic and expensive chemicals with greener, safer alternatives. These safer chemical design processes could, for example, consume less water, generate less waste, or use less energy than current practices. The chemical life cycle solicitation seeks research to further the understanding of chemicals (including nanomaterials, materials produced at the nano-scale) throughout the life cycle at the systems and molecular levels. As chemicals are manufactured and used, they may be altered through their interactions with people and the environment, potentially resulting in unforeseen health and environmental impacts. This research has the potential to provide tools to characterize and predict these health and environmental effects.

<http://epa.gov/ncer/rfa/>

NIGERIA, IJE ODODO, DECEMBER 22 2012. BURNING PIPELINE FIRE SIGN OF NIGERIA'S WOES

lekan oyekanmi



Fire fighters try to contain flames from a burning oil pipeline in Ijeododo outskirts of Lagos, Nigeria Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012. The oil pipeline belonging to Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation exploded near Nigeria's largest city as thieves tried to siphon oil from it Monday.

The gasoline pipeline burns unstopped near a village close to Nigeria's sprawling megacity of Lagos, shooting flames into the air as leaking fuel muddies the ground. All around it, the ground is littered with plastic jerry-cans, used by those who hacked into the line to steal the fuel within. The pipeline explosion here in Ije Ododo shows the ongoing problems oil-rich Nigeria faces. While the nation's politicians and businessmen have long profited from the country's production of roughly 2 million barrels of oil a day, many Nigerians remain desperately poor and take dangerous risks to try and earn a living.

Meanwhile, nothing ever seems to change, locals say. "That sort of thing always happens every year," resident Samuel Otor said with a shrug. This pipeline explosion happened Monday in Ije Ododo, in a swampy mangrove forest in the western fringe of the sprawling city of Lagos. Officials say the explosion happened when locals tapped into the pipeline to steal the refined gasoline moving through it. A spark from the scavengers likely set the line ablaze. It's unclear how many people were injured by the initial blast. On Thursday, the flames still burned as fire-fighters sprayed water around the site, trying to stop the fire from spreading. The ground turned to a foul-smelling mud, with puddles of fuel and dirt looking red. The line belonged to the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. It is the second-such pipeline rupture in the recent months around Lagos. In September, the company said suspected thieves shot dead three of its workers in southeast Ogun state after rupturing a gasoline pipeline to steal fuel. Another pipeline rupture in Nigeria's southeastern Abia state killed about 20 people. Pipeline



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ruptures remain common in Nigeria, where militants and criminals routinely tap into lines to steal crude oil and refined gasoline. Fires can easily and accidentally be sparked by those attempting to gather the fuel. While the government criticizes theft from the lines, it often remains the only quick way to make money in a nation where most earn the equivalent of a \$1 day. The International Energy Agency recently estimated that widespread thefts of crude oil in Nigeria cost the country \$7 billion a year. Despite efforts to crack down on oil and gasoline thieves, locally called bunkerers, the practice continues unstopped, just like the flames in this small village.

Related Links

- [Burning pipeline fire sign of Nigeria's woes](#)
Thieves who wanted to steal gasoline from a pipeline running near Nigeria's megacity of Lagos have sparked a massive fire.
- [Emergency Officials Reach Source Of Ije-Ododo Pipeline Explosion](#)
Emergency workers have reached the source of a pipeline explosion that occurred at Ije-Ododo in Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos State, 24 hours after the incident was reported.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20121221/af-nigeria-pipeline-explosion/?utm_hp_ref=media&ir=media

AUSTRALIA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, KATHERINE, DECEMBER 22 2012. NO ACTION NEEDED ON DERAILMENT POLLUTION: EPA

phoebe stewart



The Northern Territory environment watchdog says no legal action will be taken over last year's train derailment at Edith River near Katherine. More than 1,200 tonnes of copper concentrate and hundreds of tonnes of freight spilled into the river when a freight train was washed off the rails during flash flooding about 300 kilometres south of Darwin. The rail line was closed for two months while repairs were carried out. The NT Environment Centre is outraged that no one will be prosecuted for what it calls one of the largest pollution events in Territory history. The Territory's Environment Protection Authority says tests have shown that no actual environmental harm was caused. It says a small amount of copper concentrate remains in heavily vegetated areas, in some places up to 5mm thick.

But it says the risk to humans and the environment is low. About 50 tonnes of freight is also still missing. Territory Environment Minister Peter Chandler says while he has not read the EPA report, he supports its findings, and is pleased the companies involved will continue to check the area. "It's their mess, they need to clean it up," he said. "I would like to think that they are not going to walk away from this, and there is some ongoing monitoring," he said. "So far, so good, again." The area will be assessed again in the dry season. The company to which the spilled copper concentrate belonged, Oz Minerals, says it does not comment on regulator reports.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/latest/au/-/article/15692290/no-action-needed-on-derailment-pollution-epa/>

USA, OK, LOGAN CO, DECEMBER 22 2012. WORKER DIES AFTER ACCIDENT AT [AUSTRALIAN] SUNDANCE-OPERATED WELL SITE

quintella koh

Sundance Energy Australia disclosed Wednesday an accident which took place at the site of the Leo Rother 16-4-11-1HW horizontal Woodford test well, in Logan County, Oklahoma Dec.9 has resulted in the death of a worker. In its statement posted on the Australian Securities Exchange, Sundance said that operations at the well site have been suspended while the company, its advisors and insurers, and appropriate regulatory authorities in the United States complete a full investigation. "The company extends its deepest sympathies to the family of the deceased and all of those affected by this tragic incident," Sundance said. Company representatives were not available for comment or additional information at press time. Sundance, an independent energy company, is focused on developing projects involving unconventional oil and gas formations in the United States.

https://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/122911/Worker_Dies_After_Accident_at_SundanceOperated_Well_Site



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USA, WI, TURTLE LAKE, DECEMBER 22 2012. CHEMICAL MIXTURE CREATES TOXIC CLOUD AT TURTLE LAKE PLANT

Watch the Video

- [Chemical Mixture Creates Toxic Cloud](#)
- [Hazardous Spill at Sanmina Plant in Turtle Lake](#)

Barron County Sheriff's Department News Release

On 12-20-12 at 10:51am the Barron County Sheriff's Dept received a report of a possible chemical spill at the Sanmina Plant in the Village of Turtle Lake. Members of the Turtle Lake Police Dept, Barron County Sheriff's Dept, Turtle Fire and First Responders, 3 Cumberland, 2 Mayo, a Lakeview Medical Center, a Chetek, an Amery and Clear Lake Ambulance, Rice Lake Fire Dept, St Croix Falls and Eau Claire Haz Mat Team and Almota Fire Dept all responded to the scene. Members of the Wisconsin State Patrol, Polk Co Sheriff's Dept and Cumberland Police Dept also assisted with this incident. Initial investigations shows that 3 different chemicals were inadvertently mixed together causing a cloud of Hydrochloric Acid. The plant was evacuated and initially 5 employees were transported to area hospital with respiratory issues. The area around the plant was evacuated, including a senior living facility and a business and the Turtle Lake Elementary school gym was used as a safe zone. All transported there were the 60 employees from Sanmina and 4 of them had respiratory symptoms and were transported to area hospitals. The surrounding area was clear and people were allowed back in shortly after 2pm and the plant spill was contained and cleaned up and all units were clear at about 3pm. Turtle Lake Police Chief would like to thank all the responding agencies for their help with this incident. He would also like to especially thank all the citizens of Turtle Lake for their help in the evacuation, including the St Croix Casino, the Turtle Lake School District and Turtle Lake Cenex. Without all these peoples help this incident would not have ran so smoothly. Also 7 area firemen were transported to local hospitals to be checked out for contamination but were released. Due to recent events in the country we want to advise everyone that at no time were any children put in danger or were in any danger during this event. This incidents remains under investigation by the Turtle Lake Police Dept and Turtle Lake Fire Dept - Per Chris Fitzgerald, Barron County Sheriff Al Gabe, Turtle Lake Police Chief

Turtle Lake, Wis. (WEAU) - Three chemicals were inadvertently mixed at an LED lighting manufacturer, causing a toxic cloud. It happened Thursday morning at Sanmina in Turtle Lake. Barron County Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald says the mixture created a cloud of hydrochloric acid. Sixty people were evacuated from the building, nine of whom had minor respiratory issues. Two other buildings were also evacuated. The Barron County Sheriff's Department left the scene at 3 p.m. Thursday. WEAU 13 News sent a message to a Sanmina spokesman, seeking comment on the incident, but has not heard back.

Turtle Lake, Wis. (WEAU)- 60 people were evacuated after a chemical spill at a business in Turtle Lake. The Barron County Sheriff's Department says it happened shortly after 11 a.m. on Thursday at Sanmina in Turtle Lake. 60 people were evacuated from the building. 9 of those had minor respiratory issues. Two other buildings were also evacuated, including an elderly senior building and another business. People evacuated were taken to the Turtle Lake school gym. The sheriff's department says it's trying to determine what the spill is. There are a couple of hazmat teams on scene right now.

<http://www.weau.com/news/headlines/60-people-evacuated-from-Turtle-Lake-business-184301741.html>

NEW ZEALAND, BAY OF PLENTY, DECEMBER 22 2012. FOUR HOSPITALISED AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL

The fire service are investigating a chemical spill. One person has been overcome by fumes. Four people have been taken to hospital after inhaling unknown fumes at a recycling plant on Truman Lane. St John Tauranga operations team manager Ross Clarke said the Transpacific AllBrite Industries staff members were taken to hospital as a precautions. "They were conscious and displaying minor symptoms such as dizziness and sore eyes." A fire service spokesperson said it appeared a staff member had opened a bottle he thought was water. The minute he opened the bottle fumes have come out and the liquid was spread through a lot of rubbish, he said. Fire fighters have yet to find the bottle or determine what the chemical was.

Earlier:

One person is being treated by emergency service staff after being overcome by fumes released in a chemical spill. Fire and ambulance staff were called to Transpacific AllBrite Industries on Truman Lane, Te Maunga at 3.20pm. Fire northern communications shift manager Nicole Bernard said five appliances were in attendance. "We're responding to a chemical spill. One patient has been overcome with fumes. We're administering first aid and investigation what sort of chemical it is."

<http://www.bayofplentytimes.co.nz/news/person-overcome-fumes/1694466/>



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IRELAND, CO CLARE, SHANNON, DECEMBER 22 2012. SEVEN HURT IN CHEMICAL ACCIDENT AT FACTORY

pat flynn

Seven people have been treated in hospital for breathing difficulties after a chemical spill. The spill also led to a large part of an industrial estate being evacuated last night. The incident, reported shortly before 5pm at Chemifloc Ltd, a chemical manufacturing plant at Smithstown, Shannon, is now being investigated. Company staff quickly evacuated the plant while the emergency services were alerted. It's understood a significant amount of chlorine was spilled in one section of the plant, sending a vapour cloud into the air which also filling the building. Gardai set up roadblocks at the entrance to the plant and industrial estate allowing only emergency vehicles in. Several premises around the plant were evacuated. A number of fire brigade units were called in to deal with the spill. Five men and two women were treated in hospital but none was said to have been seriously hurt.

<http://www.herald.ie/news/seven-hurt-in-chemical-accident-at-factory-3333498.html>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, PREYSAL, DECEMBER 22 2012. COUPLE IN LUCKY ESCAPE AFTER TANKER FALLS ON CAR

susan mohammed



Flattened: The crushed car which this tank at the back of a truck collapsed on top of during an accident along the Solomon Hochoy Highway yesterday. Two occupants in the car managed to escape unhurt.

A Couva couple escaped death yesterday after a tanker fell on top of their car along the Solomon Hochoy Highway. Jeewan Canaan, 56, and his wife, Kamla, of Balmain, walked away from the crash with minor injuries after being trapped inside their car for almost two hours, pinned underneath the tanker. The crash occurred in the vicinity of Preysal around 8.30 a.m., when the Canaans were headed north along the highway. Police said the driver of the tanker, who was not identified by police, was moving from the right lane to the left, when the Nissan Almera car swerved in front the tanker. The tanker struck the back of the

car and both vehicles lost control and veered off the highway. The couple was rescued around 10 a.m. by fire officers, who used the Jaws of Life (hydraulic rescue tool) to cut the vehicle. The Canaans were taken for treatment at the Couva Health Centre. Jeewan Canaan sustained a dislocated shoulder, while his wife and the driver of the tanker sustained minor injuries.

http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Couple_in_lucky_escape_after_tanker_falls_on_car-184360881.html

USA, KY, CORBIN, DECEMBER 22 2012. EXPLOSION SENDS MAN TO HOSPITAL

becky killian

An explosion Thursday morning at a scrap metal business in Knox County sent a man to the hospital.



A man using a cutting torch to fashion a burning barrel was thrown an estimated 15 feet after acetone fumes ignited Thursday at a scrap metal business. The accident happened about 11:30 a.m. at Gray Metal Company, located at 6150 KY 1232, as part-owner Mike Cima, 58, worked with the barrel. Giulio Cima, 59, who is also a part-owner of the business, said the cutting torch never cut through the barrel it just turned the metal "cherry red" and that's when the explosion occurred. Another company employee said the blast could be heard up to 500 yards away. Giulio Cima said he heard the explosion and ran to his brother, who was unconscious and had shallow breathing. "It was a scary time there for a couple hours," Giulio Cima said. Rescuers were called and, by the time the ambulance arrived, Mike Cima had regained consciousness. He was taken to Baptist Regional Medical Center for treatment.

The business was closed as family members left for the hospital. Mike Cima suffered a cut on his chin and one hand had cuts and was swollen, but he suffered no broken bones or serious injuries in the accident. After three hours, Mike Cima was released from the hospital.

<http://thetimestribune.com/x503802503/Explosion-sends-man-to-hospital>



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AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, LONGFORD, DECEMBER 22 2012. EPA TO PROBE ESSO LONGFORD OIL SPILL

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will investigate whether Esso has broken environmental laws. After a crude oil spill last month at Esso's Longford plant, in south-east Victoria, a nearby resident complained to Esso that a strong smell coming from the plant was making him sick. Esso offered to pay for the man to stay in a hotel to escape the smell and also sent a company doctor to speak to him. However, Esso did not tell the EPA about the spill until two weeks after Longford resident Ray Shingles first complained about the smell. Esso confirmed residents and staff have been exposed to the cancer-causing benzene. A company spokesman could not say what the exact levels of exposure were but said they were low. The EPA is now investigating Esso for breaching its licence. Esso could be found guilty of breaching two of its licensing requirements - discharging offensive odours beyond its premises and failure to notify the EPA immediately about the incident. Tracey Anton from the Community Over Mining group says the Victorian Government must strengthen environment laws. "There's been quite a few stories for years of how ineffectual EPA are and clearly on ... Esso's compliance report there's been breaches but why haven't they enforced them, well why haven't they?" she said.

<http://au.news.yahoo.com/latest/a/-/article/15689924/esso-to-probe-esso-longford-oil-spill/>

USA, OH, TOLEDO, DECEMBER 22 2012. HAZMAT CREWS DISPATCHED FOR CHEMICAL RELEASED INTO AIR

elizabeth reed

Toledo fire and hazmat crews are at the scene of a hazardous material situation on American Road. According to fire dispatch, 10,000 pounds of material that is used to make resin, a chemical binding agent, was released into the air from a tank outside Arclin USA before 12 p.m. No one was hurt during the incident and the building has been evacuated. Our reporter at the scene says a TARTA bus is being used to keep employees away from the spill. Authorities are currently researching with the company how to safely clean up the spill. Dispatch says high winds in the area are helping to clear out the chemical, but they are advising people in the area to stay inside.

<http://www.northwestohio.com/news/story.aspx?id=840004#.UNYIJm9OS0c>

INDIA, AHMEDABAD, DECEMBER 2012. TWO DIE AFTER FIRE IN RIL'S JAMNAGAR REFINERY

Two persons have died following a fire incident at the [Reliance Industries](#) Ltd's refinery in the Jamnagar district of Gujarat, the police said. The incident took place in the crude distillation unit (CDU) of the refinery, they said, adding maintenance work was going on in the unit, and it was shut for the purpose. According to the police, when the fire broke out, one of the two persons doing maintenance work in the CDU fell from a height and died on the spot, while the other sustained burn injuries, and was admitted to hospital. He succumbed to injuries late Thursday night, police added. The persons were employed by a contractor, the police said. The reason for the fire is not yet known. An RIL spokesperson said, "A small fire took place at the CDU of the refinery on Thursday, which was immediately contained. There was no production loss as the unit was under shutdown for maintenance." He added, "There was no damage to the machinery." The police have registered a case of accident and are investigating the incident.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/two-die-after-fire-in-rils-jamnagar-refinery/496397/>

USA, VA, PORTSMOUTH, DECEMBER 22 2012. PORTSMOUTH IS LEFT HOLDING BILL FOR POLLUTION CLEANUP

cherise m. newsome



The city of Portsmouth has contracted to clean the debris from this lot at 5823 Woodside Lane, shown here on Friday, Dec. 21, 2012.

Picking up the Tab

Portsmouth will use money earmarked for stormwater management to pay the \$96,544 bill to clean up a hazardous-waste site in Southampton owned by A&I Family Designs and Du'Shane Purchas. The city will examine its legal options to recoup the money. The postmark on a \$96,544 hazardous-waste cleanup bill might as well read, "Return to sender." The city is now on the hook for the bill after nearly a year's worth of failed attempts to make the owners pay to remove asbestos and petroleum-filled debris from a residential construction lot in the Southampton neighborhood. For months, neighbors have complained about a

gasoline aroma that wafts through their Churchland community. Now some are frustrated that city money will be spent to rid



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their neighborhood of the smell and debris, and irritated about the amount of time it has taken to resolve the issue. "Portsmouth doesn't need to be spending \$100,000 on a lot that should have been generating tax revenue rather than costing the city money," Southampton resident Tim Blaum said. The property is near Hoffler Creek, and according to an environmental specialist, the hazards on it pose a safety risk. "That material will basically leach into the soil and lead to a level that's deemed unsafe for state waters," said John Settle, a pollution-response coordinator with the Department of Environmental Quality who inspected the site. The ordeal culminated this month when the city filed for an injunction against the property's owners, A&I Family Designs and Du'Shane Purchas, who also held a construction permit for the property. The city asked the court for permission to force the owners to clean up the wooded lot where they planned to build a house, according to court records. Typically in cases involving ongoing codes violations, the city also asks the court for permission to do the work and bill the owners if they fail to comply. The city made a similar request this time. But legal action stalled after city leaders learned that Purchas is serving jail time for a drug conviction. This week, the city moved forward with plans to have a contractor clear the site, city spokeswoman Dana Woodson said. The city will use money earmarked for stormwater management to pay the bill, she said, and later examine its legal options to recoup the money. Court records show that, since December 2011, owners have dumped large concrete slabs, bricks, soil and refuse from a demolished gas station on the site. The property also has racked up several code violations since then for weeds and debris. Settle said the lot also contains improper fill material that isn't stable enough for the construction of a house. Asbestos and petroleum identified in the debris pose environmental risks, he said. Calls to A&I Family Designs were not returned. According to city real estate records, the company purchased the quarter-acre site in February 2011 for \$20,000. The property is now assessed at \$11,980, city records show. Blaum, who has lived in the community for 20 years, said the lot has been an eyesore to his neighborhood, where many homes are assessed for more than \$200,000. "To have something that looks like a dump right across the street from our house was very disappointing," he said. He and other neighbors earlier this year called fire officials about the gasoline smell, he said. That's what set off a series of inspections, he said. He wonders why the cleanup didn't happen sooner. "We kept getting empty promises that they were going to clean it up within a week, but then a month would go by and nothing would happen," he said. Blaum then asked for help from Councilman Bill Moody, who also lives in Southampton. Moody worked with city staffers to expedite the cleanup. He pointed out that inspectors repeatedly visited the site and were required to give the owners time to comply. Taxpayers may not have to foot the entire bill if the city can obtain ownership of the land under forfeiture laws, he said. "We should seek to seize it and sell it and use some of the money to defray the costs of the cleanup," he said.

<http://hamptonroads.com/2012/12/portsmouth-left-holding-bill-pollution-cleanup>

ENGLAND, CORNWELL, DECEMBER 22 2012. FUEL TANKER CAUSES HAVOC ON A38 AT TIDEFORD



Petrol Tanker incident involving a leak of 1000's of gallons of petrol on the A38 near Tideford which closed the road for nearly 24 hours.

A woman who was involved in a three-car collision after a [fuel](#) tanker had broken down on the A38 has described her ordeal as "absolute chaos". The 33-year-old mother of one was on her way home from work last Thursday when she saw the broken-down tanker at Tideford. As she attempted to overtake the truck her car – and the car in front and behind her – collided, as black smoke billowed from the engine of the stricken tanker and blocked their view of the carriageway. Hours later the tanker broke free from a rescue truck, ran backwards and jack-knifed, spilling 4,000 litres of unleaded petrol onto the road. The woman said: "The tanker had broken down and I could see in the far distance that it had its hazard lights on. "It was black because of the smoke and

we couldn't see anything," she said. She was also critical of the emergency [services](#) for the time it took for help to arrive. "It was a disgrace. A lady who was involved in the accident is seven months' pregnant," she said. "It took the police well over half an hour to attend to us." "No one came over to check we were OK." However, police said units were on scene within 15 minutes. No one was hurt during the incident. A feared environmental disaster, as a result of the fuel spill from the truck, was narrowly avoided after desperate efforts were made to prevent petrol from spilling into the River Tiddy. Paul Gainey, from the Environment Agency, said: "They managed to stop the majority of the fuel going into the River Tiddy." Workers toiled through the night to prevent any major pollution to the river, which runs through the village of Tideford, and connects with the Tamar. "Environmentally, the Tamar is a very important river for salmon," Mr Gainey said. A Devon and Cornwall Police spokesman



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said: "The consequences of this incident could have been far worse, and we are extremely fortunate that no one was injured or killed. "A motorcyclist could have been travelling behind. And if the accident had happened a mile sooner, the tanker could have crashed into houses. "The incident caused major disruption, due to the type of vehicle involved and the fact that it spilled a hazardous substance onto the road." Police said the tanker was fully laden with 47,000 litres of fuel at the time of the crash. A full investigation has been launched by the Health and Safety Executive.

<http://www.thisiscornwall.co.uk/Fuel-tanker-causes-havoc-A38-Tideford/story-17647591-detail/story.html>

USA, ALA, BIRMINGHAM, DECEMBER 22 2012. NB I-65 STILL CLOSED SATURDAY MORNING

Overturned tanker truck on I-65 northbound.



The northbound lanes of Interstate 65 in Birmingham are still closed while crews clean up the mess left when a fuel tanker overturned. State transportation officials said Saturday morning that the highway's southbound lanes have reopened near the 3rd Avenue South on-ramp, but not northbound. About 50 people were evacuated from their vehicles after the initial accident. Firefighters did this in case the gasoline caught fire. The Alabama Department of Transportation as well as the Emergency Management Agency responded to the scene. Birmingham Fire had 2 HAZMAT crews, 2 decontamination crews, 5 engine companies and a foam unit are on the scene. The crews put down absorbent material to try and control the spill. Two fan trucks were brought in to

assist with the cleanup. There were multiple injuries in this accident. Birmingham Fire Marshal C.W. Mardis said the truck driver was taken to UAB hospital. A woman in another vehicle was also injured. Mardis said the truck is owned by Dalton, Ga.-based Spirit Express, LLC.

http://www.cbs42.com/mostpopular/story/NB-I-65-still-closed-Saturday-morning/7qChXNhHzk6U23D_HNOuyg.csp

ENGLAND, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, DECEMBER 23 2012. ONE THOUSAND LITRES OF DIESEL SPILLED ON A40 LAYBY

ian craig

Around 1,000 litres of diesel was spilled in a layby on the A40 near Northleach last night. A fire crew from Northleach were initially called to the scene just after 11pm and on arrival called for assistance from a specialist environmental team from Stroud. Police and officers from [Gloucestershire County Council](http://www.glos.gov.uk)'s highways department also attended the scene and the Environment Agency have been informed. The spill was contained within around three hours.

[http://www.wiltsglosstandard.co.uk/news/cotswolds/10125017.One thousand litres of diesel spilled on A40 layby/](http://www.wiltsglosstandard.co.uk/news/cotswolds/10125017.One+thousand+litres+of+diesel+spilled+on+A40+layby/)

USA, WA, GRANT CO, MOSES LAKE, DECEMBER 23 2012. TRUCK DRIVER CHECKS FUEL TANK WITH LIGHTER, HURTS HIMSELF

A truck driver checked his fuel tank with a lighter and injured himself when the fumes ignited early Friday morning. Robert W. Albert, a 44-year-old Union Gap man, was taken to Samaritan Hospital for treatment, according to the Moses Lake police. Albert reportedly told police his fuel gage didn't work and he used a lighter to see inside the fuel tank on a white 1997 Kenworth semi-truck. The fumes ignited in the tank and injured Albert, according to the police. The truck was parked at Ameri Cold on Road N Northeast in Moses Lake.

http://www.ifiberone.com/news/grantcounty/moseslake/article_0410d74e-4baf-11e2-ada6-0019bb30f31a.html

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, COOLGARDIE, DECEMBER 23 2012. HIGHWAY CLOSED AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL

emily moulton

Part of Great Eastern Highway, between Southern Cross and Coolgardie, remains closed as authorities mop up a chemical spill. A truck travelling along the major route rolled at about 2.26am this morning. FESA, police and Main Roads are in attendance. Two passengers were in the vehicle at the time of the incident however they were not injured. A WA Police spokeswoman said the road would remain closed until later this afternoon.

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/highway-closed-after-chemical-spill/story-e6frf7jo-1226542331267>



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CANADA, QUE, SHERBROOKE, DECEMBER 23 2012. QUEBEC FACTORY FACES LAWSUIT AFTER EXPLOSION >> PLANT HAD 'DANGEROUSLY HIGH' LEVELS OF ACETONE, LAW FIRM CLAIMS



An emergency worker rolls up a hose outside Neptune Technologies and Bio Resources in Sherbrooke, Que., on Nov. 8 where a large explosion at the plant killed three and injured 18.

A New York law firm is claiming that the Sherbrooke, Que., factory where three people were killed in an explosion last month was storing "dangerously high levels of acetone." Robbins Geller LLP has filed a class-action lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York on behalf of shareholders against Neptune Technologies et Bioressources Inc., which is headquartered in Laval, Que. The Nov. 8 blast [killed three people](#) and injured 18 others. A tank of acetone, which is a highly flammable solvent, is believed to

have been the source of the explosion. In November, [Radio-Canada reported](#) that the quantity of acetone being stored inside the factory was higher than what was authorized by the Quebec Environment Ministry. The suit alleges that Neptune, along with some of its officers and directors, violated U.S. law. It also claims that Neptune failed to disclose key information about its Sherbrooke facility, in violation of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. A statement released by Robbins Geller alleges that Neptune "issued materially false and misleading statements regarding the company's operational status and financial projections." The claim goes on to say that officials failed to disclose that they had installed larger acetone storage tanks at the plant, which stored "dangerously high levels of acetone," exceeding those permitted by the environment ministry. The complaint also alleges that the company did not have government permission for the plant's expansion project, which was underway when the explosion occurred. None of the allegations have been proven in court. "There is absolutely no foundation for what this legal class action refers to," said André Godin, Neptune's chief financial officer. Godin said the company is in the process of hiring legal counsel in the U.S. to defend the company and its directors against the claims, which he called "completely false." According to a statement released by the law firm, Neptune stock "plunged" after the explosion to 32 per cent of its closing price the evening before the incident.

Related Links

- [Quebec factory in blast had too much acetone, ministry says](#)
- [Father of 3 dies following Sherbrooke explosion](#)
- [Deadly Sherbrooke blast's cause still unknown](#)

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2012/12/21/montreal-lawsuit-neptune-sherbrooke-factory.html>

USA, TX, FREEPORT, DECEMBER 23 2012. REPORTS OF MINOR EXPLOSION AT DOW PLANT >> OFFICIALS: NO SHELTER IN PLACE

Fire crews rushed to the scene of a reported explosion at a chemical plant in Freeport. It happened around 7:30 p.m. Friday at the Dow plant at the intersection of Highway 332 and FM 523. Freeport City Manager Jeff Pynes said the explosion was small, and no one was injured. Pynes said there's no threat to the community, and no shelter in place has been called. A spokesperson for Dow said Emergency responders were on scene of what they described as an incident at the plant. Officials with Dow later said there was no explosion at all. Instead, they said a safety device was responsible for making the loud noise. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/Reports-of-minor-explosion-at-Dow-plant/-/1735978/17872542/-/5v8w4vz/-/index.html>

AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, BRISBANE, DECEMBER 23 2012. NOTIFICATIONS FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (WHS Regulation), a notification must be submitted to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland regarding the use, handling or storage of hazardous chemicals in the following circumstances:

- Notification of hazardous chemicals above manifest quantities.
- Presence of Schedule 15 chemicals in excess of 10 per cent of the prescribed quantities for a major hazard facility.
- Construction or operation of a hazardous chemicals pipeline that enters a public place.
- Presence of an abandoned underground tank that has been used to store flammable gas or flammable liquid.

Notification of Hazardous Chemicals above Manifest Quantities



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Under section 348 of the WHS Regulation, a person conducting a business or undertaking must submit a notification if hazardous chemicals in excess of manifest quantities prescribed in column 5 of schedule 11 of the WHS Regulation are used, stored or handled at a workplace. Notification can be made using Form 73 – Notification of a manifest quantity workplace. A notification must be submitted immediately after it is known that hazardous chemicals are to be used, handled or stored at the workplace in quantities above a manifest quantity, or at least 14 days before that first use (whichever is earlier). A workplace is also required to submit a notification if it no longer uses, stores or handles hazardous chemicals in manifest quantities, using Form 73. (Note: Workplaces that were previously Large Dangerous Goods Locations under the repealed Dangerous Goods Safety Management (DGSM) Act 2001 must re-notify as a Manifest Quantity Workplace before 1 January 2013). To complete notification Form 73 – Notification of a manifest quantity workplace must also include a copy of their Manifest of hazardous chemicals (i.e. an emergency information pack kept in a red HAZMAT box at the front entrance of a workplace). Manifests must comply with schedule 12. In addition to notifying WHSQ using Form 73 – Notification of a manifest quantity workplace, it is also a requirement under section 361 of the WHS Regulation to send a copy of their emergency plan to Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) before 1 July 2012. Visit [Queensland Fire and Rescue Service](http://www.qfrs.qld.gov.au) for more information on emergency plans and where to position a HAZMAT box. Note: Workplaces holding in excess of 10 per cent of the prescribed quantity of schedule 15 materials are now required to notify as a possible major hazard facility under section 536.

Presence of Schedule 15 Chemicals in Excess of 10 per cent of the Prescribed Quantities for a Major Hazard Facility

Under section 536 of the WHS Regulation, the operator of a facility storing or handling schedule 15 chemicals in quantities that may exceed 10 per cent of the prescribed quantity must submit a notification. The notification can be made using Form 69 – Notification of a facility exceeding 10 per cent of Schedule 15 threshold. Former large dangerous goods locations required to notify under section 536 should do so before 1 July 2012. Under sections 547 and 548, the operator must re-notify on the same form if the quantity of materials present is to be increased or if the operator of the facility has changed. Facilities that were classified as major hazard facilities under the former DGSM Act are deemed to have submitted a valid notification under section 536. Transitional arrangements for classified major hazard facilities have been established on a case by case basis in accordance with sections 701 to 704.

Construction or Operation of a Hazardous Chemicals Pipeline that enters a Public Place

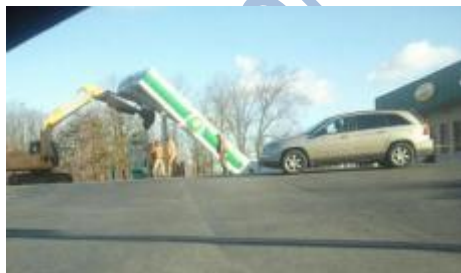
Under section 390 of the WHS Regulation, a pipeline builder must submit a notification when intending to build a pipeline that will cross into a public place and will be used to transfer a schedule 11 hazardous chemical. Under section 391 the operator of an existing hazardous chemicals pipeline passing through a public place must submit a notification providing details of the supplier, receiver and dangerous goods classification of materials transferred through that pipeline.

Presence of an Abandoned Underground Tank that has been used to Store Flammable Gas or Flammable Liquids

Under section 367 of the WHS Regulation, a person conducting a business or undertaking must submit a notification if an underground, partially underground or fully mounded tank intended to store flammable gas or flammable liquid has not been used in the past two years or if the person has decided that the tank will no longer be used in the future.

http://www.safetyculture.com.au/news/index.php/12/qld-notifications-for-hazardous-chemicals/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+safetyculture+%28Safety+Culture+OHS+News%29

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, DECEMBER 23 2012. OVERHANG COLLAPSES AT 76 GAS STATION



An overhang at the 76 gas station at 17th St and Potrero Ave collapsed Saturday afternoon. At around 3 p.m. the wind blew and the rain poured down on the gas station. Gas station attendant Bishwas Lamichhane was inside the station garage when he heard a crash outside. He thought it was just branches falling, but then he heard one large crash.

<http://blog.sfgate.com/inthetension/2012/12/22/overhang-collapses-at-76-gas-station/>



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INDIA, BAMIKHAL, DECEMBER 23 2012. TWO CITY KIDS INJURED AS PETROL BARREL EXPLODES

Two children on Friday sustained burn injuries when a petrol barrel tin exploded near them in the city. The incident happened in the Bamikhal area. Treatment of the kids is underway the Capital Hospital. The injured children, a seven-years-old boy and a one-year-old girl, were playing with their friends near their house when the petrol barrel tin suddenly exploded as the kids set the barrel on fire. During the explosion, the kids came in contact with flames of the fire and started running towards the street to save their lives. The elder people of the locality controlled the fire and saved the children from the flames with the help of sand.

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhubaneswar/117393-two-city-kids-injured-as-petrol-barrel-explodes.html>

AUSTRALIA, NEW WOUTH WALES, SEAHAM, DECEMBER 24 2012. MAN JUMPS FROM EXPLODING PETROL TANKER

Map: [Seaham](#)



The petrol tanker burns after the crash.

A New South Wales man is recovering in hospital after jumping from a petrol tanker as it blew up. The truck was carrying unleaded petrol when it rolled several times before exploding at Seaham, north of Newcastle, around 2:00pm (AEDT). Glen Ramplin from the region's rescue helicopter service says the man had a lucky escape. "The helicopter was called up to Seaham Road for a tanker that had rolled on the Seaham Road just south of the township up there," he said. "A 23-year-old male driver has escaped out of the vehicle just as it exploded. "As a result he's received extensive burns to his back, legs and buttock area." The explosion sparked a fire in nearby bushland, which was contained by Rural Fire Service crews.

[http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-24/man-jumps-from-exploding-petrol-](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-24/man-jumps-from-exploding-petrol-tanker/4442876?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

[tanker/4442876?WT.mc_id=newsmail](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-12-24/man-jumps-from-exploding-petrol-tanker/4442876?WT.mc_id=newsmail)

USA, MS, COLUMBIA, DEC 24 2012. DNR NOT YET DECIDED ON PENALTY FOR ACID SPILL

jacob barker

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has yet to decide whether to issue a penalty against the University of Missouri after a maintenance worker accidentally dumped about 25 gallons of sulfuric acid into a stormwater drain that flowed into a Flat Branch tributary. On Sept. 21, DNR, Columbia Public Works and MU Environmental Health and Safety workers scrambled to contain the acid spill in an unnamed tributary of Flat Branch that flows through the Grasslands subdivision. Records obtained from DNR through an open records request show that the spill was contained, and MU has instituted changes to some of its policies to prevent a future incident. However, DNR and Missouri Department of Conservation reports indicate some wildlife was killed by the acid. More than 300 aquatic worms, 57 crayfish, 150 macroinvertebrates and 32 fish, mostly minnows, were killed. There were no lingering effects beyond the day of the spill, records indicate. A dam was placed in the tributary to prevent contaminants from reaching Flat Branch, and the city pumped water into the stream to dilute it. "While there was clearly an initial error made regarding the disposal of the sulfuric acid, the University with help from the City, made good efforts in containing and cleaning up the release," Eric Sappington, an Environmental Emergency Response responder with DNR, wrote in an internal report. The spill originated when MU was decommissioning a water treatment system in Memorial Union that used sulfuric acid to clean pipes and water. MU campus facilities workers mixed the acid with water and prepared to dump it down a drain that they thought connected with the city's sanitary sewer system. However, it was a storm drain, and the water flowed into the creek. Even if they had dumped it down the sanitary sewer, it wouldn't have been allowed. A DNR report references a conversation with David Sorrell, Columbia's sewer utility manager, who said the dumping would have violated the city's code. Acidity must be within a certain range, and the sulfuric acid was outside of that range. In addition to other violations, DNR cited MU for not properly training the employees in charge of disposing of the old water tanks containing sulfuric acid. Environmental Health and Safety Associate Director Todd Houts said in an email that MU has now marked all stormwater drains and is "continuing to train and educate staff on proper handling procedures for disposal of any material." It also instituted a new authorization form that must be approved by Environmental Health and Safety before any material is put into a storm or sanitary sewer. In its formal response to DNR, MU asks that no formal sanctions be issued. "MU believes that



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this isolated incident is not indicative of the effectiveness of our overall program," wrote Maureen Kotlas, director of Environmental Health and Safety at MU.

<http://www.columbiatribune.com/news/2012/dec/23/dnr-not-yet-decided-on-penalty-for-acid-spill/>

USA, N.J, SOUTH JERSEY, DECEMBER 25 2012. LOCAL GAS STATIONS RECEIVE HAZARDOUS KEROSENE

 **Watch the Video** [Local Gas Stations receive Hazardous Kerosene](#)

The state warns consumers that kerosene bought at several gas stations is a fire hazard. The State Division of Fire Safety says any kerosene bought at several gas station from December 10-18 should be put outside and reported immediately. Officials say the flash point, or temperature at which the kerosene can ignite, is low in this batch and could ignite at temperatures as low as 70 degrees. Local stations who received the defective kerosene include Pleasantville Riggins on New Road, Cardiff Riggins on the Black Horse Pike in Egg Harbor Twp., Nesco Riggins on Nesco Rd. in Hammonton and South Vineland Riggins on South Main Rd. in Vineland. Anyone who has purchased kerosene at these stations should call (800) 261-3707.

<http://www.nbc40.net/story/20414946/local-gas-stations-recieve-hazardous-kerosene>

BURMA, DECEMBER 25 2012. THIS IS WHY LAUNCHING FIREWORKS FROM A HOT-AIR BALLOON ISN'T THE BEST IDEA

eric limer

 **Watch the Video** [Launching Fireworks From a Hot-Air Balloon](#)

 **Watch the Video** [PyroTechnically, Something's Wrong at Burma's Fire Balloon Festival](#)

 **Watch the Video** [Watch this insane Video from Burma's Fire Balloon Festival](#)

No matter the occasion, fireworks are always festive. Usually you'll launch them from a boat, or the ground, or maybe for your back porch, but for the Taunggyi Fire Balloon Festival, they're launched from a hot-air balloon. What could possibly go wrong, right? This. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is why we're best off sticking to good old Christmas lights.

<http://gizmodo.com/5970935/this-is-why-launching-fireworks-from-a-hot-air-balloon-isnt-the-best-idea>

USA, KS, SALINA, DECEMBER 25 2012. CHEMICAL SPILL SHUTS DOWN PART OF I-70 IN LINCOLN COUNTY

A 10-mile eastbound section of Interstate Highway 70 was closed until at least 4 p.m. Sunday because of a chemical spill. A semitrailer carrying ethanol rolled in the eastbound lanes of I-70 near mile marker 231 in Lincoln County at about 10 a.m. Sunday, said Rod Job, Lincoln County Emergency Management director. About 500 gallons of ethanol spilled into a ditch off the highway, he said, causing both lanes of I-70 to be closed while a hazardous materials team was called to the scene to clean up the spill. Westbound lanes were opened up by early afternoon Sunday, but eastbound lanes were expected to remain closed until at least 4 p.m. until another tanker truck could arrive on the scene and transfer the ethanol still remaining in the truck, Job said. The chemical spill has been contained and does not pose any danger to the surrounding area, he said. The driver, whose name was not released, was taken to Salina Regional Health Center with unknown injuries.

<http://www.salina.com/news/story/spill>

INDIA, TAMIL NADU, SALEM, DECEMBER 26 2012. FIVE KILLED IN EXPLOSION IN FIREWORKS GODOWN

binoy valsan

At least five people were killed and several others seriously injured when a major explosion ripped through a fireworks godown in Kamaneri village, 35 km from Salem in western Tamil Nadu on Tuesday afternoon. District authorities said the death toll was likely to increase as at least six others suffered serious burn injuries and were rushed to private hospitals in the district. The mishap occurred at 2.30 pm when there were about 11 people inside the godown. The district administration and police officials have confirmed that two people were killed on the spot and two more were brought dead to Salem government hospital. The godown's explosive license was under the process of being renewed and it was not permitted to have workers engaged in fireworks manufacturing when the mishap occurred. "Three people were killed on the spot and there were about 11 workers at the accident site when the blast occurred. The unit has been running for the past 30 years and it had recently applied for renewal of license, which is still process," said Salem district superintendent of police Ashwin M Kotnis. The officials also added that the exact cause for the mishap is yet to be ascertained. But, a shed where the blast occurred was



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guttled in the fire. Fire and rescue service personnel along with senior police officials are at the spot.: At least five people were killed and several others seriously injured when a major explosion ripped through a fireworks godown in Kamaneri village, 35 km from Salem in western Tamil Nadu on Tuesday afternoon. District authorities said the death toll was likely to increase as at least six others suffered serious burn injuries and were rushed to private hospitals in the district. The mishap occurred at 2.30 pm when there were about 11 people inside the godown. The district administration and police officials have confirmed that two people were killed on the spot and two more were brought dead to Salem government hospital. The godown's explosive license was under the process of being renewed and it was not permitted to have workers engaged in fireworks manufacturing when the mishap occurred. "Three people were killed on the spot and there were about 11 workers at the accident site when the blast occurred. The unit has been running for the past 30 years and it had recently applied for renewal of license, which is still process," said Salem district superintendent of police Ashwin M Kotnis. The officials also added that the exact cause for the mishap is yet to be ascertained. But, a shed where the blast occurred was gutted in the fire. Fire and rescue service personnel along with senior police officials are at the spot.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/Five-killed-in-explosion-in-fireworks-godown/articleshow/17755866.cms>

CANADA, QUE, MONTREAL, DECEMBER 26 2012. FIRE PUT OUT AT MONTREAL'S SUNCOR REFINERY

Police reopened the eastbound service road of Highway 40 Sunday night after firefighters brought under control a blaze that tore through an oil reservoir of the Suncor refinery in the east end of Montreal. The fire first occurred at around 9 a.m. and a small spill of flammable liquid near the highway at Marien Ave. was observed at around 10:15 a.m. Suncor firefighters struggled to control the fire, and called for reinforcements from the Montreal Fire Department. The fire flared up again around 2:45 p.m., but firefighters were able to put it out later in the afternoon, said Francis Leduc of the Montreal Fire Department. Montreal police said the service road to the highway was reopened at around 9 p.m. Authorities said that the environmental impact of the fire was "minimal."

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Fire+Montreal+Suncor+refinery/7739098/story.html>

USA, FLA, TAMPA BAY, DECEMBER 26 2012. FLORIDA ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY LAYS OFF LONGTIME EMPLOYEES AND HIRES FROM REGULATED INDUSTRIES

craig pittman

In 2003, when a leaky gypsum stack at an abandoned phosphate plant threatened to kill a vast cross section of Tampa Bay's marine life, Charles Kovach came up with a solution that saved the bay. But this month, 17 years after he was hired by the state Department of Environmental Protection, Kovach was one of 58 DEP employees laid off by the agency. Kovach believes those layoffs were designed to loosen regulation of polluting industries. "I've seen the way politics has influenced that agency in the past, but never like this," Kovach said. "It's not about compliance (with the rules). It's about making things look like they're compliant." On top of the layoffs is the fact that DEP Secretary Herschel Vinyard has installed a number of new people in the agency's upper ranks whose prior experience was working as engineers or consultants for companies the DEP regulates. The DEP's deputy secretary in charge of regulatory programs previously spent a decade as an engineer who specialized in getting clients their environmental permits. Another engineer who worked for developers heads up the division of water resources. A lawyer who helped power plants get their permits is now in charge of air pollution permitting. An engineering company lobbyist became a deputy director overseeing water and sewer facilities. And the DEP's chief operating officer is a former chemical company and real estate executive from Brandon. He's not an employee, though. He's a consultant who's being paid \$83 an hour — more than Vinyard makes on a per-hour basis — to advise Vinyard and his staff on ways to save money. The DEP "was never great," said Mark Bardolph, a 27-year DEP veteran — and onetime whistleblower — who was laid off from the Tallahassee office. "But now it's all a political farce." DEP press secretary Patrick Gillespie defended the agency's staffing under Vinyard. "The department strives to employ the most qualified staff members and seeks a diverse group of individuals to lead and support our mission of protecting the environment," Gillespie said in an e-mail. The layoffs weren't aimed at politicizing the agency or placating industry, Gillespie said. Instead, he said, the DEP was ensuring that "staffing levels are reflected by workloads and supporting the mission of protecting the environment." The agency's leaders "have spent months assessing staff and structures to identify inefficiencies and improvements and how to more effectively carry out our duties," he said. As for Brandon-based consultant Randall F. "Randy" Greene, Gillespie said he was hired because he "has a background in financial consulting and transactions and specializes in strategic and financial planning for companies and their officers." However, Gillespie could provide no contracts or other paperwork documenting what Greene



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does or when and why he was hired. Gillespie said he only works part-time but a state website lists Greene as a full-time employee. Greene could not be reached for comment, but his LinkedIn entry says he has served as the DEP's chief operating officer since September 2011. The hiring of people from the private sector to run the agency's most important divisions has been going on since Vinyard, a shipyard executive, was appointed to the office in January 2011 by Gov. Rick Scott. According to former employees, the hiring and layoffs reflect the Scott administration's pro-business attitudes. "It's a hatred of regulation in general and in particular environmental regulations," Bardolph said. "It's profit that counts." Kovach, Bardolph and the other employees who were laid off learned their fate in November, but were kept on the payroll until this month to give them time to find new employment. One was notified via e-mail while on active duty with the Coast Guard, according to the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. "The majority of positions they were eliminating are compliance and enforcement positions," said PEER's Jerry Phillips, a former DEP attorney. "They want to essentially turn the agency over to the regulated industries." Gillespie called Phillips' allegations "baseless" and said, "Rather than allow for environmental harm to occur and fine an entity after the fact, the department has put more effort into outreach and education in order to keep businesses and other permit holders in compliance." Both Kovach and Bardolph said the layoffs appeared to target more experienced employees, regardless of their past achievements or the importance of their jobs. "They got rid of everyone with any history and knowledge," Kovach said. The people who remain, he predicted, will be so cowed they "won't be able to speak their minds." Kovach was not known to be shy about speaking up. Nine years ago, when the bankrupt Piney Point phosphate plant began leaking and threatened to spill millions of gallons of waste into the bay, it was his proposal that saved the day: load it onto barges that sprayed it across a 20,000-square-mile area in the Gulf of Mexico. When his bosses told him he was being laid off, Kovach said, "they said, 'Don't you think it's about time you look for a new career?'" When he asked what they meant, "they suggested academia." Bardolph had run into trouble for speaking out before. As a state dairy inspector, he filed a complaint in 1999 alleging the DEP had failed to protect the aquifer from animal waste. As a result, he was transferred to a section that had nothing to do with permitting. Instead, he worked with people whose wells had been contaminated to help them find a new source of water. He was assisting a dozen or so when the ax fell, he said, and he was escorted out of the office with his belongings in a box. The people deciding who was laid off "looked at an organizational chart, but they didn't even know what people did," Bardolph said. "My boss was just outraged that they got rid of me." Then, Bardolph said, they got rid of his boss, too.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/florida-environmental-agency-lays-off-longtime-employees-and-hires-from/1267557>

NIGERIA, ABUJA, DECEMBER 26 2012. PETROL STATION GUTTED BY FIRE IN ABUJA

onyebuchi ezigbo

What would have been a major human disaster was yesterday averted by sheer providence when a fuel tanker belonging to MRS Petroleum Limited caught fire while discharging fuel at one of the company's facilities along Gwarinpa-Kubwa Expressway. The incident which occurred at about 5.45pm saw the entire fuel station covered with thick smoke from the tanker fire. The filling station is known to always have heavy stock of product and as such there is usually lengthy queue of motorists seeking to buy fuel every day at the place. However, as luck would have it, many motorists who had lined up all day to buy fuel just escaped being caught up in the fire by the whiskers. The motorists left the filling station after the staff told them that fuel had been exhausted, in good time before the tanker off-loading fuel suddenly burst into flames. Just as no motorist was affected by the fire, also none of the staff of the petrol station suffered any major injury as everyone scampered for safety as soon as the fire broke out. It took the Fire Service men from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Command less than an hour to put out the inferno. What could be seen after the fire had been put out was the charred remains of the tanker and some burnt sections of the station. Staff of the station who spoke said the fire may have been caused by a metal spark which immediately spread like wild fire.

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/petrol-station-gutted-by-fire-in-abuja/134490/>



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