



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 920 Newsy Stuff

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

**January 13 2013**



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#### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, PRESTON, JANUARY 3 2012. CHEMICAL SPILL FORCES PLANT EVACUATION

*alana schetzer*

More than half a tonne of chemicals have been spilled at an Amcor site in Preston, forcing workers to evacuate. About 25 firefighters arrived at the Bell Street scene at about 2.30pm, where three different chemical products had been accidentally released. The chemicals were quickly contained but had already produced a gas that Metropolitan Fire Brigade commander Martin Braid said had the potential to be toxic when combined. Commander Braid said the owners had acted quickly and there was no indication that any chemicals had gone into any waterways and impacted the community. A 20,000 tanker is expected to arrive at the scene soon to assist with recovery and clean up. It is the second chemical spill in as many days, with more than 30 firefighters called to Ace Heat Treaters in Richmond on Wednesday after hydrochloric acid was accidentally mixed with hydrogen peroxide, creating a chlorine cloud in the factory. The spill was contained within three and a half hours after firefighters arrived at the scene. About 25 workers from surrounding factories were evacuated and police blocked off River and Burnley streets from Bridge Road. Ace Heat Treaters employees had already been evacuated by the time emergency services had arrived at the scene.

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/chemical-spill-forces-plant-evacuation-20130103-2c6xw.html>

#### MEXICO, MEXICO CITY, JANUARY 4 2013. 10 POISONED GAS CLOUD IZTAPALAPA CELLAR

*francisco santa anna*

 **Watch the Video** [10 Poisoned Gas Cloud Iztapalapa Cellar](#)

Ten people poisoned and displaced 350 caused a cloud of toxic gas from aluminum phosphide, in the vicinity of the Central de Abasto in Iztapalapa. Elements of Heroic Firefighters said a 200 liter drum of aluminum phosphide was shed in the basement of a grain warehouse located in Area 5 South Avenue Reform Laws bridge crossing with straw in the colony of Iztapalapa Ejidos. The chemical is used as an insecticide. Workers of the company where the incident occurred, tried to wash the toxic material, but aluminum phosphide made chemical reaction with water and created a toxic cloud that was seen in a radius of 200 meters. A convoy of ambulances from the [Red Cross](#) rushed to the scene. Elements of the capital police and [Civil Protection](#) accedió to the area and evacuated 350 people between workers and residents of nearby properties. Four intoxicated were transferred to the Social Security Clinic 30. Six people were treated at the scene and did not require removal.

[http://noticierostelevisa.esmas.com/df/543337/10-intoxicados-nube-gas-bodega-iztapalapa/?goback=%2Egde\\_167203\\_member\\_200667884](http://noticierostelevisa.esmas.com/df/543337/10-intoxicados-nube-gas-bodega-iztapalapa/?goback=%2Egde_167203_member_200667884)

#### USA, KY, GHENT, JANUARY 4 2013. KENTUCKY UTILITIES TO SPEND MILLIONS IN SETTLEMENT TO RESOLVE CLEAN AIR ACT VIOLATIONS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY

*jason mcdonald*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Justice announce that Kentucky Utilities Company will spend \$57 million to install a sulfuric acid mist emission controls system, replace a coal-fired boiler, and pay a civil penalty of \$300,000 to resolve alleged Clean Air Act violations (CAA) at the Ghent Station facility in Ghent, Kentucky. The terms of the settlement requires Kentucky Utilities to adhere to more stringent and permanent emission limits and install a sulfuric acid mist pollution control system that will reduce sulfuric acid mist emissions by more than two-thirds (3.7 million lbs/year). Kentucky Utilities will spend approximately \$57 million dollars in injunctive relief to install the system and make other changes at the Ghent County facility. These changes will reduce emissions of sulfuric acid mist in an area that ranks among the top 10% of environmental justice areas in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. "Reducing emissions of this pollutant is vital to protect the local environment and health of the residents of this community," said Gwendolyn Keyes-Fleming, Regional Administrator for the EPA Southeast Office. "Reaching this settlement demonstrates EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson's commitment to expand the conversation on environmentalism and bring people together to discuss environmental concerns. As part of the settlement, the Company has also agreed to spend \$500,000 for an environmental mitigation project that will include the replacement of a coal-fired boiler with a geothermal heating and cooling system at an elementary school in the Kentucky Utilities service area. The consent decree was lodged with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky on December 20, 2012, and will be subject to a 30-day public comment period.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/8b770facf5edf6f185257359003fb69e/8e1970012b47f45085257ae7006d1b97!OpenDocument>



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#### USA, TX, DALLAS, JANUARY 4 2013. 7-ELEVEN CLOSES ON 143-SITE ACQUISITION FROM C. L. THOMAS

7-Eleven Inc. has officially announced that it has acquired 143 Speedy Stop and Tigermarket retail locations in Texas from C. L. Thomas Inc., Victoria, Texas. CSP Daily News exclusively reported the deal in October, as well as in the January issue of CSP magazine; the acquisition officially closed on Dec. 31. It also adds to 7-Eleven's growing fuel wholesale-delivery business because the acquisition includes gasoline distribution to approximately 150 dealer-operated sites. Dallas-based 7-Eleven operates, franchises or licenses more than 9,500 7-Eleven stores in North America, with more than 48,400 7-Eleven stores in 16 countries. During 2011, 7-Eleven stores worldwide generated total sales of approximately \$76.6 billion

[http://www.cspnet.com/content/7-eleven-closes-143-site-acquisition-c-l-thomas?utm\\_source=SilverpopMailing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20News%20Flash%202012%20\(61\)&utm\\_content=&spMailingID=40776322&spUserID=MjY3NTM2OTUxMDES1&spJobID=172865394&spReportID=MTcyODY1Mzk0SQ](http://www.cspnet.com/content/7-eleven-closes-143-site-acquisition-c-l-thomas?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20News%20Flash%202012%20(61)&utm_content=&spMailingID=40776322&spUserID=MjY3NTM2OTUxMDES1&spJobID=172865394&spReportID=MTcyODY1Mzk0SQ)

#### SAUDI ARABIA, JUBAIL, JANUARY 4 2013. SAUDI WASTE TREATMENT PLANT FIRE KILLS SIX



Civil Defense spokesman Colonel Ali al-Qahtani told the Saudi Press Agency that six foreign workers died in a fire which broke out in a tank containing benzene and diesel mixture at the Environment Development Limited Company (EDCO) waste treatment plant in the industrial city of Jubail, eastern Saudi Arabia. He said the fire broke out as workers were "conducting maintenance and welding," resulting in an explosion, adding that the fire was fully contained by firefighters. Dozens were also injured in the explosion and blaze on December 22. EDCO provides environmental services including hazardous waste management, environmental engineering and site remediation.

[http://www.hazardexonthenet.net/article/55189/Saudi-waste-treatment-plant-fire-kills-six.aspx?utm\\_campaign=NL130103&utm\\_source=emailCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=201301-03-NL&utm\\_source=emailCampaign&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=#Saudi](http://www.hazardexonthenet.net/article/55189/Saudi-waste-treatment-plant-fire-kills-six.aspx?utm_campaign=NL130103&utm_source=emailCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=201301-03-NL&utm_source=emailCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=#Saudi)

#### USA, WYO, CASPER, JANUARY 4 2013. AUTHORITIES: MAN DRIVES CAR INTO CHUGWATER GAS STATION, CAUSES EXPLOSION

kyle roerink



*The burnt remains of Horton's Corner convenience store and gas station are shown on Wednesday in Chugwater. Police say John Barberini, 42, of Casper, crashed a car through the front of the convenience store Sunday, setting the building on fire.*

Highway advisories flash between Douglas and Cheyenne on Interstate 25: No fuel in Chugwater. Early Sunday evening 42-year-old John Barberini, of Casper, drove his car into the front of Horton's Corner convenience store and gas station, causing an explosion and a blaze that engulfed the building, according to authorities. It's the only service station between Cheyenne and Wheatland. For 21 years it's been a lifeline for the 244 people in Chugwater and a staple for travelers on the interstate. Authorities say the car exploded after slamming through the front doors of the store. Two employees and one customer were inside at the time of the incident. No injuries were reported. "It appears the car was on fire before it went into the building," Tom Ash, chief of the Chugwater Volunteer Fire Department, said Wednesday. "We're still trying to figure out what all happened." State fire authorities are investigating the incident. It took firefighters three hours to extinguish the blaze after first responders arrived at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Ash said. Inclement weather made it a difficult fight. Water supplies were freezing and ice on the ground made it difficult for firefighters to quell the blaze. The explosion didn't ignite any fuel tanks at the gas station. Authorities said the customer rescued Barberini



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from the car. Barberini reportedly then ran away from the scene of the accident. Chugwater resident Jim Crawford heard about the blaze from a friend who's a volunteer firefighter. Crawford said he was walking toward the gas station to watch. "Then a man comes up to me and asks if I had a blanket," Crawford said. "He said he was driving and slipped on ice and drove into Horton's." Crawford invited him inside his home. "I was just trying to be nice and let him warm up," Crawford said. When the light hit Barberini's face, Crawford noticed the man was covered in black. Barberini told Crawford it was shoe polish. "I asked him, 'Why do you have shoe polish on your face and hands?' and he said, 'It helps keep me warm,'" Crawford said. Crawford began to worry after he let Barberini inside. Barberini, smeared with shoe polish and wearing a ski mask on the top of his head, asked the Chugwater resident for drugs and a shot of whiskey. "I gave him hot chocolate," Crawford said. The man made three calls, trying to get a ride out of Chugwater. "I heard him say, 'I blew up a gas station,' when he was on the phone with his sister," Crawford said. Barberini was in Crawford's home for nearly two hours. He told the Chugwater resident that he was gay, getting married and going to New York City to watch the [New Year's Eve] ball drop. He also told Crawford that he was waiting for a check and intending to build a church. "I didn't want to throw him out because he was either on drugs or in outer space," Crawford said. Crawford informed Ken Clark, a volunteer firefighter, Barberini was inside his home. Wyoming Highway Patrol, local deputies and other officers arrived at Crawford's house minutes later. Police arrested Barberini shortly thereafter. The suspect is incarcerated at the Platte County Detention Center, according to local authorities. All that remains of Horton's Corner is a pile of disheveled debris. Post cards from the gift shop sit in a display carousel, wrinkled from the heat. Shards of the metal roof clamor in the wind. A melted Sinclair sign still sits atop of the rubble. The smell of smoke is noxious. "How no one was injured is a miracle," said LaCynda Fortik, manager of Buffalo Lodge Inn and Grill, which sits across from Horton's Corner. "Someone could have been killed so easily." Horton's and the Buffalo Inn would share customers, directing people to one business or the other. "We worked together wonderfully," Fortik said. "It's not going to be good for Chugwater." It's how businesses should work in small towns, said Roxanne Vassler, an employee at the inn. "Everybody helps everybody," she said. The local customers at Horton's Corner have had to go to the inn to get their morning newspaper and coffee. "They have no other choice," Vassler said. "We lost a member of our community." On New Year's Day, three travellers came to the inn looking for spare fuel. "We've been keeping extra in the back," Fortik said. "Everyone expects there to be fuel in town." The closest sources of fuel are 30 miles to the north in Wheatland and 45 miles to the south in Cheyenne. Judy Horton, whose husband started the gas station in 1991, was in shock when she heard the news Sunday. "You don't rebuild something like that overnight," she said. She's grateful the Highway Department is advising travellers. "People can't go down the road thinking they're going to be able to get fuel in Chugwater," Horton said. Horton and her family built the business from the bottom up, but sold partial interests to family friends in 1997. Mike Johnston is now an owner. He doesn't know what he's going to do next. "I think everybody's still in shock," he said. "We're hoping that we will wake up from a bad dream." With the loss of the gas station, Chugwater lost one-fourth of its businesses. Besides the Buffalo Lodge Inn and Grill and Chugwater Chili, there's the Soda Fountain — the oldest in the state. Horton's Corner employed 14 people. "We have a wonderful staff," said Jane Olind, co-owner of Horton's Corner. "Many of them have been with us for years." The owners promised to take care of their employees until they decide whether they will rebuild. "It's terrible that this many people in town are without jobs," Fortik said. Horton's Corner was more than a gas station to the community. "I've told everyone that I will stock what they used to get at Horton's," said Barbara Dayton, owner of the Soda Fountain. Behind the counter at the soda fountain were handmade signs for eggs, lettuce and onions. "We can't supply all their needs, but we will do our best."

[http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/authorities-man-drives-car-into-chugwater-gas-station-causes-explosion/article\\_4f300dd8-c854-5f02-8d32-239f77889a6a.html](http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/authorities-man-drives-car-into-chugwater-gas-station-causes-explosion/article_4f300dd8-c854-5f02-8d32-239f77889a6a.html)

#### USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 4 2013. PHILLIPS 66, CONOCOPHILLIPS ACCUSED OF VIOLATING CALIFORNIA HAZARDOUS WASTE LAWS

[PDF Document Complaint ConocoPhillips.pdf](#)

Phillips 66 (PSX) and ConocoPhillips (COP) have been accused of violating California environmental laws by failing to properly maintain underground gas storage tanks, the state's attorney general's office said. In a civil lawsuit filed in Alameda County Superior Court, the state accused the companies of tampering with leak detection devices, and failing to test secondary containment systems and maintain alarm systems, among other violations. ConocoPhillips spun off its downstream business, including retail operations, as Phillips 66 last year as part of a three-year restructuring plan aimed at improving the company's finances. Daren Beaudou, a spokesman for ConocoPhillips, said Wednesday that the California lawsuit "is [Phillips



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66's] issue on which to comment, not ours." Phillips 66 spokeswoman Janet Grothe said the company doesn't comment on legal matters. The companies were also accused of improperly handling and disposing of hazardous wastes associated with the tanks, which are used to store fuel for retail sale at more than 560 California gas stations. "The state's hazardous waste laws help protect our residents from contaminated groundwater," Attorney General Kamala D. Harris said. "This lawsuit safeguards public health by ensuring proper maintenance of the tanks that store fuel beneath many California communities."

#### **Related Links**

##### [Phillips Sued For Tank Issues](#)

The Sacramento Business Journal reports that California Attorney General Kamala Harris filed a lawsuit against Phillips 66 and ConocoPhillips on Wednesday for allegedly violating a state law by failing to properly inspect and maintain underground tanks.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/02/phillips-66-conocophillips-accused-violating-california-hazardous-waste-laws/>

#### **USA, TX, ODESSA, JANUARY 4 2013. OIL TANKER ROLLS OVER, SPILLS DIESEL IN ODESSA**

dylan brooks

##### [Watch the Video Oil Tanker Rolls Over](#)

An oil tanker rolls over on an Odessa highway. The crash happened around 10:30 AM Tuesday along East Loop 338 near Interstate 20. Odessa Police tell say that an oil tanker was heading north on East Loop 338 when the driver lost control while turning onto the Interstate 20 service road. The big rig then rolled over several times. Diesel from the tanker spilled all over the road after the wreck, and crews worked to mop up the spilled fuel. The driver of the tanker was rushed to Medical Center Hospital with non-life threatening injuries after the crash. Police say that the driver will also get a ticket for speeding.

[http://permianbasin360.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=241492](http://permianbasin360.com/fulltext?nxd_id=241492)

#### **USA, CO, CRAIG, JANUARY 4 2013. TANK BATTERY EXPLOSION NEAR CRAIG**

darian warden



*A tank lies on its side after an explosion Thursday morning on Moffat County Road 103 at a tank battery site.*

A tank battery explosion Thursday morning on Moffat County Road 103 about seven miles north of Craig has resulted in the death of a local male resident. Jon Herod, 49, of Craig, was pronounced dead at the scene after a 300 barrel tank exploded. The incident, which Moffat County Sheriff's Office deputies are investigating as an accident, occurred at approximately 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Axia Energy's Bulldog rig site 531. An ambulance crew from The Memorial Hospital in Craig and multiple engines from Craig Fire/Rescue also responded

to the incident. According to a Sheriff's Office news release, employees from Herod Industries were attempting to offload produced water from a fracking site elsewhere in Moffat County into a storage tank at Bulldog Rig 531. Employees were unable to offload the produced water due to frozen valves from the cold weather, said an Axia Energy supervisor in a statement to law enforcement officials. Investigator Jeremy Ashton, of the Sheriff's Office, said law enforcement officials think Herod used a propane heating device to thaw the valves. "We believe the valves were frozen and he was trying to thaw them out with a propane heater when it exploded," Ashton said. Although Ashton said they're not exactly sure what caused the explosion, they believe residual oil in the tank could have sparked the fire and explosion. Ashton said when water from the fracking site is pumped into the tanks, the tanks are supposed to isolate the oil that's in the water. Though law enforcement officers do not suspect foul play the incident remains under investigation.

<http://www.craigdailypress.com/news/2013/jan/03/oil-rig-explosion-near-craig/>

#### **USA, N.D, BISMARCK, JANUARY 4 2013. DOES LOCKING ANHYDROUS TANK VALVES MAKE SENSE?**

rich keller

Does locking rolling stock anhydrous ammonia tank valves make sense or is it too much of a headache as farmers in North Dakota apparently contend? North Dakota state officials and law makers are ready to rescind a law/regulation from 2003. It required farmers and anhydrous ammonia dealers in portions of the state to put locks on the valves of NH3 tanks used to



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apply the fertilizer when the tanks were left unattended, especially over night or in fields for a day or longer waiting to be used in applying the fertilizer. State officials never did enforce the law as no records show the \$100 fine being levied for a first-time offense, according to state reports about the regulation and enforcement. The same state officials claim theft of NH<sub>3</sub> for the use in making methamphetamine has declined quite drastically without worrying about tight security of NH<sub>3</sub>. The state's criminal charges for methamphetamine manufacture or "meth labs" reportedly dropped from about 300 in 2003 to less than 10 in 2010. The contention is that the 2005 law restricting the sale of pseudoephedrine drugs (another necessary ingredient for meth manufacturer) by pharmacies is the reason for the drop in meth lab operations and arrests. "It was becoming more of a hindrance to the industry than it was stemming anhydrous thefts," Spencer Wagner, fertilizer specialist with the North Dakota Agriculture Department, is quoted as saying in an Associated Press article. In public comments about whether to end the tank security, farmers complained about the time it took to unlock tanks and about lost lock keys. There are questions this report from North Dakota raises. Are locking NH<sub>3</sub> tanks necessary, a wise move for safety, a wise move because meth manufacturing continues or completely unnecessary in any or all farm states?

<http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Does-locking-NH3-tank-valves-make-sense-185455832.html>

### AUSTRALIA, QUEENSLAND, KINGSCLIFF, JANUARY 4 2012. ANOTHER DEADLY CANISTER FOUND ON QLD BEACH

*russell varley & paul robinson*

**Map:** [Kingscliff 2487](#)



*A silver canister containing aluminium phosphide found washed up on a beach on north Qld earlier this year.*

A metal canister holding a toxic chemical has now been found on the Tweed Coast, south of Queensland's Gold Coast. The canisters have been washing up on central Queensland beaches in recent weeks and were also found last year in far north Queensland. Authorities have warned people not to touch the canisters, which contain potentially deadly aluminium phosphide. Tweed Coast resident Kevin Bourke says he found a canister washed up on a local beach south of the Gold Coast. Mr Bourke says he and his wife saw the canister while walking this morning on Kingscliff beach, just past the Queensland-New South Wales border. He says he contacted police. "We walk the beach every morning and it was just a strange-looking container," he said. "At first I thought I'll open it, but my wife said 'you better not', so we left it closed and brought it home. "Then we googled it on the computer and found a picture of exactly the same container."

#### Poisonous Gas

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) says the toxic metal canisters may have come from passing ships. QFRS scientific branch director Michael Logan says the chemical can be deadly to humans. "Aluminium phosphide - you don't want that on your skin or to eat it," he said. "If you eat it, get it on your eyes - that can be harmful. "It makes a phosphene gas, a chemical that interacts with the lungs. "You'll basically asphyxiate and it will interact with the respiratory processes. "[It's] very toxic and at relatively low concentrations." Mr Logan says the chemical is used to kill pests such as rats. "You might put a small amount of this in a grain silo and it will slowly react with the moisture to make phosphide gas and you'll then obviously will kill the rats," he said. "You put it in the water [and if] you don't quite get the mixture right, it can catch fire and reacts to make a chemical very similar to phosphine - it's very flammable." However, Mr Logan says people are fairly safe if the containers remain sealed. "The canisters by themselves - [it's] the normal way they're transported," he said. "We'd like people just isolate them and report them - not really pick them up and take them away or open them. "While they're sealed they're pretty safe and then we can go and identify them by their contents and then deal with them."

#### Related Links

- [Deadly canisters still washing up on Qld beaches](#)
- [More toxic canisters found on Qld beach](#)

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2013-01-04/another-deadly-canister-found-on-qld-beach/4452844?section=nsw>



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#### INDIA, CHENNAI, JANUARY 4 2013. LPG EXPLOSION KILLS FOUR, INJURES SIX IN OLD WASHERMENPET

d. madhavan



*The gas leak occurred in a two-storey building in Bhojarajan Nagar.*

Accident occurred when resident turned on a light unaware of gas leak; balcony collapsed onto adjacent house in impact. Four persons including a four-year-old girl died in a gas cylinder blast in Old Washermenpet in north Chennai on Thursday morning. Police said that the accident occurred when Fazullah Khan (68), a resident of 6th street, Bhojarajan Nagar and an accountant at a private firm, turned on a light in the kitchen. A gas leak through a faulty tube resulted in an explosion and Khan died in the impact. At the time of the accident, Khan's wife, Khushika (60) was sleeping in the bedroom and she sustained a few burns caused by the fire. Their son, Mushtaque Mohammed, who works in a BPO, was away from the house on a night shift. Due to the impact of the explosion, the wall of a small balcony outside the kitchen collapsed onto an adjacent asbestos-roofed house where three independent families were living. Two of the residents, Thenmozhiyan (42), a labourer, and his younger son Karthik (7) died on the spot. Thenmozhiyam's wife, Jothi (37), his elder son Tamilselvan (11) and his daughter Mathumita (8) were injured. A family of three — Imtiaz (30), Farida (23) and their daughter, Riyana (4) — who were living in a rented portion of the house were also injured. The injured were admitted to the Stanley Government Hospital. Later in the day, Riyana, who sustained severe head injuries, succumbed at the hospital. "The incident occurred around 5.30 a.m. and due to the impact, many glass windows of adjacent houses broke," said Old Washermenpet's police inspector, R. Chitibabu. Fire tenders from Mint and Old Washermenpet rushed to the spot and put off the blaze. As the locality is congested, with many big old houses divided into portions let out on rent, the impact of the blast was felt by many neighbours. At the time of the accident, the cylinder was full resulting in heavy leakage of gas from the faulty tube. Thursday's accident is the fifth such in less than four months in north Chennai alone. On September 12, an LPG cylinder technician and three others of a family in Thirumangalam died, and a boy suffered burn injuries, in a fire following a gas leak. Two days later, a septuagenarian and two youngsters were injured in an apartment in Porur in a similar accident. The old woman and one of the youths died later.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/lpg-explosion-kills-four-injures-six-in-old-washermenpet/article4270179.ece>

#### USA, NE, FURNAS CO, JANUARY 4 2013. NEBRASKA ETHANOL PLANT AGREES TO PAY \$12K FINE

A Furnas County ethanol plant has agreed to pay up to a civil penalty of \$12,000 for violating its Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality permit. Half of the fine could be waived, according to the lawsuit filed Monday in Lancaster County District Court. In the suit, filed on behalf of NDEQ director Michael Linder, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office said Nebraska Corn Processing had exceeded the volatile organic compound emissions set forth in its permit. In a consent decree filed the same day the plant agreed to pay the fine: half within 10 days and the rest within six months unless the plant does not violate any provisions of its air quality permit or the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act. Nebraska Corn Processing also agreed to pay \$12,000 in voluntary supplemental environmental projects. Half of that amount is to go to the Cambridge Fire Department for environmental safety, training, public awareness and equipment, and half to the Cambridge High School chapter of the FFA to be used for the development and construction of a greenhouse for purposes of environmental education and environmental awareness.

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/nebraska-ethanol-plant-agrees-to-pay-k-fine/article\\_77f16f3e-de58-5f15-8429-6a49220ba408.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/nebraska-ethanol-plant-agrees-to-pay-k-fine/article_77f16f3e-de58-5f15-8429-6a49220ba408.html)

#### CHINA, BEIJING, JANUARY 4 2013. FIREWORKS TRUCK CRASHES EXPOSE SAFETY HAZARDS

yin yeping

Fireworks vendors and transporters are routinely disregarding laws concerning the safe transportation of fireworks, putting lives in jeopardy after a spate of accidents on Beijing's highways. On Wednesday, a truck loaded with 1,200 boxes of fireworks traveling from Jiangxi Province to Liaoning Province overturned at Maju Bridge on the Beijing to Shanghai Highway at 10 am, the Legal Mirror reported. This followed another accident involving a minibus laden with fireworks which caught fire at Beichen Bridge on the North Fourth Ring Road Tuesday, while on the same day on the east side of the same bridge, another truck carrying fireworks also caught fire. No injuries were reported in the three accidents. Zhang Qi, a vendor who is preparing to



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sell fireworks in Haidian district for the upcoming Spring Festival, told the Global Times that the government does have regulations about transporting fireworks. "Vendors must buy fireworks from local manufacturers instead of from anywhere outside of Beijing [for safety reasons]," he said. "But they will be below market price if you can get them from elsewhere," he claimed. Zhang said a firework sold for 10 yuan (\$1.6) in Beijing would be half the price if it were made outside of the city due to lower manufacturing costs. A media officer for Panda Firework Company in Chaoyang district, who would not give his name, said that there are only three legal companies in Beijing that vendors in the city are able to buy from. "There are risks to transporting fireworks over long distances, but it is legal if you have the proper licenses," he said, adding that he could not comment on the safety risks in Beijing. But even though fireworks should be produced locally, the officer admitted most fireworks sold by companies in Beijing are produced elsewhere. The Beijing Municipal Administration of Work Safety could not be reached Thursday.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/753541.shtml>

#### USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 4 2013. \$1.4 BILLION FINE FOR GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL



*Fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the offshore oil rig Deepwater Horizon, off Louisiana, in April 2010.*

The United States has hit drilling rig operator Transocean Deepwater with \$US1.4 billion (\$1.3 billion) in criminal and civil fines for its role in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil leak disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Transocean agreed to plead guilty to violating the Clean Water Act in the disaster, in which a blowout on its drilling rig killed 11 and sent about 4.9 million barrels of oil into the Gulf, the Justice Department announced on Thursday. The blowout took place on April 20, 2010, as Transocean's Deepwater Horizon vessel was drilling a well for oil giant BP. In pleading guilty, the department said, Transocean had

admitted its rig crew was "negligent in failing fully to investigate clear indications that the Macondo well was not secure and that oil and gas were flowing into the well". The firm was ordered to pay \$US400 million to resolve criminal charges and another \$US1 billion in civil penalties, partly to fund spill prevention and environmental restoration in the five states hit by the three-month-long spill. "Transocean's rig crew accepted the direction of BP well site leaders to proceed in the face of clear danger signs - at a tragic cost to many of them," said Assistant Attorney-General Lanny Breuer. "Transocean's agreement to plead guilty to a federal crime, and to pay a total of \$US1.4 billion in criminal and civil penalties, appropriately reflects its role in the Deepwater Horizon disaster."

<http://www.theage.com.au/environment/conservation/14-billion-fine-for-gulf-of-mexico-oil-spill-20130104-2c7ui.html>

#### USA, MT, BILLINGS, JANUARY 5 2013. FLOODS BLAMED FOR 2.4M GALLONS OF SPILLED CRUDE, FEDS SAY



Pipeline spills caused by flooding and riverbed erosion dumped 2.4 million gallons of crude oil and other hazardous liquids into U.S. waterways over the past two decades, according to a new report from federal regulators. The Department of Transportation report to Congress was crafted in response to a 2011 spill into Montana's Yellowstone River. The spill highlighted gaps in federal pipeline rules that require lines to be buried just 4 feet below riverbeds — scant cover that can quickly be scoured away by floodwaters. The Associated Press obtained the report this week before its public release. Regulators found flood-related pipeline spills since 1993 in California, Texas, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Nebraska, South Dakota and Kentucky. Of the 2.4 million gallons of oil, gasoline, propane and other hazardous liquids released, less than 300,000 gallons were

recovered. Although those accidents account for fewer than 1 percent of the total number of pipeline accidents, the consequences of a release in water can be much more severe because of the threats to drinking water supplies and the heightened potential for environmental damage. The most recent accidents came during flooding in 2011 throughout the Missouri River Basin. Those include the Yellowstone River spill that saw a severed Exxon Mobil Corp. pipeline release 63,000 gallons. A NuStar Energy LP pipeline also spilled 4,200 gallons of anhydrous ammonia into the Missouri River in Nebraska, and an Enterprise Products Partners LP pipeline released 28,350 gallons of gasoline into the Missouri River in Iowa. U.S. Sen.



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Max Baucus, who requested the report with fellow Montana Democratic Sen. Jon Tester, said the results reveal "some pretty clear holes in pipeline oversight when it comes to flooding." But Baucus said the report leaves unanswered basic questions about what steps can be taken to prevent future accidents. Transportation Department officials said in the report that they will return to Congress within the next year on plans to ensure federal rules for pipeline crossings are sufficient. An industry representative cautioned against imposing stringent new regulations. Such rules could force companies to divert money from other safety initiatives, such as reducing accidents caused by corrosion or excavation damage, said John Stoodly, of the Association of Oil Pipe Lines. The report showed riverbed scouring around pipelines caused by flooding "is a real but rare occurrence," Stoodly said. "It's our hope the focus remains on efforts that will provide the most public safety and protection for the environment," he said, adding that companies spent at least \$1.1 billion on evaluations, inspections and maintenance geared toward safety in 2011. In recent years, some pipeline companies have voluntarily buried their lines deeper than federal rules require. Using a technique called horizontal directional drilling pipelines can be installed dozens of feet beneath riverbeds, minimizing the chances they could be exposed to damaging floodwaters and debris. The technique can cost millions of dollars for a single water crossing.

**Related Links** [Feds fault Houston delay in Yellowstone spill](http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/01/03/floods-to-blame-for-2-4m-gallons-of-spilled-crude-feds-say/)

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/01/03/floods-to-blame-for-2-4m-gallons-of-spilled-crude-feds-say/>

#### USA, CA, RICHMOND, JANUARY 5 2013. CHEVRON FIREFIGHTERS MAY HAVE GOUGED PIPE

*jaxon van derbeken*



*A fire at the Chevron refinery in Richmond spewed a cloud of gas and smoke thousands of feet into the air on Aug. 6.*

The pipe that fed a huge fire at Chevron's Richmond oil refinery in August appears to have been punctured from the outside, possibly by company firefighters trying to get at a small leak before the blaze ignited, investigators said Thursday. The 40-year-old pipe had already been weakened by the heavy sulfur content of the crude oil being pumped through it, according to a draft metallurgical report on the fire that was prepared for federal and state investigators. The pipe developed a small hole the afternoon of Aug. 6 that mushroomed into a larger leak and then a fire that destroyed part of the refinery and sent a cloud of gas and smoke thousands of feet into the air. No one was seriously hurt in the fire, but 15,000 people sought hospital treatment for respiratory and other problems because of the smoke. The metallurgical report shows the expected evidence of corrosion that led to the pipe bursting, according to two officials of the [U.S. Chemical Safety Board](http://www.csb.gov), the lead federal agency in the probe. But separately, the investigation has also turned up something unexpected, they said: Photos of the inside of the line show that at the point where the pipe failed, it appears to have been punctured from the outside.

#### Firefighters' Role?

Investigators are trying to determine whether Chevron firefighters responding to the first report of a small leak accidentally damaged the line as they tore away insulation. "One theory we are exploring is that emergency response activities inadvertently accelerated the rate of the leak," said [Daniel Horowitz](http://www.csb.gov), managing director of the Chemical Safety Board. "We are comparing possible tool marks on the pipe with tools recovered from the incident." One tool that may have inflicted the apparent damage is a Halligan bar, which has a hook-like implement with a sharp end. Firefighters are commonly equipped with the device to help them gain entry into burning buildings. Don Holmstrom, the Chemical Safety Board's lead investigator looking into the fire, said the blaze might well have happened even without the apparent puncture, but that the external damage could have been "an aggravating factor." Investigators have not determined what sparked the blaze, but have raised questions about Chevron's decision to continue to run crude oil through the pipe even as workers responded to the initial, small leak. "Regardless of the exact sequence of the events, this incident emphasizes the importance of effective decision-making in shutting down the unit promptly in case of a leak of this type," Horowitz said. A Chevron spokesman issued a statement saying: "This is part of the ongoing investigation into the Aug. 6 fire at the refinery. We have been working closely and cooperatively with the investigating agencies, as well as conducting our own investigation. It is premature to comment on specific details until the investigations are complete." A hydrocarbon vapor cloud spewed from the pipe soon after Chevron workers removed the insulation from the leaking line, federal investigators said. A resulting flash fire was quickly extinguished,



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but within minutes another blaze - fed by fumes escaping from a gash of several inches on the 8-inch-diameter pipe - ignited and consumed part of the refinery.

#### Corroded Pipe

The draft metallurgical report, prepared by [Anamet Inc. of Hayward](#), has been given to Chevron, investigating agencies and the union representing refinery workers. It might be released publicly after the parties' comments are included, investigators say. The report affirms Chevron's theory that high-temperature, sulfur-laden crude caused the thinning and initial leak in the pipe, Holmstrom and Horowitz confirmed. The pipe was made out of carbon steel, which Chevron has concluded was low in silicon and susceptible to corrosion from sulfur-heavy crude. In its effort to get the refinery fully back online, Chevron is installing pipe made out of a material called 9-Chrome, an alloy that contains more corrosion-fighting chromium. Richmond officials had delayed issuing permits while two consultants evaluated whether Chevron's choice, 9-Chrome, was the best available technology. Chevron's own internal documents said stainless steel is more corrosion-resistant than 9-Chrome, but company officials told city officials that stainless steel is vulnerable to unpredictable cracking. After Chevron threatened to lay off more than 600 workers if it didn't get city permits for the reconstruction, Richmond gave the go-ahead late last month - although Mayor [Gayle McLaughlin](#) said the affair left her frustrated. "Had we had all the information first, that is always the better way to approach dilemmas and uncertainty," McLaughlin said. "Staff said they had an obligation to go forward - that it was an administrative decision and they made it."

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Chevron-firefighters-may-have-gouged-pipe-4166310.php>

#### USA, WASHINGTON DC, JANUARY 5 2012. TRANSOCEAN AGREES TO PLEAD GUILTY TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME AND ENTER CIVIL SETTLEMENT TO RESOLVE U.S. CLEAN WATER ACT PENALTY CLAIMS FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON INCIDENT

stacy kika

Transocean Deepwater Inc. has agreed to plead guilty to violating the Clean Water Act (CWA) and to pay a total of \$1.4 billion in civil and criminal fines and penalties, for its conduct in relation to the Deepwater Horizon disaster, the Department of Justice announced today. The criminal information, and a proposed partial civil consent decree to resolve the U.S. government's civil penalty claims against Transocean Deepwater Inc. and related entities were filed today in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Louisiana. Transocean Deepwater Inc. has signed a cooperation and guilty plea agreement with the government, also filed today, admitting its criminal conduct. As part of the plea agreement, Transocean Deepwater Inc. has agreed, subject to the court's approval, to pay \$400 million in criminal fines and penalties and to continue its on-going cooperation in the government's criminal investigation. In addition, pursuant to the terms of a proposed partial civil consent decree also lodged with the court today, Transocean Ocean Holdings LLC, Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling Inc., Transocean Deepwater Inc. and Triton Asset Leasing GMBH have agreed to pay an additional \$1 billion to resolve federal Clean Water Act civil penalty claims for the massive, three-month-long oil spill at the Macondo Well and the Transocean drilling rig Deepwater Horizon. Under the civil settlement, the Transocean defendants also must implement court-enforceable measures to improve the operational safety and emergency response capabilities at all their drilling rigs working in waters of the United States. "This resolution of criminal allegations and civil claims against Transocean brings us one significant step closer to justice for the human, environmental and economic devastation wrought by the Deepwater Horizon disaster," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "This agreement holds Transocean criminally accountable for its conduct and provides nearly a billion dollars in criminal and civil penalties for the benefit of the Gulf states. I am particularly grateful today to the many Justice Department personnel and federal investigative agency partners for the hard work that led to today's resolution and their continuing pursuit of justice for the people of the Gulf." "Today's settlement and plea agreement is an important step toward holding Transocean and those responsible for the Deepwater Horizon disaster accountable," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "EPA will continue to work with DOJ and its federal partners to vigorously pursue the government's claims against all responsible parties and ensure that we are taking every possible step to restore and protect the Gulf Coast ecosystem." "Today's announced settlement will aid the Gulf region's recovery from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and require Transocean to take important steps that will help guard against such incidents happening in the future," said Acting Associate Attorney General Tony West. "This resolution is the culmination of the tremendous efforts of many attorneys and staff in the Justice Department's Criminal, Civil and Environment and Natural Resources Divisions - dedicated public servants whose hard work continues on behalf of the American people." "Transocean's rig crew accepted the direction of BP well site leaders to proceed in the face of clear danger



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signs — at a tragic cost to many of them,” said Lanny A. Breuer, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s Criminal Division. “Transocean’s agreement to plead guilty to a federal crime, and to pay a total of \$1.4 billion in criminal and civil penalties, appropriately reflects its role in the Deepwater Horizon disaster.” “The development and exploration of a domestic source of energy is vitally important, and it can and must be done in a responsible and sound manner. This unprecedented settlement under the Clean Water Act demonstrates that companies will be held fully accountable for their conduct and share responsibility for compliance with the laws that protect the public and the environment from harm,” said Ignacia S. Moreno, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s Environment and Natural Resources Division. “This settlement will provide immediate relief and benefits to the people of the five Gulf states, and requires Transocean to implement significant safety measures, as well as stringent auditing and monitoring to reduce the risk of any future disasters.” According to court documents, on April 20, 2010, while stationed at the Macondo well site in the Gulf of Mexico, the Deepwater Horizon rig experienced an uncontrolled blowout and related explosions and fire, which resulted in the deaths of 11 rig workers and the largest oil spill in U.S. history. In agreeing to plead guilty, Transocean Deepwater Inc. has admitted that members of its crew onboard the Deepwater Horizon, acting at the direction of BP’s “Well Site Leaders” or “company men,” were negligent in failing fully to investigate clear indications that the Macondo well was not secure and that oil and gas were flowing into the well. The criminal resolution is structured to directly benefit the Gulf region. Under the order presented to the court, \$150 million of the \$400 million criminal recovery is dedicated to acquiring, restoring, preserving and conserving – in consultation with appropriate state and other resource managers – the marine and coastal environments, ecosystems and bird and wildlife habitat in the Gulf of Mexico and bordering states harmed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This portion of the criminal recovery will also be directed to significant barrier island restoration and/or river diversion off the coast of Louisiana to further benefit and improve coastal wetlands affected by the oil spill. An additional \$150 million will be used to fund improved oil spill prevention and response efforts in the Gulf through research, development, education and training. The civil settlement secures \$1 billion in civil penalties for violations of the CWA, a record amount that significantly exceeds last year’s \$70 million civil penalty paid by MOEX Offshore 2007 LLC, a 10 percent partner with BP in the Macondo well venture. The unprecedented \$1 billion civil penalty is subject to the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (Restore Act), which provides that 80 percent of the penalty will be to be used to fund projects in and for the Gulf states for the environmental and economic benefit of the region. This civil resolution reserves claims for natural resource damages and clean-up costs. Under the civil settlement, the Transocean defendants must also observe various court-enforceable strictures in its drilling operations, aimed at reducing the chances of another blowout and discharge of oil and at improving emergency response capabilities. Examples of these requirements include certifications of maintenance and repair of blowout preventers before each new drilling job, consideration of process safety risks, and personnel training related to oil spills and responses to other emergencies. These measures apply to all rigs operated or owned by the Transocean defendants in all U.S. waters and will be in place for at least five years. The guilty plea agreement and criminal charge announced today are part of the ongoing criminal investigation by the Deepwater Horizon Task Force into matters related to the April 2010 Gulf oil spill. The Deepwater Horizon Task Force, based in New Orleans, is supervised by Assistant Attorney General Breuer and led by Deputy Assistant Attorney General John D. Buretta, who serves as the director of the task force. The task force includes prosecutors from the Criminal Division and the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice; the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana, as well as other U.S. Attorneys’ Offices; and investigating agents from the FBI, EPA, Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The civil resolution announced today is part of the ongoing litigation against defendants BP Exploration and Production Inc., the Transocean defendants, and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation (among others) for civil penalties, injunctive relief, and a declaration of unlimited liability for removal costs and damages under the Oil Pollution Act. The civil enforcement effort is supervised by Assistant Attorney General Moreno for the Environment and Natural Resources Division and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Brian Hauck of the Civil Division. Numerous federal agencies have contributed immeasurably to these enforcement and settlement efforts, including the EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. The criminal case against Transocean is being prosecuted by Deepwater Horizon Task Force Deputy Directors Derek A. Cohen and Avi Gesser, and task force prosecutors Richard R. Pickens II, Scott M. Cullen, Colin Black and Rohan Virginkar. Numerous Environment Division and Civil Division lawyers are pursuing the civil enforcement action, led by Steve O’Rourke and R. Michael Underhill.



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An information is merely a charge and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The proposed civil settlement is subject to a public comment period and final court approval.

<http://www.epa.gov/enforcement/water/cases/transocean.html>

#### USA, VT, ST. ALBANS, JANUARY 5 2013. TANKER TRUCK ROLLED OVER ON I-89 FRIDAY MORNING

joe gullo



A tanker truck rolled on its side into the median on I-89 south between exits 18 and 19 Friday morning. Officials say the tanker was filled with 9,200 gallons of off road diesel fuel. The Vermont Hazmat team was called in and shutdown the left lane. As a precaution, the fuel needed to be drained before they could remove the truck. "There was no real fire dangers here, just worried about the environment," Harold Cross, St. Albans Town Fire Chief, said. "We don't want the tank to breach so we are going to empty it." Officials say everything was contained and there were no major leaks. The driver of the truck may have been crowded toward the median while he was next to another truck.

<http://www.fox44abc22yourvoice.com/story/20504907/tanker-truck-rolled-over-on-i-89-friday-morning>

#### NIGERIA, OSUN STATE, IDI IROKO, JANUARY 5 2013. THREE BURNT BEYOND RECOGNITION IN OGUN TANKER ACCIDENT

remi feyisipo



The Ogun command of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has said two children and an adult were burnt beyond recognition in an accident involving a petrol tanker around Idi Iroko area of the state on Thursday. The Idi Iroko unit commander of the FRSC, Irunoje David, said in Abeokuta that the accident involving 18 people occurred at about 1a.m at Aseko Agosasa road in Idi Iroko. He said a fuel-laden articulated vehicle marked LAGOS AAA 36 XA lost control and rammed into two other tankers before it caught fire. "I think there was a spark from the tanker and then it caught fire; the two children and another person were burnt beyond recognition. "Their bodies had been deposited at the General Hospital, Ipokia, while others in critical conditions are still receiving treatment", he said. The unit commander urged drivers to observe the rules and regulations on safe driving.

<http://www.businessdayonline.com/NG/index.php/news/latest/49841-three-burnt-beyond-recognition-in-ogun-tanker-accident>

#### CHINA, HENAN PROVINCE, XIXIA CO, NANYANG, JANUARY 5 2013. 1 DEAD, 2 MISSING AFTER TANKER HITS BUILDING IN CENTRAL CHINA

At least one person died and two others went missing after a tanker truck slammed into a residential building and caught fire Thursday night in Central China's Henan Province, local authorities said. The accident occurred around 8:50 p.m. on a section of National Highway 312 in Xixia county of the city of Nanyang, according to the county publicity department. The liquefied gas-loaded tanker collided with a truck while attempting to pass the vehicle, then veered off the road and slammed into a roadside building. County government sources said the tanker driver is presumed to be dead, adding that a couple living in the building went missing after the accident. It is not clear if there are other passengers in the tanker, as firefighters must wait and



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let the gas in the tanker burn out before combing through the wreckage. More than 600 nearby residents have been relocated over concerns of a possible explosion, the sources said. A further investigation into the accident is under way.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/753673.shtml>

#### USA, LA, ST CHARLES, JANUARY 5 2013. 113 CITATIONS GIVEN OUT FOR SHOOTING FIREWORKS

*jonathan menard*



*Fireworks seized by the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office.*

Despite repeated warnings that included phone calls, emails and Facebook messages reminding residents that fireworks were illegal, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office deputies still found plenty of violators. During the New Year's holiday, deputies issued 113 citations and confiscated \$10,000 worth of fireworks. The vast majority of the citations were handed out between 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m. on New Year's Eve, according to the Sheriff's Office. "It is disheartening that so many chose to participate in this illegal activity, especially after the extensive publicity reminding residents that the sale, possession and

use of fireworks was illegal in St. Charles Parish," Sheriff Greg Champagne said. "The Sheriff's Office does not make the laws, but it is our responsibility to enforce them." In March, the St. Charles Parish Council shot down a law to legalize fireworks in a 5-4 vote. The ordinance would have allowed the popping of fireworks for a few days a year during limited hours. The current fireworks ban has proven difficult to enforce because deputies are usually called to deal with more important crimes during the New Year's Eve weekend. Deputies must also catch someone in the act of shooting fireworks because most of the noise complaints the Sheriff's Office receives come from anonymous callers. However, Champagne said it is clear that the council and Parish President V.J. St. Pierre expect the law to be enforced. "Twice in the last two years the council considered and rejected a repeal of the fireworks ban," Champagne said. "In fact, practically no one appeared to support the appeal." This year, the Sheriff's Office used a special task force in order to help enforce the law. Violating the fireworks law can mean up to 30 days in jail and a fine of up to \$100, Champagne said. While more than 100 people were cited for fireworks, a couple was also arrested after authorities say John McFadden, 41, of 573 Cypress Drive in Luling, fired an AR-15 rifle in the backyard of his home on New Year's Eve. McFadden's wife, Amy, was also arrested because deputies say she hindered their investigation by not telling officers where her husband was after they arrived at the home. McFadden was later located inside his house. J. McFadden was charged with illegal use of weapons and resisting an officer. A. McFadden was booked with accessory to the illegal use of a weapon and resisting an officer. Both were released from jail after posting bond on Jan. 1.

<http://www.heraldguide.com/details.php?id=11907>

#### SCOTLAND, GLASGOW, JANUARY 5 2013. AFTER 20 YEARS, SCOTLAND 'STILL RISKS ANOTHER BRAER DISASTER'

*julia horton*

Environmentalists will today mark the 20th anniversary of Scotland's worst-ever oil spill with a warning that another marine disaster is "never far away" due to the combined risk of safety cutbacks and record levels of North Sea drilling. Some 85,000 tonnes of crude oil leaked into the sea when the Liberian-registered tanker MV Braer ran aground off Shetland on 5 January, 1993. Specialist emergency towing vessels were introduced the following year to help prevent similar disasters on the advice of Lord Donaldson, who led an inquiry into the incident. But two decades on, only one of the two tugs stationed in Scottish waters remains in service after UK ministers cut funding for the service, which is a reserved matter. Both the Scottish and UK Governments are also supporting unprecedented exploration of oil reserves, raising further fears of an environmental tragedy like the BP Deepwater oil rig explosion in 2010, which killed 11 workers and caused the biggest offshore spill in US history. In 2011, a leaking pipeline at rival oil giant Shell's Gannett Alpha platform, around 100 miles east of Aberdeen, caused the UK's worst oil spill for a decade. WWF Scotland spokesman Lang Banks said: "The Braer disaster was most definitely an extremely close shave in environmental terms. "Thousands of birds are still estimated to have perished and marine wildlife, such as shellfish, finfish and marine mammals were badly affected [with] thousands of pounds lost by fisheries and salmon farms. Despite the passage of some 20 years, the sad fact is that much of Scotland's marine environment remains just as much at risk from oil and other pollution. We urgently need to see a more permanent solution regarding emergency towing vessel cover around Scotland's coastline. "Every year, the oil and gas industry is responsible for almost a thousand oil and chemical spills



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in the North Sea. As the recent accidents on Total's Elgin and Shell's Gannet Alpha platforms show, we are never far away from the next major pollution incident." Criticising both governments over their support for oil, Mr Banks added: "We've ministers hell-bent on squeezing every last drop of oil and gas from beneath the North Sea, which is leading companies to drill in more hazardous deep-water locations." Funding for all four UK emergency tugs was cut in 2011, but briefly extended for the two Scottish boats following an outcry. The vessel for the Western Isles finally stopped operating last March, while UK ministers agreed to keep funding the remaining tug, covering the Northern Isles, until 2015. Lengthy talks with the oil and gas industry have so far failed to see the sector invest in additional emergency cover. A Friends of the Earth Scotland spokesman said: "It is bad enough that we are down to only one tug stationed many hours steaming time from some of Scotland's most vulnerable places. "Even worse, there is no sign that the UK Government's penny-pinching ruse to get the industry to pay for this tug in the future is going to work. Instead of throwing massive tax subsidies at the oil industry, the government should be making sure that we are protected from another Braer by restoring and guaranteeing cover by two emergency tugs. "Anything less is gambling with Scotland's environment and our coastal economies." Environment secretary Richard Lochhead said cuts to emergency tugs remained a "major concern" for the Scottish Government and criticised the UK Government for "botching" its handling of the issue and leaving Scottish waters "under-protected". He added: "Twenty years ago, Braer was a wake-up that everything was not right when it came to safeguarding our waters. It is vital that the UK government never allows - complacency to creep in due to the passage of time because, even today, oil leaks are still happening. "Thankfully, the Shetland environment has recovered and such major incidents are very rare. "Safety - both for the marine environment and those who work offshore - must be a priority. Over the past two decades, there have been significant improvements in the safety of the oil and gas industry. The highest standards must be maintained and that's why Marine Scotland works closely with other agencies and partners to ensure marine protection remains paramount." The SNP remains committed to exploiting oil with First Minister Alex Salmond this week describing it as a "sunrise" industry in a New Year address. The Scotland Office, meanwhile, stressed that talks with the industry over emergency cover continued. A spokesman said: "Having secured funding for a tug [for Scotland], we are continuing to speak to the oil and gas industry about a second tug." Industry body Oil and Gas UK said that exploration had caused far less damage than tanker accidents, but added the industry was "not complacent" and worked "constructively" with regulators and environmental groups on safety.

**Related Links** [Strong winds prevented the oil spill from being worse](#)

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/environment/after-20-years-scotland-still-risks-another-braer-disaster-1-2719723>

### COLOMBIA, BOGOTA, JANUARY 5 2013. COLOMBIA TRIES TO CONTAIN OIL SPILL AFTER REBELS BOMB PIPELINE

Colombia's state-controlled oil company Ecopetrol (EC, ECOPETROL.BO) said Friday it's trying to contain an oil spill in northern Colombia after rebels attacked the country's second-longest crude oil pipeline. Ecopetrol "has implemented its contingency plan to control the oil that has spilled into the Margua river," the company said in a statement. "Ecopetrol emphatically rejects these terrorist attacks that impact the environment." The dynamite attack on the Cano Limon pipeline, which is owned by Ecopetrol and used by both Ecopetrol and Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum (OXY), happened Thursday night in the Norte de Santander state, which borders Venezuela. It wasn't clear which rebel group is responsible for the attack. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, is typically blamed for such bombings, but the group, which is in peace talks with the government, recently declared a cease-fire on all attacks until Jan. 20. It has been accused, however, of breaking the cease-fire several times. Another rebel group, the National Liberation Army, or ELN, also attacks oil pipelines in the region and it is not involved in any peace talks. An increase in oil-pipeline bombings earlier this year caused Colombia's total oil production levels to drop. But the attacks have been few and far between in recent months, allowing Colombia's oil production to rebound and reach record levels in recent weeks of about 1 million barrels a day.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/04/colombia-tries-to-contain-oil-spill-after-rebels-bomb-pipeline/>

### USA, TX, CONROE, JANUARY 6 2012. LAWSUIT SEEKS \$50M IN CONROE EXPLOSION

*brad meyer*

The family of a man killed in a 2011 workplace explosion in Conroe has filed suit seeking up to \$50 million in damages based on allegations of negligence and gross negligence. Rick Kelley, 38, was one of two men injured July 30, 2011, when an industrial battery exploded at Professional Direction, an oilfield service company located at 750 Conroe Park North Drive. He



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died of injuries related to the explosion later that night. Named in the suit are the employer, Professional Direction; Electrochem Solutions, the company that manufactured the battery; Excell Battery Corporation, the company marketing and selling the battery; Mark Miller and Karen Murphey. The suit was filed Dec. 21 by attorney Matthew Mussalli on behalf of Kelley's widow Tonya and her two children, ages 10 and 15, who attend Conroe Independent School District schools. Kelley was employed at Professional Directional from 2008 until his death in 2011. "The Kelley family wants justice," Mussalli said. "The legal system is the only way they can achieve it." At the time of the incident, Conroe Assistant Fire Chief Paul Sims said the cause of the explosion was unknown but noted the presence of vinyl chloride, which was present in the building, was "deadly" when in contact with water, as reported in The Courier July 31, 2011. The battery that exploded consisted of a series of power cells arranged in a row, approximately 4 feet long and nearly 2 inches in diameter, housed in a copper-beryllium case, according to Mussalli. The Conroe fire marshal was quoted in The Courier as saying the battery in question was typically heated up prior to use – although whether that played a role in the explosion was unknown. The suit alleges the parties named were aware of potential hazards associated with the ion lithium battery and the potential danger to workers handling the device. Documents obtained by The Courier indicate federal officials with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigated the explosion. On Dec. 15, 2011, Professional Directional was cited for two workplace violations and fined \$18,900. A week later, the company filed a notice of contest challenging the alleged violations. Because of that challenge, details regarding the OSHA filings are unavailable. Mussalli said investigation into the incident has taken a significant amount of time and is ongoing. He anticipates a trial date will be set within 12-18 months of filing the lawsuit. Professional Direction and Excell Battery Corporation were contacted for comment on the suit but did not respond. Joan Earle, of Electrochem Solutions, said it is company policy not to comment on ongoing litigation.

**Related Links** [Explosion at Amerigas near Conroe injures 8, 2 critically](#)

[http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/courier/news/lawsuit-seeks-m-in-conroe-explosion/article\\_61a203a8-defe-5a1b-a52c-1ba9a94738f0.html](http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/courier/news/lawsuit-seeks-m-in-conroe-explosion/article_61a203a8-defe-5a1b-a52c-1ba9a94738f0.html)

#### INDIA, GUJARAT, HAZIRA, JANUARY 6 2013. MAJOR FIRE AT INDIAN OIL CORPORATION'S HAZIRA DEPOT

himanshu bhatt

**Watch the Video's:**

- [Major Fire in Hazira, Gujarat Oil Tank of IOC](#)
- [Major Fire Breaks Out at IOC's Hazira Terminal](#)
- [Major Fire at Indian Oil Corporation's Storage](#)
- [Major Fire at IOC Facility in Hazira near Surat](#)
- [Major Fire at IOC Plant in Hajira](#)

**Photo Gallery [14]**

- [Major Fire At IOC Facility In Hazira Near Surat](#)



An explosion set off a major fire at a diesel storage tank of Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) Hazira terminal in Surat on Saturday at 12.30pm. IOC sources said the tank number 4 had developed a leak three days ago and welding work by three workers from IOC's Vadodara unit was on when the explosion occurred. The whereabouts of the welders were not known. However, Surat district collector J P Shivhare said there were no reports of any casualties so far. Meanwhile, 500 fire fighters from Surat, Navsari and Billimora were battling to extinguish the fire. Fire fighters from ONGC, L&T, Essar and Reliance Industries were also assisting them. At least 25 water tankers are engaged in putting out the fire in the tank, while over 55 fire tenders and 30 water tankers trying to prevent spreading of fire to other tanks in the vicinity. It would still take several hours before the fire is extinguished, sources said. There are 17 tanks in

the depot located at Ichapur near Batha in Hazira, some 18 km away from Surat city. Each tank has a capacity to store 55 lakh litres of petroleum products. So far the IOC has suffered a loss of about Rs 50 crore and this could go up to Rs 150 crore, sources said. There are 40 petrol rail wagons of ONGC stationed near the IOC terminal depot. The first priority of the authorities is to shift them to a safe location. Pankaj Patel, chief fire officer, Surat Municipal Corporation, said the upper lid of



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the tank was blown 30 metres away in the explosion. He said the billowing smoke was making it difficult for the fire fighters and the night could make the matters worse. Patel said there was a requirement of 22,000 litres of water per minute to put out the fire and check its spread. He said assistance has also been sought from Ahmedabad and Vadodara fire brigades.

#### Related Links

- [Major fire breaks out at IOC's Hazira terminal, no casualty](#)  
A major fire broke out at the Indian Oil Company (IOC) terminal at Hazira in Surat Saturday afternoon.
- [Major fire at Indian Oil Corporation's Hazira depot](#)  
An explosion set off a major fire at a diesel storage tank of Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) Hazira terminal in Surat on Saturday at 12.30pm.
- [Fire at IOC depot in Gujarat; no casualties reported](#)  
A fire erupted and spread at a fuel storage terminal of state-run Indian Oil Corp (IOC.NS) in Hazira in Gujarat on Saturday, a company executive said, an incident which may force India's largest refiner to import fuel.
- [Fire at IOC's Hazira terminal](#)  
A major fire broke out at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)'s Hazira Terminal in Gujarat this afternoon. The fire was reported at one of the storage tankers containing petrol at IOC's Hazira complex.
- [Major fire at Indian Oil's Hazira terminal](#)  
A major fire broke out Saturday at a petrol storage tank in Hazira terminal of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) in Gujarat, company officials said.
- [IOC fire: Firefighters struggle hard to bring Hazira fire under control](#)  
A major fire that broke out at Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)'s Hazira Terminal in Gujarat, remained uncontrolled till late evening on Saturday.
- [Major fire at petrol storage tank](#)  
A major fire broke out on Saturday at a petrol storage tank of state-owned fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation's Hazira terminal near Surat in Gujarat.
- [Major fire breaks out at IOC's Hazira terminal](#)  
A major fire broke out today at a petrol storage tank of state-owned Indian Oil Corp's (IOC) Hazira terminal in Gujarat.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/Major-fire-at-Indian-Oil-Corporations-Hazira-depot/articleshow/17905905.cms>

#### PAKISTAN, TARNOL, SANGJANI, JANUARY 7 2013. THREE KILLED IN GAS FACTORY EXPLOSION AT SANGJANI

*shakeel anjum*

As many as three workers were killed and two others sustained critical injuries in a blast in an oxygen factory at Sangjani near Tarnol here on Sunday. The structure of the factory collapsed after the explosion at about 10:45 am, the Rescue-1122 said. The rescuers said that three workers were buried under the debris, while two others, who were at a distance, sustained serious injuries. The workers remained buried for more than one hour. However, the rescuers removed the concrete debris and recovered three workers, the locals said, adding that two of them had expired while one was taken out alive. However, he was critically injured and succumbed to his injuries in the hospital during surgery. Local volunteers and personnel of the Rescue-1122 shifted the bodies and injured men to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS). The blast occurred in Aslam Factory and Medical Gases located near the Sangjani Toll Plaza at about 10:45 am and the building caved in, the eyewitnesses said. The locals informed the Rescue-1122, Rawalpindi, at 10:50 am and the rescue squad, comprising 40 rescuers and 11 vehicles, reached the scene and started rescue work, the rescuers said. They added that two workers were shifted to the PIMS immediately, while the operation for pulling out the three trapped workers was initiated later. According to the Tarnol Police, the incident occurred after an oxygen gas cylinder exploded in the factory during the filling process. Police said that the factory was run by Muhammad Iqbal and several cylinders were placed there. A cylinder exploded during the filling process resulting in sudden fire and collapse of the building. Three employees of the gas factory — Noor Elahi, Dilshad and Zaheer — died on the spot while two men, including Javed, sustained critical injuries. The rescuers said that over 500 cylinders were placed in the factory when the blast occurred. One kanal of covered area collapsed after the explosion. The total area of the factory was 4.5 kanals, which was damaged badly. The bodies were shifted to the PIMS and Tarnol Police have arrested the owner of the gas factory. Further investigation is underway.

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-152905-Three-killed-in-gas-factory-explosion-at-Sangjani>



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