



Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

Release 2013 – 930 Newsy Stuff

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February 14 2013



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USA, KS, OVERLAND PARK, FEBRUARY 5 2013. 100 GALLONS OF FUEL SPILLS AT OVERLAND PARK GAS STATION

chris oberholtz

 [Watch the Video](#) [100 Gallons of Fuel Spills](#)



Fire officials are monitoring a large fuel spill at an Overland Park convenience station. Firefighters were called about 4:15 a.m. Monday to a hazardous materials response at a Quick Trip located at 9200 Santa Fe Drive. Authorities were told by a fuel tanker driver that while filling the gas station's underground tanks, about 100 gallons of fuel spilled into the parking lot and into a nearby storm drain. Firefighters and environmental workers monitored the air in the storm drain to make sure there was no danger of an explosion. All levels were reported to be safe about 6:45 a.m., firefighters said, and the Kansas Department of Emergency Management and Johnson County Environmental have been contacted. The Quick Trip was temporarily closed while crews cleaned up the fuel spill. No injuries were reported.

<http://www.kctv5.com/story/20955262/100-gallons-of-fuel-spills-at-overland-park-gas-station>

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, FEBRUARY 6 2013. PETRON ENDS CONTRACTS OF 21 'UNSCRUPULOUS' SERVICE STATION DEALERS

amy remo



Petron Corp. has terminated the contracts of 21 service station dealers for erring practices, such as obtaining their fuel supplies from other sources with questionable quality. These fuels, according to Petron, are being passed off as Petron products "to the detriment of the consuming public who unwittingly load their vehicles with substandard products." "It is our duty to make sure the consuming public only gets Petron's top-of-the-line fuel and lubricant products whenever they go to a Petron station. We do not tolerate these illegal activities and we will continue to go after unscrupulous dealers within our network to ensure the integrity of the Petron brand," company vice president for national sales Archie B. Gupalor said in a statement issued Tuesday. According to

Petron, it discovered the illegal activities of these service station dealers after a thorough investigation backed by regular readings of the station's dispensing pumps, which showed that the quantity of products sold at the stations was greater than the quantity purchased by the dealers from Petron.

Regularly Checked

Petron's pumps, which are equipped with monitoring systems to determine the volume dispensed, are regularly checked by Petron representatives as part of the company's standard operating procedure. Following this discovery, all Petron paraphernalia and equipment have already been pulled out. To underscore the seriousness of its efforts to go after erring dealers, the company recently filed criminal charges against a dealer in Bogo City, Cebu. The Bogo City Prosecutor's Office found probable cause on allegations by Petron that the dealer committed criminal acts of trademark infringement, unfair competition, and false designation of origin. "From jurisprudence, unfair competition has been defined as the passing off or attempting to pass off upon the public of the goods or business of the one person as the goods or business of another with the end and probable effect of deceiving the public. The essential elements of unfair competition are: confusing similarity in the general appearance of the goods, and intent to deceive the public and defraud a competitor. All of these elements without a doubt exist in this case," a resolution penned by Bogo Acting City Prosecutor Ivy A. Tejano stated.

5 Years' Imprisonment

If found guilty, the dealer faces imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to P200,000. Over the past years, the oil industry has been beset with unscrupulous activities including product adulteration and rampant smuggling. Unabated smuggling has caused illegal dumping wherein station dealers are enticed to get cheaper fuels and pass them off as branded products, the oil firm said. "We wish to reassure the motoring public that we have robust systems and procedures in place to



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detect and stop these illegal activities," Gupalor said. "We continue to deploy the latest technologies and competent personnel at the service station level to ensure that consumers are getting what they pay for." Petron currently maintains the largest retail network in the oil industry with over 2,000 service stations across the country as of end-2012.

<http://business.inquirer.net/105025/petron-ends-contracts-of-21-unscrupulous-service-station-dealers>

USA, CA, SAN RAMON, FEBRUARY 6 2013. CHEVRON ANNOUNCES REALIGNMENT OF GAS AND MIDSTREAM BUSINESS



Chevron Corporation, an integrated energy company, has announced that it will realign its Gas and Midstream business by consolidating the company's supply and trading functions into a single supply and trading group within Chevron's Gas and Midstream organization. Until now, Chevron's downstream organization oversaw the company's trading operations for crude oil and refined products, while the company's Gas and Midstream business was responsible for Chevron's natural gas and liquefied natural gas trading operations. "These changes will more tightly integrate our supply and trading activities and allow our Gas and Midstream organization to create value across our upstream and downstream assets," said Chevron Chairman and CEO John Watson. Watson said that Joseph Geagea will lead the new organization and retain his title as corporate vice president and president, Chevron Gas and Midstream. In

addition to supply and trading, Geagea will continue to be responsible for the company's shipping, pipeline, power and gas commercialization operations. Geagea will report to Watson in his expanded role effective immediately. The new Gas and Midstream organization will be effective June 1, 2013. "Joe's enterprise-wide experience makes him well qualified to lead this organization," added Watson. Geagea joined Chevron in 1982. Since the early 1990s, he has held a variety of executive and management positions in both the upstream and downstream operations of the company. Previously, Geagea was managing director, Chevron Asia South Ltd., Chevron Asia Pacific Exploration and Production Company. Earlier, he was vice president, Upstream Capability, Chevron International Exploration and Production Company. He also served as president of Fuel & Marine Marketing and as president of the company's downstream operations in East Africa, the Middle East and Pakistan. Following the Chevron and Texaco merger in 2001, Geagea led the integration of the two companies' downstream operations.

<http://www.equities.com/news/headline-story?dt=2013-02-05&val=1004524&cat=energy>

USA, WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 6, 2013. CSB TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING IN LOUISVILLE, KY TO RELEASE FINAL REPORT INTO THE FATAL 2011 FIRE AND EXPLOSION AT CARBIDE INDUSTRIES



The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) announced that it will hold a public meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2013, to present the findings from its investigation into the [March 21, 2011, fire and explosion](#) that occurred at the Carbide Industries facility located in Louisville, KY. The plant produces calcium carbide, a chemical used industrially to produce acetylene gas for welding and other applications. The accident fatally injured two workers and two others were injured when an electric arc furnace (EAF) over pressured and emitted powdered debris, hot gases, and molten calcium carbide. The hot gases and debris blown from the furnace broke through the double-pane reinforced glass window of the control room, severely burning the two workers inside; they died within 24 hours from burn injuries. CSB Chairperson Rafael Moure-Eraso said, "I encourage workers and members of the public to attend the CSB's public meeting, which will present the formal findings

and safety recommendations resulting from this accident. The CSB investigation revealed a number of prior incidents involving the electric arc furnace, but tragically these did not result in adequate safeguards being put in place for workers. The accident has important lessons for other operations using industrial furnaces." The meeting will take place at 6:30 pm EST at the Seelbach Hilton, located at 500 Fourth Street, Louisville, KY in the Medallion E&F. Follow the CSB's meeting live on [Twitter @Chemsafetyboard](#). The meeting will include a public comment period where members of the audience are encouraged to remark on the board's findings and recommendations. At the conclusion of the public comment period, the Board will consider



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whether to approve the final report and recommendations. The Board meeting is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required to attend the public meeting in person; to register for the event, please send email to publicmeeting@csb.gov. Members of the audience will have an opportunity to comment on the draft report and new safety recommendations, as presented by the investigative staff. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents. The agency's board members are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. CSB investigations look into all aspects of chemical accidents, including physical causes such as equipment failure as well as inadequacies in regulations, industry standards, and safety management systems. The Board does not issue citations or fines but does make safety recommendations to plants, industry organizations, labor groups, and regulatory agencies such as OSHA and EPA. Visit our website, www.csb.gov. For more information, contact Communications Director Hillary Cohen, (202) 261-3601, cell (202) 446-8094 email: hillary.cohen@csb.gov or Sandy Gilmour at (202) 251-5496 email: sandy.gilmour@csb.gov.

http://www.csb.gov/assets/news/document/CSB_Announces_Public_Meeting_in_Louisville.pdf

BURMA, RANGOON, FEBRUARY 6 2013. RANGOON OIL TANKER BLAST KILLS 4, INJURES 6

lawi weng



People gather near the riverside premises of Myawaddy Trade Company on Monday evening, where a blast on an oil tanker caused a fire to spread.

A blast and an ensuing fire destroyed two tankers carrying oil on Rangoon's Hlaing River on Monday afternoon, killing four crew members and injuring six others, the Rangoon Fire Fighters Department said. At the time of the accident the tankers were trying to dock at Myawaddy Trading Company, which is part of the Burmese military-owned Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited. "Four people were killed; this is the number that we know. There are six people who were wounded; three people of them are in serious condition in the hospital," a Rangoon Region Fire Fighters Department official told a visiting reporter on Tuesday. The official, who declined to be named as he was not authorized to talk to the media, said the wounded were being treated at Rangoon

General Hospital. One of the tankers was docking at the jetty of Myawaddy Trading Company terrain when an explosion occurred on board causing a fire to spread. A second vessel, docked beside it, also caught fire. It remains unclear what caused the explosion. Soon after, company workers on the shore pushed the burning vessels onto the main river, while some of dead and injured crew members were still on board, according to a crewman, who was waiting outside the company premises. "They were very brutal because they pushed tankers to the river after the fire and the blast. This is why the tankers were destroyed," said the man, who declined to be named. Later, firefighters rescued some of the men from the burning vessels and tried in vain to stop the fires. Workers ashore had pushed the boats away in order to prevent fire from spreading to the industrial area, where the company has oil storage facilities and large piles of timber. Some timber caught fire but it did not spread across the premises. The first vessel to catch fire sank into the river at around 5 pm on Monday. On Tuesday morning, the burned-out hull of the second tanker was still adrift on the Hlaing River. The Myawaddy Trading Company's industrial area was closed off from the public and two ambulances were seen entering the premises on Tuesday morning. Company representatives were not immediately available for comment.

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/26048>

ENGLAND, LONDON, FEBRUARY 6 2013. EURO GARAGES TO BUY 45 SERVICE STATIONS IN £50M DEAL



Forecourt retailer Euro Garages today announced a £50m deal to buy 45 service stations from Esso. The move brings the number of sites owned and operated by the Blackburn company to 120. Euro was founded by brothers Mohsin and Zuber Issa through the purchase of a single Bury filling station in 2001. All of the Esso stations included in the deal are in the north west, north east, Yorkshire and north Wales. Fuel will continue to be supplied by Esso, while the shops at the locations will be branded as Spar convenience stores. Euro managing director Mohsin Issa said: "This is a transformational acquisition for our business, which accelerates our consolidation strategy in the UK and increases our presence in a number of important regions. "It also fits perfectly with our retail proposition, which



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is based on partnering with quality brands to offer our customers the very best experience and value across our forecourts." Chief executive Zuber Issa added: "This acquisition adds a collection of premium location sites to our portfolio, providing considerable opportunity for further development and value creation in the estate alongside our partnership brands. "It also brings a team of skilled, customer-focussed employees who will be crucial to our continued commitment to service on the front line." Funding for the deal was arranged by the Manchester office of Lloyds. Deputy area director Paul Foster said: "While many businesses in the sector are hunkering down in the face of challenging conditions, Euro Garages is a prime example of a business with the confidence to invest in order to drive its growth strategy. "We're keen to show our commitment to backing mid-market companies like Euro Garages, where our support and expertise can help support economic growth in the regions."

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/business/enterprise/euro-garages-to-buy-45-esso-1293807>

USA, MN, MINNEAPOLIS, FEBRUARY 6 2013. LEAKING TANKER TRUCK CLOSES DALE ST. EXIT ON HIGHWAY 36

joseph lindberg



Crews early Tuesday afternoon working to clean up after leaking fuel from a tanker closed the Dale Street exit of westbound Minnesota 36 shortly after 8 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5.

A tanker truck leaking fuel has closed the Dale Street exit on westbound Minnesota 36 Tuesday, Feb. 5. The ramp was closed shortly after 8 a.m. after firefighters responded to the scene and State Patrol officers closed the exit, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Another tanker arrived shortly after the authorities to empty the leaking tanker. The ramp remains closed more than five hours later, the firefighters and emergency crews replaced by crews tasked with cleaning up after the spill. The closure added to snow-fueled commuter headaches across the state and metro area Tuesday

morning. Crippling traffic seized major Twin Cities arteries for hours, including southbound routes of both Interstate 35W and Interstate 35E along with westbound Interstate 94 and westbound Minnesota 36. Nearly two inches of snow fell overnight into Tuesday morning, greasing roads and limiting visibility. By 8 a.m., more than 100 crashes were reported statewide, according to the Minnesota State Patrol. No fatal crashes were reported, but 12 involved injuries that were non-life threatening.

http://www.twincities.com/allheadlines/ci_22522427/leaking-tanker-truck-closes-dale-st-exit-highway

ENGLAND, CATTORPE, FEBRUARY 6 2013. A14 OPENS AFTER GAS TANKER CRASH

warren lee



Emergency services from across two counties have vented a gas-tanker which was involved in a three vehicle pile-up on the A14 near the Catthorpe Interchange today. Northamptonshire and Leicestershire Fire Services, along with police and ambulance crews were alerted before 9am to collision between three vehicles, including a tanker lorry carrying gas on the westbound carriageway between junction 1 at Welford and junction 19 of the M1 near Rugby. A spokesman for Leicestershire Fire and Rescue, said they received a call at 8.47 this morning to reports a gas tanker lorry had been involved in a three vehicle crash on the westbound side of the A14 between Welford and the motorway. Fire crews from Long Buckby and Lutterworth were called to the scene and found gas leaking from the tanker. Experts from BOC were called, an after an assessment, a quantity of argon gas and Co2 was allowed to vent from the vehicle as no environmental threat was posed by the container. The

East Midlands Ambulance service say there was no serious injuries reported. By 2pm, the westbound A14 had full reopened.

<http://www.heart.co.uk/northants/news/local/a14-closure-remains-after-lorry-crash/>

<http://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/news/local/liquid-nitrogen-leaking-onto-a14-following-tanker-crash-1-4753914>

USA, WASHINGTON D.C, FEBRUARY 6 2013. EPA'S FANTASY FUEL >> RATIONALITY IN WASHINGTON IS SCARCER THAN GREEN GAS



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Wishful thinking is overflowing at the [Environmental Protection Agency](#). The [agency](#) just got its knuckles rapped in court for forcing oil refineries to add an unreasonably high volume of biofuels to their products last year. The [EPA's](#) response to judicial chastisement: Demand even more for 2013. Cranking out rules that don't make sense protects nothing but the employment environment for Washington bureaucrats. The problem began in 2007, when [Congress](#) decreed oil companies must start producing hundreds of millions of gallons of a mythical product known as cellulosic biofuel. The mandate forced big oil to spend millions subsidizing the creation of this "advanced" fuel, which is distilled from switchgrass and agricultural waste. The substance would be a competitor to their own product if it actually existed outside of a laboratory. The feds have tried to boost biofuel production by sinking more than \$1.5 billion into startup outfits, but their crony-capitalist efforts thus far have only fuelled bankruptcy, as nobody can figure out how to make the stuff economically. Nonetheless, refineries that failed to mix the chimerical substance into their products at the levels set by the [EPA](#) were fined \$6.8 million in 2011. Late last month, the [U.S. Court of Appeals](#) for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled the [regulatory agency](#) deliberately aimed high in setting targets for 2012. The [EPA](#) had borrowed an estimate from the [U.S. Energy Information Agency](#) for commercial production of cellulosic biofuels in 2012 6.9 million gallons slapped on an extra 25 percent and came up with a projection of 8.65 million gallons. The actual amount produced: zero. Ignoring the [court](#), the [EPA](#) on Thursday released its mandate for biofuels in 2013: 14 million gallons. The plaintiff in the case, the American Petroleum Institute, expressed satisfaction that the [EPA](#) got caught cooking its numbers. "The [court](#) recognized the absurdity of fining companies for failing to use a non-existent biofuel," said API Downstream Group director Bob Greco. "But [EPA](#) wants to nearly double the mandate for the fuel in 2013. ... [EPA](#) needs a serious reality check." [Congress](#) shares blame for the [agency's](#) infatuation with fantasy fuel. Overcome with "global warming" hysteria a few years before the release of the Climategate emails, lawmakers on Capitol Hill enacted the renewable-fuel standard program that mandated the sale of an astronomical half-billion gallons of the quixotic combustible liquid annually by 2012. Lawmakers thought that by mixing biofuels into gasoline, the nation's vehicles would emit less carbon dioxide, resulting in a change of the weather that would rescue the entire planet from impending cataclysm. Writing for the three-judge panel, Senior Circuit Judge Steven F. Williams granted the [EPA](#) some strategic face-saving: "Certainly [EPA](#) must provide a reasoned explanation for its actions, but rationality does not always imply a high degree of quantitative specificity." Given the difference between 8.65 million gallons of biofuels the [EPA](#) required and zero gallons actually produced, the [court](#) could have contended that rationality does not always imply a sense of reality. Americans can draw their own verdict: Rationality is running on empty in Washington.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/feb/5/epas-fantasy-fuel/>

CHINA, SHANXI PROVINCE, FEBRUARY 6 2013. 40 PUNISHED OVER EXPLOSION COVER-UP

Forty people received judicial or disciplinary punishments for their roles in covering up a fatal tunnel explosion that killed eight in Shanxi province on Dec 25, local authorities said on Tuesday. They included 14 people employed by Erchu Co under the China Railway Tunnel Group, which contracted the tunnel project, said a spokesman for the provincial work safety commission. The accident was revealed to the public five days after it occurred after a whistle-blower wrote an online post about the explosion.

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2013-02/06/content_16205235.htm

USA, GA, COLUMBUS, FEBRUARY 6 2013. CHEMICAL TANK CLEANING CAUSES ROTTEN ODOR IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS

ben wright

A rotten smell in the downtown area apparently came from a chemical storage tank at Omega Partners near the Columbus Civic Center, a city official said Tuesday. Larry Wright, manager of operations at Omega Partners, said workers were cleaning a tank with turpentine. "It was a little bit more smell today than normal when we were cleaning the tank," he said. The tank cleaning was complete just after 1 p.m. and the smell should have cleared up, Wright said. He described the smell as a lighter version of what you have at the MeadWestvaco paper mill in Cottonton, Ala. At least three calls came into the Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services shortly after downtown residents smelled what was described as rotten eggs or sulfur, said Fire Marshal Ricky Shores. Workers with the Columbus Water Works detected the smell while at the Water Resources Facility along Lumpkin Boulevard. "It seems to be emanating from the state docks tanks that are located down there," said Lynn Campbell, vice president of water resources operations at the Water Works. Campbell said combined sewer overflow operators detected the smell at about 11 a.m. The Water Works is not connected to the chemical storage tanks, but



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does operate pumping stations on each side of the area known as the tank farm. The facility is located between the Civic Center and the Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus, across from the South Commons softball complex. During heavy rain, the pumping station near the Civic Center pumps sewage to the other side. "We have operators down there and they detected an odor," Campbell said. "We are not on line. There is nothing coming from us." Shores said the chemical poses no health risk unless it's used in fully concentrated amounts. "It's going to evaporate especially on a day like today," he said. "I wouldn't think it would pose an undue health risk." Turpentine is used to clean walls of the tank. The weather may have been a factor with winds blowing out of the southwest Tuesday morning. "That would drag it and push it across downtown," Shores said of the wind. The chemical evaporates quicker when the sun is up. "It depends on weather conditions," he said. "It just had to do with humidity and cloud cover." Shores described the smell as similar to a gas leak, one that hangs around longer when it's cloudy. Wright couldn't say when the company will clean a tank again. "This is not something that happens too often," he said.

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2013/02/05/2372309/chemical-tank-cleaning-causes.html>

USA, WYO, CHEYENNE, FEBRUARY 6 2013. WYOMING OSHA IMPLEMENTS RULES REQUIRING FLAME RESISTANT CLOTHING NEAR WELL BORES & SHUT-OFFS FOR DIESEL DRILLING RIGS



The Wyoming Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is implementing rules that require flame-resistant clothing be worn by all workers within 75 feet radius of a well bore and a rule that mandates emergency shut-down devices on all diesel engines used on a drilling rig. The rules were proposed by the Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Commission. The rules are posted on the Secretary of State's online [database](#). The rules incorporate recommendations from a broad range of stakeholders and considered public comments received during a public hearing in October and input received over a 90-day public comment period. For more information about DWS's OSHA division and

services such as the Wyoming Safety Fund or the longstanding OSHA safety consultation program, call (307) 777-7786.

<http://county10.com/2013/02/04/wyoming-osha-implements-rules-requiring-flame-resistance-clothing-near-well-bores-shut-offs-for-diesel-drilling-rigs/>

USA, WYO, CASPER, FEBRUARY 6 2013. WYOMING OSHA HITS SINCLAIR REFINERY WITH ANOTHER ROUND OF FINES

adam voge

Wyoming's most-fined refinery for safety violations is facing another round of penalties, this time stemming from a formal complaint and three August incidents at the facility. The Wyoming Occupational Safety and Health Administration has proposed a \$259,950 fine against the Sinclair Oil-owned Sinclair Wyoming Refinery just east of Rawlins. The fine would be the largest levied against a refinery in Wyoming in the past five years. The latest round of violations include several for which the refinery has previously been cited, including failure to ensure proper employee training and a lack of up-to-date diagrams for some piping at the facility. New violations charged to the refinery include failure to ensure all equipment was built to design specifications, failure to cover open floor holes and lack of a fire extinguisher at an assigned location. The repeat violations -- which typically carry the largest fines -- account for \$165,000 of the proposed penalties. According to a statement from Sinclair, the company plans to meet with Wyoming OSHA, a division of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, to discuss the fines. "Sinclair takes these citations seriously and is working with great urgency to make refinery-wide safety enhancements," said Sinclair in an emailed statement. The refinery has received more citations and fines than any other in the state in the past five years, according to a recent Star-Tribune analysis of federal OSHA data. The company references three August incidents in the same release but does not specify what happened. Representatives of the company confirmed two different fires and an emergency shutdown procedure that month, according to Star-Tribune reports. No one was injured in any of the events. OSHA staff found a total of 48 violations at an inspection the following month that triggered this round of citations. Inspectors deemed 37 violations serious and six as repeat violations. The inspection was launched as a follow up to previous inspections and because an individual lodged a formal complaint about the facility, said Department of Workforce Services spokeswoman Hayley Douglass via email. She declined to give more details about the complaint. The latest fines proposed by OSHA are part of a series of mishaps and fine-laden inspections at the Sinclair refinery near Rawlins. Two fires in May 2012 which burned six employees -- three severely -- led to two OSHA inspections which earned the facility roughly



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\$215,000 in proposed fines. The fines are considered informal until Sinclair responds. The company has 15 days upon receipt of the violations to appeal or request a conference with OSHA. Fines and violations could be reduced if the company responds. Sinclair and OSHA have each been working in recent months to make Wyoming refineries safer. Sinclair and other refiners in the state have banded together to form the Wyoming Refinery Safety Alliance, a private-public partnership which is regularly assisted by OSHA. The company has also reassigned a vice president to work specifically in safety and has created and planned several new safety-oriented positions.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/wyoming-osh-hits-sinclair-refinery-with-another-round-of-fines/article_d65d56d2-6a9e-5269-9cb5-b2e5ff7c6fc4.html

AUSTRALIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ESPERANCE, FEBRUARY 7 2013. FUEL LEAK AT ESPERANCE FUEL STATION

lauren varyd



Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service crew work on marking off the area after a fuel leak on Wednesday.

A fuel leak at the Coles Express service station last Wednesday night called for a clean up by the Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service. A Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) spokesperson said brigades received a call out to the incident on the corner of Andrew Street and Windich Street at 5.51pm. Brigade members assisted with marking off the area and general clean up. The leak was cleaned up by 6.36pm.

<http://www.esperanceexpress.com.au/story/1279926/fuel-leak-at-esperance-fuel-station/?cs=1520>

SOUTH KOREA, GUMI, FEBRUARY 7 2013. ALERT OVER SOUTH KOREA TOXIC LEAKS >> GOVERNMENT MOVES TO TIGHTEN OVERSIGHT AFTER STRING OF HYDROGEN FLUORIDE ACCIDENTS.

soo bin park

[Watch the Video Hydrogen Fluoride Leak - Several Workers at the Hube Global Chemical Plant Died in a Massive Hydrogen Fluoride Leak.](#)



Government investigators survey the impact of a hydrogen fluoride leak.

By mid-December, the chill winter winds had stripped South Korea's trees bare. But around the city of Gumi, about 280 kilometres south of Seoul, blighted branches still bore a shroud of brown, withered leaves — reminders of the chemical accident that shook the region some three months earlier. At the edges of arable fields, red placards waved in the breeze: "Contaminated by the hydrofluoric acid leak," they warned. "Not edible." On 27 September 2012, about eight tonnes of highly toxic hydrogen fluoride (HF) gas, which dissolves in the moisture in air to form droplets of corrosive hydrofluoric acid, burst from the Hube Global chemical plant in Gumi. The leak killed five workers and injured at least 18 others, including plant employees and emergency personnel. Thousands of local citizens say that inhaling the acid has damaged their health. Exposure to HF can trigger an irregular heartbeat and cause fluid build-up in the lungs, and the long-term health effects include chronic lung disease. The government has said that it will pay about 36.4 billion won (US\$33.4 million) in compensation to citizens and local businesses. This may sound like a freak accident — but it was not. On 15 January, about 2,500 litres of hydrofluoric acid escaped at a factory in Cheongju, injuring one person. And on 28 January, a worker died during a hydrofluoric acid leak at a Samsung Electronics computer-chip plant in Hwaseong. In the wake of the incidents, experts are raising questions about safety in the country's research-intensive chemical and microelectronics industries, and the government is investigating what went wrong. "South Korea tends to focus on resolving accidents only when death occurs, but action to prevent such accidents is still severely lacking," says Lim Hyun-Sul, a researcher in preventive medicine at Dongguk University in Gyeongju. Lim, who has been treating patients for HF exposure since the 1990s, says that preparation is key. "Protocols must be prepared thoroughly in advance, including education of factory workers, firefighters, medical doctors and public servants about the risks of toxic chemicals."



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Handle with Care

Hydrofluoric acid is commonly used by the electronics industry to etch patterns into silicon chips, and as South Korea has become one of the world's leading electronics exporters in recent years, annual consumption of HF has risen sharply. According to the Ministry of Environment, 26 businesses each handled around 10 tonnes of HF in 2001; by 2010, the number of these large-scale handlers had almost tripled, and in 2011, 545 companies were registered as producers or distributors of the gas. A mistake by Hube Global workers may have caused the Gumi disaster. Surveillance-camera footage seen by Nature shows two workers attempting to connect a hose to a valve on top of a HF tank. Neither is wearing protective gear. Suddenly, white vapour gushes from the tank, engulfing the workers and killing them instantly. Prosecutors have indicted three Hube Global executives on suspicion of negligence resulting in death, citing the absence of proper safety equipment and a lax attitude to safety regulations. The disaster was compounded by the regional government's response. "Both the immediate and the long-term response to the hydrofluoric acid release from the South Korean government seemed to be really chaotic and uncontrolled," says Neal Langerman, who runs the consulting company Advanced Chemical Safety, based in San Diego, California. Some firefighters failed to use chemical-protective clothing and self-contained breathing apparatus because they did not initially understand the threat posed by HF. Almost a day passed before they began using calcium hydroxide to neutralize the acid, which is standard procedure after such a leak. Meanwhile, residents nearby were exposed to HF for about four hours before local authorities decided to evacuate them. The following day, they were told to return after investigators found no HF in the air. But thousands of residents soon complained of nausea, chest pains and rashes, suggesting that the all-clear had been sounded too early. Eleven days after the accident, the national government designated the area a 'special disaster zone', and residents began to leave again. Evacuated residents finally returned to their homes in late December, after investigators reported that hydrofluoric acid concentrations had dropped to safe levels. Officials have allowed farming to resume, and work has restarted at Hube Global. But some experts worry that residents should stay away until there has been a more rigorous assessment of safety at the plant. "Three months is not sufficient time for thorough investigations of this incident," says Langerman. Lim adds that long-term monitoring of air and water is essential. "Once underground water gets tainted, there is a possibility that fresh water could become polluted," he says. A stream that lies just 1.5 kilometres from the Hube Global plant flows into the Nakdong River, which supplies water to more than 10 million people in the surrounding area. So far, more than 12,000 people have claimed compensation for their injuries, and Woo Kuck Hyeun, an occupational and environmental physician at Soon Chun Hyang University Hospital in Gumi, is leading a follow-up study of those exposed to the gas. "It's almost an unprecedented case, so we are facing a lot of trial and error," he says. Woo explains that the survey is modelled on a two-year health investigation that followed a 1987 leak at an oil refinery in Texas, when 18 tonnes of HF were released ([H. H. Dayal et al. Ann. Epidemio 2, 213-230; 1992](#)). In contrast to the accident at Gumi, however, the authorities there acted quickly to contain the leak. Within seven minutes of the release, water was used to contain and hydrate the escaping gas; within 20 minutes, a 0.8-kilometre evacuation zone was established. The response to the Gumi accident has already been the subject of a parliamentary inquiry, and South Korea's government has promised to establish a centre that will work with local branches of the environment ministry to oversee the use of dangerous chemicals. Lim says that the regional approach is an important step. "Most chemical plants are located out of Seoul, so it's too late to wait for government agents coming from the capital to deal with an accident." Meanwhile, the clean-up near Gumi continues. On 13 December, the government began burning about 9,100 tonnes of crops and trees killed by the gas, leaving the scene of the accident even more barren than before. "Surrounded by thousands of blighted trees, and watching them every day, recreated the trauma," says Kim Sangho, an elementary-school teacher, explaining why he has not yet returned to his home. "It's nothing different from the Fukushima accident," he adds. "What kind of people would buy the agricultural products from my village even if the government says they are absolutely safe?"

<http://www.nature.com/news/alert-over-south-korea-toxic-leaks-1.12369>

USA, OH, TOLEDO, FEBRUARY 7 2013. FIRSTENERGY SETTLEMENT IS FOR BAYSHORE OIL SPILL

FirstEnergy will pay a \$41,667 fine and donate land and cash valued at a combined \$172,938 to a conservation group to settle seven charges stemming from a small oil spill six years ago at its Bayshore power plant in Oregon, the U.S. EPA reported. The Environmental Protection Agency determined that FirstEnergy's equipment maintenance, spill containment planning, employee training, and containment berms surrounding a 1,000-gallon oil tank at the plant all were inadequate, thus allowing oil to overflow the containment berms when a tank valve failed Feb. 27, 2007. The amount of the overflow was undetermined, but FirstEnergy estimated that 5 gallons of oil entered Lake Erie's nearby waters. The utility is to pay the fine to EPA and



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donate \$40,000 plus 59.99 acres of ecologically valuable land along Lake Erie in North Kingsville, Ohio, to CGV, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. The settlement is proposed to be combined with similar consent agreements stemming from two other spills at FirstEnergy plants in Cleveland and Lorain.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Energy/2013/02/06/FirstEnergy-settlement-is-for-Bayshore-oil-spill.html>

USA, CA, SAN FRANCISCO, FEBRUARY 7 2013. S.F. EX-FIREFIGHTER NOW BATTLES CANCER

stephanie m. lee



Tony Stefani, a cancer survivor, started the San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation.

[Tony Stefani](#) used to be a firefighter and a cancer patient. The two, he believes, had something to do with each other. Stefani was a firefighter in his native San Francisco for 28 years, nearly half of them as captain of a rescue squad. But the profession he loved may have nearly cost him his health. The job involved breathing all kinds of substances, from the diesel fumes of fire engines to smoke laced with flame retardants in people's homes. That contact, Stefani believes, is the reason for his diagnosis of transitional cell carcinoma, a rare cancer in his pelvis, in 2001. He soon learned that hundreds of active and retired firefighters also had various kinds of cancer. So in 2006, after recovering and retiring from his job, Stefani formed the [San Francisco Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation](#). The volunteer-run, nonprofit organizes cancer screenings, raises money for cancer-prevention efforts and participates in health studies. Its latest project is a study of chemical exposures in female firefighters. Stefani's colleagues praise him for helping the department establish healthier practices. But he's also emerged as a health advocate beyond the fire station, at a time when toxic chemicals are being heavily scrutinized nationwide.

A Healthy Lifestyle

Stefani, 61, never thought he'd testify before Congress, but he did, on the dangers of chemical compounds. Then again, he never thought he'd have cancer. "I kept myself in excellent shape. I tried to eat right and do everything you possibly can to avert a problem down the line," he said. "But that didn't have any play in this." Growing up in the Bayview and Crocker-Amazon neighborhoods, Stefani enjoyed walking by the

local firehouse and getting candy from the firefighters. "It was always fun to stop and watch and think about becoming part of that, and knowing that every time you go out the door of the firehouse, you're doing one thing - you're going out to help somebody," he said. Stefani joined the department in 1974. He became a lieutenant, then captain of the rescue squad at Fire Station No. 1 downtown. The cancer interrupted everything. Fortunately, Stefani's tumor was contained to one kidney, so it was removed without the need for chemotherapy. He retired in 2003, and to this day remains in remission. Stefani was initially bewildered as to why he - a man who still hits the gym, swims and bikes almost daily - could have cancer. Cigarette smoke is a possible cause of transitional cell carcinoma, but he had never smoked. No one in his family has cancer. But his doctor told him exposure to industrial chemicals may have caused the disease. Within a few years of his diagnosis, two colleagues developed the same cancer.

Health Issues Surface

With a donation from the firefighters union, Stefani started his nonprofit by surveying the city's active and retired firefighters. Of 774 retirees, nearly one out of three reported having cancer, and 5 percent of 664 members still on the job did. "We knew we had a problem," Stefani said. More troubling facts surfaced. A study to be published this month underscores the health risks firefighters face with heavy exposure to flame retardants. Twelve San Francisco firefighters were found to have levels of a common flame retardant, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, that were two to three times higher than those of other Californians and the general U.S. population. Polybrominated diphenyl ethers, or PBDEs, are organobromine compounds found in furniture and electronics, and exposure to them is linked to thyroid hormone disruption, behavioral changes and decreased sperm count. Health issues associated with firefighting have also been seen in larger groups. A 2006 analysis of 4,000 California firefighters showed a connection between their job and testicular cancer, melanoma, thyroid cancer, brain cancer, leukemia and prostate cancer. The relationship between Stefani's job and transitional cell carcinoma is less clear. In a screening about



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six years ago, UCSF doctors found the disease in three of 1,300 active and retired San Francisco firefighters. That rate exceeded the national predicted rate, researchers noted. Still, there's no hard evidence yet that chemicals contribute to this condition, said Dr. [Kirsten Greene](#), a UCSF assistant urology professor who helped run the study. "It's certainly a compelling issue and warrants further investigation, because firefighters spend their lives trying to help all of us and sacrifice their health, essentially, to help all of us," she said.

Women's Health

The department's women have had particularly troubling news. In a recent survey, 10 of 117 women between ages 40 and 50 said they had developed breast cancer, and one had died from it. That's 8.5 percent of the workforce, or nearly six times higher than the rate for women of that age in the general population. Yet, little scientific research has been done on female firefighters' health risks. So Stefani's group is teaming up with scientists from UC Berkeley, the Silent Spring Institute, the [Breast Cancer Fund](#) and Commonweal to see which potentially toxic chemicals women encounter on the job. The researchers, who are preparing to seek funding, plan to compare 50 female firefighters with 50 women in other professions, such as teaching. While they won't be able to directly link chemicals to breast cancer, their findings will undoubtedly interest Capt. [Anita Paratley](#), a 23-year employee in her 10th year of remission from breast cancer. "When we graduated from the fire academy, we raised our right hand to protect and serve the city. I was thinking in my head, 'Be safe with fires. Be smart and be safe,'" she recalled. "I didn't think about cancer."

Procedural Changes

As more firefighters become aware of health hazards, some of the department's practices have changed. For example, at the scene of a fire, firefighters used to take off their masks after the flames were extinguished. But toxic substances can linger in the air. So the department has been training members to wear their masks longer, said Fire Chief [Joanne Hayes-White](#). And it used to be routine to return from a fire and dump one's coat and boots - still covered with grime and residue - in the dining room, Hayes-White said. These days, members leave them in the garage, far away from the food. Members can now drop off their gear with a vendor who will clean and return them within 48 hours, a service that the department began paying for a year ago. In addition, thanks largely to \$40,000 raised by Stefani's group, about a half-dozen stations have washing machines designed to clean the gear. The group also organizes annual screenings that have caught six cancer cases so far. Stefani has played a big role in this cultural shift, said Hayes-White, who described him as "upbeat, but also real confident and serious." "His level of engagement on how he wants to try and prevent someone from going through what he went through is very laudable," she said.

Stefani's Commitment

Stefani said he spends virtually every afternoon fielding calls and e-mails related to the foundation. When he's not home in Danville, he's meeting people and going to places like Washington, D.C. In July, he testified at a Senate committee hearing that chemicals in homes expose fire-fighters to a "toxic soup." That hearing was called on behalf of the Safe Chemicals Act, a bill that, if passed, would update the nation's 1976 regulations of industrial chemicals. Advocates say the current law has prevented the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from requiring testing of 80,000 chemicals on the market. "We have to know that a chemical is either good or bad," Stefani said. "We can't sit around and wait for the science to be done to prove that it's bad after it's already caused so many deaths, and that's the way it is right now." Stefani is also involved with attempts to reform chemical policy in California. Since the 1970s, the state has required foam in furniture to withstand 12 seconds of open flame, a unique law that critics blame for the nationwide proliferation of toxic flame retardants. A state agency responsible for revising the law is expected to release its latest proposal soon. "Having someone like Tony really focused on protecting fire-fighters' health from cancer-causing chemicals and reducing unnecessary flame retardants, it's really a powerful message," said Arlene Blum, a UC Berkeley scientist and expert on flame retardants. "I'm a big admirer of Tony's. He wants to make things better, and he is." What drives Stefani? It turns out cancer hasn't been his only brush with death. In 2006, a truck hit him on his bike head-on and left him to spend nine painful months recovering. That was the year he decided to start the foundation. "I was laying in that hospital bed, thinking, 'I'm still alive. Again,'" he said. "I figured that I was alive for a reason."

The S.F. Firefighters Cancer Prevention Foundation

A fundraiser will be held Feb. 21 at the Irish Bank Bar, 10 Mark Lane, San Francisco, from 4 to 7 p.m. No RSVP required. All cash contributions received during the event will go to the foundation. Donate online at www.sffcpf.org.
<http://www.sfgate.com/health/article/S-F-ex-firefighter-now-battles-cancer-4253516.php#photo-4138576>



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AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, FEBRUARY 7 2013. TOXIC CANISTER WARNING FOR NSW COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Thanks to Matt Daniels of [HAZCON Pty Ltd](#) For the Heads-Up

Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW) is urging residents along the NSW coast to avoid handling silver canisters or containers washed up on beaches following the recent storms and to immediately call Triple Zero (000) to report them to authorities. The warning comes after a Batemans Bay resident found a container, suspected to contain a highly toxic poison, on a beach yesterday. FRNSW and the Queanbeyan Environment Protection Authority were advised of the discovery and have removed the container. It is believed the contents of the canister could be aluminium phosphide which is potentially fatal if inhaled or ingested. This is a highly restricted toxic substance and a very dangerous poison. It's possible that the container may have come from a passing ship and washed up on the coastline. Similar discoveries have also been reported to Queensland authorities. Should any member of the public come across any more of these canisters, report it immediately. Do not try to inspect, open or transport it and ensure you stand well away from it.

<http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au/news.php?news=2195>

USA, GA, LAURENS CO, FEBRUARY 7 2013. FOUR KILLED DURING TANKER TRUCK EXPLOSION IN LAURENS COUNTY

celeste smith

 **Watch the Video**

- [4 Killed in Fiery Laurens Co. Wreck](#)
- [3 Killed in Massive Pileup on I-16 In Middle Ga](#)
- [4 Killed During Tanker Truck Explosion in Laurens County](#)
- [Tanker Explodes, 20 Cars Involved in Wreck on I-16](#)

 **Photo's [15] 4 Killed in Fiery Laurens Co. Wreck**



Interstate 16 in Laurens County was shut down to motorists after over a dozen vehicles were involved in an early morning accident. A spokesperson for the Georgia State Patrol Post in Dublin tells WGXA, troopers responded to the multi-car accident between mile marker 34 and mile marker 37. The GSP spokesperson says a tanker truck involved in the accident exploded during the crash. Bibb County Coroner Leon Jones told WGXA shortly after the accident that three people were confirmed dead in the accident. WGXA has learned late Wednesday afternoon that the death toll has increased to four. The Georgia State Patrol says nine people were hurt. Laurens County EMS Director Terry Cobb tells WGXA at least six vehicles were still on fire when crews arrived. The

state patrol says there were four separate crashes involving 27 vehicles. Law enforcement officers will be detouring traffic off Ga. Highway 112 to Ga. Highway 26 over the next few hours. A spokesperson for the Fairview Park Hospital in Dublin says a State of Emergency has been declared. The hospital says they are prepared to take care of any patients involved in the accident. So far, four patients have been transported to the Medical Center of Central Georgia and are listed in stable condition. Officials said poor visibility likely played a big part.

<http://www.newscentralga.com/news/local/Tanker-Truck-Explodes-In-Interstate-Crash-190004861.html>

USA, MS, BAY SPRINGS, FEBRUARY 7 2013. OIL LEAK NEAR BAY SPRINGS STOPPED AFTER LINE BREAK

Authorities say about 40 gallons of oil leaked from a broken pipeline in Jasper County into a creek east of Bay Springs on Tuesday before being stopped. The pipeline, owned by Houston, Texas-based Plains All-American Pipeline LP, began leaking sometime before 3 p.m. Tuesday, when it was discovered. It connects to one of the many oil fields around Jasper County. County officials along with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality installed containment booms to stop oil from flowing farther downstream. PAA spokesman Brad Leone said in a statement Wednesday that the break occurred in the company's Bay Springs-to-Heidelberg 8-inch pipeline. He said workers found a visible sheen of oil in a tributary that leads to the Tallahoma Creek and crude oil was found on a right of way for the pipeline. Leone said PAA reported the incident to regulatory agencies, activated its response plan, deployed personnel to the scene and is mobilizing additional spill response



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personnel and equipment. "At this time the volume and cause of the release are unknown. PAA's immediate priorities are to contain and clean up the release, while ensuring the safety of response personnel and minimizing the impact to the public and the environment," Leone said. Leone said the company will start the cleanup process, assess the environmental impact and determine how the leak occurred.

<http://www.wral.com/oil-leaking-near-bay-springs-after-pipeline-break/12069807/>

USA, TX, VAN ZANDT CO, VAN, FEBRUARY 7 2013. WARRANTS ISSUED FOR 3 PEOPLE AFTER OIL FACILITY EXPLOSION

marcus moore

 [Watch the Video](#) [Authorities Seek Man, Two Women](#)

 [Photo's \[4\] Oil Facility Explosion](#)



A man and a woman were injured Tuesday morning in Van Zandt County when an oil storage tank exploded while the pair were smoking on top of it. The explosion occurred just before 3 a.m. at an oil storage facility on State Highway 110 north of Van.

The Van Zandt County Fire Marshal's Office issued warrants for three individuals in the [explosion and fire at an oil storage facility late last month](#) near Van, Texas. A man and woman were injured in the explosion, which occurred just before 3 a.m. on January 29 while the pair were reportedly smoking on top of a storage tank. The warrant, issued for H.R. Price, 24, Heather Wolfe, 25, and Brandy Wolfe, 24, are for Criminal Mischief - Over \$200,000, a First-

Degree Felony, and Criminal Trespass of a Critical Infrastructure, a Class-A misdemeanor. According to a release from the Van Zandt County Fire Marshal's Office, both victims in the explosion received treatment at Parkland Hospital after the incident and have since been released. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the three individuals is asked to contact the Van Zandt County Crimestoppers at (903) 567-7867.



H.R. Price



Heather Wolfe.



Brandy Wolfe

<http://www.khou.com/news/texas-news?fd=190035841&fPath=/news/local/&fDomain=10247>

CHINA, BEIJING, FEBRUARY 7 2012. CHINA TO RAISE FUEL STANDARDS FOR DIESEL, GASOLINE

aaron back & carlos tejada

China will increase fuel standards for diesel and gasoline over the next four years as leaders grapple with intensifying public pressure to solve the nation's mounting pollution problems. China's State Council, or cabinet, said Wednesday it would ratchet up national fuel standards to levels similar to those currently found in the US and Europe by the end of 2017. Meanwhile, Chinese officials said they would publish new automotive diesel standards as soon as possible that will slash sulfur emissions to about one-seventh of current permitted levels. The new diesel standards will become effective nationwide by the end of next year, it said. Beijing will also give room to China's refining industry to pass on the cost to consumers, according to the statement on the State Council's website. China strictly controls fuel prices, which limits the ability of refining companies to easily pass on the cost of refinery and antipollution upgrades to consumers. The State Council also said it would hold industry more accountable. Fees for pollution will be raised, the statement said, while enforcement of the fuel-quality standards will be stepped up and penalties increased for violations, it added. It ordered China's three state-owned oil companies, China National Petroleum Corp., China National Offshore Oil Corp. and China Petrochemical Corp., to upgrade refining facilities to



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meet the standards. The companies didn't respond to requests late Wednesday for comment. The moves, which were widely expected, follow the worst pollution in Beijing and other parts of the country in recent memory. Several times during the month of January air quality in the region lingered at levels considered hazardous by health officials in the US. The levels of the most dangerous particulate matter in the air -- known as PM2.5 for its extremely small size -- at times rose to levels not seen in the US except during major fires. The spate of pollution put China's massive state-controlled refining industry under a spotlight. The Chinese Academy of Sciences this week blamed motor vehicles for contributing nearly one-quarter of Beijing's PM2.5 levels. The technical committee working on tighter diesel standards is overwhelmingly dominated by refining-industry representatives, according to industry experts. Tang Dagang, director of the Vehicle Emission Control Center, a policy research group also affiliated with China's Environmental Protection Ministry, said last month that Chinese refineries won't produce cleaner fuel until the higher production costs are addressed by Chinese officials. Diesel fuel in particular has been blamed for much of China's pollution problems. Trucks account for almost one-quarter of China's vehicles but contribute a disproportionate share, almost 80%, of vehicle particulate matter.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3152335/Latest-News/China-to-raise-fuel-standards-for-diesel-gasoline.html>

AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 7 2013. OUR NEED FOR REFINED OIL BRINGS TOXIC WASTE GIANT TO TOWN

glenn dyer & bernard keane

A company with a controversial history in toxic waste dumping has made a major move into petrol importation in Australia, write Glenn Dyer and Bernard Keane. One of the world's most controversial and secretive companies will become a major fuel retailer in Australia after a deal was struck over the weekend. According to a [report in the Financial Times](#), commodity trading firm Trafigura has spent more than \$800 million to become the largest independent fuel retailer in Australia. The FT said Trafigura a Dutch company set up in 1993 and now ranks third behind Vitol and Glencore among the world's biggest oil and commodity traders —bought into Australia through its 80% controlled Puma Energy arm, which acquired the Ausfuel group from the Archer Capital private equity group for around \$US650 million in cash at the weekend. That was after it paid a reported \$US200 million to buy Neumann Petroleum. The move reflects the opportunities for oil importers created by the steady fall in Australian refinery capacity. "Oil traders and executives believe Australia could soon overtake Indonesia as the biggest importer of refined oil products in the Asia-Pacific region because of the closure of old and high-cost refineries in the country and rising demand," the FT reported. Shell closed its Clyde refinery in Sydney and is going to a full import mode for the NSW market (it still has a refinery in Victoria). Caltex has followed suit for its larger but elderly Kurnell refinery in Sydney. Caltex has the Lytton refinery in Brisbane that was owned by Ampol, which Caltex took over years ago. Caltex is about to bring back the Ampol name as the operating subsidiary to handle all its imports of oil products such as petrol, diesel and jet fuels. The closures have cut Australia's refining capacity by a third, allowing the aggressive Trafigura to enter the market — not as a refiner but as an importer and retailer, in direct competition with Caltex, Shell, BP, Exxon Mobil (in a few areas) and the joint ventures between Coles and Shell and Caltex and Woolworths and various small chains of independents. According to its (very outdated) [website](#): "Neumann Petroleum owns and operates a customs bonded, bulk seaboard fuel terminal, located at Eagle Farm, Brisbane which was purchased from Fletcher Challenge in 2001." Ausfuel styles itself as Australia's [largest independent fuel group](#) and has operations in every state, carrying brands like Ausfuel Gull, Gull, Choice Petroleum, Peak and Directhaul. It claims to sell over a billion litres of fuel a year. According to the FT, Australia's fuel consumption — about 1 million barrels a day of oil-refined products — is "on a par with a medium-sized European country such as the Netherlands ... Analysts believe that by 2015 Australia could be importing about 650,000 b/d of oil products." This represents a huge and rare opportunity for fuel importers. The purchase of Ausfuel will add 110 retail sites and 11 depots to Puma Energy's existing Australian portfolio, on top of acquisition of Neumann's 120 petrol stations and one import terminal. The acquisitions are beefing up the business of Puma, 80% owned by Trafigura, ahead of a potential initial public offering in London (the remaining 20% was sold to Sonangol, the state-owned oil company of Angola, two years ago, making it an unlikely indirect investor in Australia). Trafigura has a poor record on environmental, health and transparency issues. In the most notorious case, it tried to use a [superinjunction to prevent newspapers reporting](#) House of Commons proceedings that would have revealed a report exposing the company's role in a huge toxic waste spill in Ivory Coast. The attempt collapsed after a Twitter campaign and the publication by WikiLeaks of the report. Trafigura paid tens of millions of pounds in compensation to victims. Trafigura has also been [fined for exporting toxic waste to Africa](#) and breaching the Iraqi oil embargo. A [report last year](#) found toxic waste dumping by Trafigura was still a serious threat in underdeveloped countries, with NGOs calling for [an investigation of the company](#). <http://www.crikey.com.au/2013/02/04/toxic-waste-giant-trafigura-moves-into-australian-petrol/>



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Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

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USA, TX, CRANE, FEBRUARY 7 2013. CRANE MAN INJURED BY POISON GAS

Thanks to Jetty Middlekoop from the Netherlands [[Fire Dept. Amsterdam Amstelland](#)] for the "Heads Up"

A man suffered critical injuries after he was exposed to Hydrogen Sulfide gas in Crane, according to Crane police and hospital officials. The incident happened near Golf Course Road and Highway 385 Tuesday afternoon, and several hours later much remained unclear about the incident. Emergency responders took the victim to Crane Memorial Hospital, where he was airlifted to Midland Memorial Hospital. A spokesperson at MMH said the man was listed in critical condition by about 3 p.m. Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) is a colorless gas that smells like rotten eggs. Often referred to as "sewer gas," H₂S is highly poisonous. Usually, the poisoning it causes is through inhalation and has a toxicity similar to cyanide. It is found in petroleum and natural gas and is sometimes present in groundwater. A police dispatcher in Crane referred questions to the hospitals and said the department did not have an exact location of the incident, nor details about what caused it. A spokesperson with the Railroad Commission of Texas said the agency had not received a report of the incident by late Tuesday afternoon. A spokesperson with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration did not immediately respond to an inquiry from the newspaper.

http://www.oaoa.com/news/crime_justice/law_enforcement/article_1117431e-70a4-11e2-9ac5-001a4bcf6878.html

PHILIPPINES, MANILA, FEBRUARY 8 2013. REPORT: EXTRACTING STRANDED U.S. MINESWEEPER MAY TAKE 2 MONTHS >> USS GUARDIAN GROUNDED ON PHILIPPINE REEF

 **Photo's [10]** [USS Guardian Grounded on Philippine Reef](#)

Key Points:

- The USS Guardian ran aground on a reef off the Philippines on January 17
- The U.S. Navy plans to cut the ship into pieces, then haul them away
- The Navy is awaiting the arrival of a crane ship
- The U.S. has assured the Philippines of "appropriate compensation" for reef damage



Malaysian tug Vos Apollo, foreground, prepares to help remove fuel from the USS Guardian, while a U.S. Navy boat approaches with a salvage team on Thursday, January 24.

Removing a stranded U.S. minesweeper from an environmentally delicate reef off the Philippines may take until April, the state-run Philippines News Agency reported Wednesday, citing the Philippines Coast Guard. The U.S. Navy is preparing to extract the USS Guardian from the Tubbataha Reef, a Philippine national park and UNESCO World Heritage site where the 224-foot-long ship ran aground on January 17. The Navy plans to [cut the 1,312-ton minesweeper into pieces](#) and then, with the help of two contracted crane ships, lift the pieces and carry them away. Philippines Coast Guard Rear Adm. Rodolfo Isorena said Wednesday that he hopes the salvaging will begin soon so that further damage to the reef will be limited, the Philippines News Agency said. One of

the crane ships has arrived in the area, about 80 miles east-southeast of Palawan Island in the Sulu Sea, and the other is on its way, the news agency reported. The ship is estimated to have damaged about 4,000 square meters (about 43,000 square feet) of the reef, the news agency said. Various U.S. officials, including Navy Vice Adm. Scott Swift last month, have apologized to the Philippines for the incident, which the U.S. Navy and the Philippines Coast Guard are investigating. Philippine officials said last month that the country would seek compensation for reef damage. The U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, Harry Thomas Jr., assured the Philippines on Monday that the United States "will provide appropriate compensation for damage to the reef caused by the ship." The reef is home to a vast array of sea, air and land creatures, as well as sizable lagoons and two coral islands. About 500 species of fish and 350 species of coral can be found there, as can whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles and breeding seabirds, according to UNESCO. Originally, only the ship's bow was on the reef, but waves pushed the entire ship onto it. The ship's wood-and-fiberglass hull was penetrated, allowing a significant amount of water into the ship, the Navy said. Crews have been working to remove hazardous materials from the vessel and anything that could still be useful to the Navy. The Navy has reported no oil slicks; the ship's 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel have been removed. One of the environmental concerns is that algae will grow on dead or scarred corals, park Superintendent Angelique



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Songco said. "Their presence makes it hard for other corals to regenerate as they cover the substrate," Songco wrote in an e-mail to CNN on Wednesday. "We expect an increase in the incidence of grazer fish species in the area that feed on the algae. Hopefully they are hungry enough to control algae populations to enable hard corals (to) take root in the substrate. "So you see, the balance we have been trying to maintain has been upset. For that particular area at least, coral evolution starts all over again -- but not until salvage operations are over." The salvage operation also may hurt tourism, because it will happen at the start of the park's main tourism window of March to early June, Songco said. Songco said she hasn't heard of any pre-booked tourists canceling. But the park, which is celebrating its 25th year, will have to close two of its 15 major diving sites during the operation, she said. "We will not (be) able to offer divers the full measure of the Tubbataha experience," she said.

Related Links [Navy spokesman: Reef's location misplaced on chart](#)

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/02/06/world/asia/philippines-stranded-navy-ship/index.html>

USA, MS, VICKSBURG, FEBRUARY 8 2013. OIL SPILL CLEANUP ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPLETE

The Coast Guard has completed cleanup of the oil spill near Vicksburg, Miss., that closed the major shipping channel for days in both directions. After extensive shoreline assessments and cleanup actions, the Coast Guard says it and the Departments of Environmental Quality in Louisiana and Mississippi deemed the cleanup complete Wednesday. A 16-mile stretch of the river was closed Jan. 27 after two oil barges hit a railroad bridge and one of them started leaking light crude. The accident remains under investigation. Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca Walthour says 5,300 feet of boom was deployed to contain the spill and 159 workers responded to the incident. There were no injuries or impacted wildlife reported. Walthour says all three agencies will continue to monitor for any environmental impacts from the spill.

<http://www.wral.com/oil-spill-cleanup-on-mississippi-river-complete/12075619/>

USA, NV, RENO, FEBRUARY 8 2013. NEVADA GOLD MINES TO PAY \$618,000 FOR POLLUTION

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) has ordered three northern Nevada gold mines to pay a total of \$618,000 for failing to report the release of toxic chemicals, including cyanide, lead and mercury from 2005-08. All three mines are subsidiaries of the Toronto-based Barrick Gold Corp. — Barrick Cortez Inc.'s Cortez Gold Mine near Crescent Valley, Barrick Gold US Inc.'s Ruby Hill Gold Mine near [Eureka and Homestake Mining Co.](#)'s Bald Mountain Gold Mine near the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The three agreed to pay a total of \$278,000 in fines and spend an additional \$340,000 on an environmentally beneficial project as part of a settlement for allegedly under estimating reports of their toxic release inventory required under the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, [EPA](#) officials said. "Cyanide, lead and mercury used at these mines have the potential to pose a health threat," said [Jared Blumenfeld](#), EPA's regional administrator for the Pacific Southwest Region based in San Francisco. "We insist on accurate reporting of chemical releases so that citizens have a clear idea of the risk from the facilities near their communities," he said. He added there is no evidence to suggest that the violations posed any immediate danger to workers at the facilities or neighboring communities. The supplemental project will be conducted at the Cortez mine to identify the metal compounds formed in its oxide mill process and test methods to verify the quantities of new chemical compounds manufactured during the process. The companies also agreed to perform audits at all other U.S. mining operations Barrick owns in Nevada and Montana, determine if any reporting violations occurred and if so pay a \$10,000 penalty per violation up to a total of \$250,000. Barrick officials said EPA disputed fewer than 40 of the 330 related reports the companies filed during the time period. "Barrick disagrees with EPA's position and the company's operations have complied in good faith with all requirements of annual TRI reporting since (first established in) 1998," said [Louis Schack](#), director of communications for Barrick Gold of North America based in Salt Lake City, Utah. "Nonetheless, to achieve regulatory certainty regarding its TRI obligations, Barrick has agreed to enter into a settlement agreement with EPA," he said Wednesday.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/science/article/Nevada-gold-mines-to-pay-618-000-for-pollution-4256631.php>

YEMEN, SANAA, ABSS, FEBRUARY 8 2013. YEMEN WEAPONS DEPOT BLAST KILLS 10 CIVILIANS

An accidental blast at an ammunition depot in an army camp killed 10 civilians in Yemen's northwestern Haja province on Thursday, a security official and witnesses said. "The explosion took place early Thursday at an ammunition depot in the camp of the 25th mechanized brigade in Abs," near the Red Sea, the official said adding that two children were among those killed. Witnesses said that rocket debris from the explosion destroyed five homes.

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/02/07/265020.html>



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