



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 947 Newsy Stuff

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

**April 10 2013**



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#### **NIGERIA, LAGOS, MARCH 31 2013. AGENCIES INSIST SHELL MUST PAY \$11.5BN FOR OIL SPILL**



Two federal government agencies, the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) have insisted that the multinational oil and gas company, Royal Dutch Shell must pay the sum of \$11.5 billion as compensation for an oil spill in December 2011. The agencies, in charge of environmental protection affairs, told a parliamentary hearing yesterday that Shell should compensate for damage caused by an oil spill at its offshore Bonga field. Shell had taken responsibility for the spill, but it said there was no legal basis for the agencies' demand. The oil company has also said it was ready to carry out a post-impact assessment to determine the environmental effects of the spill. The giant oil and gas company argued that onshore damage was the result of a

different spill, and that Shell was not responsible for that incident. "We are going to do post-impact assessment to determine the effect on the environment. By May, the contractor would get to the site and by the third quarter of the year the job would be concluded," said Chike Onyejekwe, the Managing Director of Shell's offshore Nigeria unit. "We cannot do or say anything now until we do the post-impact assessment study. We have received over 300 letters of claims and we are replying to them." NOSDRA told the National Assembly that Shell should pay \$5 billion as a fine for environmental damage. The oil leak in 2011, which was one of the biggest in the history of Nigeria, caused roughly 40,000 barrels to spill into the Gulf of Guinea. NIMASA had also sought \$6.5 billion as compensation for 100 communities which it said were affected onshore.

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/agencies-insist-shell-must-pay-11-5bn-for-oil-spill/143512/>

#### **USA, N.Y, TONAWANDA, MARCH 31 2013. NEW YORK COKE PRODUCER FOUND GUILTY OF POLLUTION**

 **Watch the Video** [Tonawanda Coke Potentially facing Millions from Residents' Lawsuits](#)

A federal jury on Thursday found Tonawanda Coke Corp, accused of years of illegal air pollution, guilty of violating federal clean air regulations and found its environmental manager guilty of hiding plant deficiencies from U.S. regulators. The jury in U.S. District Court deliberated just one day before returning its verdicts against Tonawanda Coke, which has operated for 30 years in the Buffalo suburb of Tonawanda in upstate New York and produces a coal-based additive called coke that is used to make steel. It found the [company](#) and Mark Kamholz, its environmental manager, guilty of 14 charges, including violations of the federal Clean Air Act from 2005 to 2009 as well as violations of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, having to do with the disposal of benzene sludge on the plant's property from 1998 to 2009. Tonawanda Coke, which employs slightly more than 100 at the factory in the small, blue-collar suburb just north of Buffalo, faces fines for each count. The federal jury also found Kamholz guilty of obstruction of justice for a cover-up of emissions prior to a 2009 investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency. He faces the possibility of a 20-year prison sentence. The company was cleared of five other charges. The trial came after local residents reported high rates of cancer and other ailments and complained about air quality near the smoke stacks at the Tonawanda factory. A study of air quality by the state Department of Environmental Conservation found concentrations of benzene, a known carcinogen, and formaldehyde in Tonawanda. The town is roughly 10 miles from Love Canal, a neighborhood in Niagara Falls, New York that was contaminated by benzene and dioxin left by a chemical company. Love Canal residents were evacuated in 1978 and the case helped give birth to the [modern](#) U.S. environmental movement. At trial, prosecutors said Tonawanda Coke released benzene into the air through a pressure relief valve, but did not report the emissions to regulators. Other violations of federal law, they said, included failure to install required emissions control devices. "Time and again, the defendants chose to deceive, not comply, all in an attempt to put profit above all else," Assistant U.S. Attorney Aaron Mango said in closing arguments on Tuesday. "Money drove this [business](#) into deception," he added. Meanwhile, Kamholz used his position "to manipulate and deceive investigators," prosecutors said. Defense attorney Gregory Linsin had argued that state Department of Environmental Conservation inspectors had been aware of violations and allowed the problems to linger for years before EPA investigators conducted their own review in 2009. He accused DEC officials of entrapment - the company's primary defense - saying they led plant managers to believe the facility was in compliance. A New York state Department of Health study released this year found "statistically significant elevations" of cancer and birth defects among Tonawanda residents. But health officials said the study did not prove local industry caused the health problems.

<http://www.wgrz.com/news/article/208424/37/Tonawanda-Coke-Potentially-Facing-Millions-From-Residents-Lawsuits>



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### USA, IN, CRANE, MARCH 31 2013. INVESTIGATION INTO EXPLOSION AT CRANE NOW UNDERWAY

*marisela burgos*

 **Watch the Video** [Investigation into Explosion At Crane](#)



There is an investigation underway at Crane after an explosion. Thursday evening, five people were rushed to IU Health Bloomington Hospital with minor injuries. The employees were released that same night. The employees were inside the pyrotechnics building, when the explosion happened. "In (that) building, we make the illumination rounds for mortars. We call them illumination candles, which essentially the soldier shoots off from the mortar, it goes into the air and illuminates the field in front of them," Tom Peske said. Peske is the public affairs officer for Crane Army Ammunition Activity. "In that building, they are making chemicals and pressing it into the candle to support the round. It was at the end of production and part of (what happens is that) you want to make sure you don't have any chemical or residue from the pyrotechnics. So, as part of that, they were doing the clean-up operations. As to what set off the explosion, that right now, we are investigating," Peske said. Peske said their employees are trained and safety is their No. 1 concern. He said their safety precautions worked because the employees were able to get the explosion under control immediately. "From here, we just want to find out what caused the explosion, so that we can certainly avoid it in the future," Peske said. The entire

building has been temporarily shutdown to determine the cause of the explosion. Peske said they have been asked, because the illuminators are for mortars, whether the explosion is related to what happened in Nevada. In Nevada, there was a deadly explosion that killed seven marines, during training. "This was not because of the mortars. This was because of the cleanup operations. So, they are not related," Peske said. The five employees, who were injured, were Steve Reed, Janeth Shahat, Connie Alsman, Dana Roach and Jason O'Conner. "We just like to stress safety is actually our number one concern," Peske said.

<http://fox59.com/2013/03/29/investigation-into-explosion-at-crane-now-underway/#axzz2P3Hiq0AK>

### NIGERIA, FCT, GWAGWALADA, MARCH 31 2013. ANOTHER OIL SPILL IN FCT

*joshua odeyemi*

When oil spillage is mentioned in Nigeria, the mind goes straight to the South-South region. An imagery of big pipelines running through the forests, swampy landscape, seas and rivers as well as forests quickly forms. But in this case, the spillage is right here in the FCT. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps discovered the leakage of Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)'s pipelines in Lamo village, situated in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), about a month ago. Lamo village is about two hours drive from Gwagwalada town. The Kilometer 407.5 NNPC crude oil pipeline right of way at Suma, between Gwagwalada and Kwali area councils, spilled crude oil for over seven days before the NSCDC discovered it on the 19th of February. It was the Corps that alerted NNPC about the spillage. The spillage covered a landscape of more than a hectare, running into the Suma river. When Daily Trust first visited the scene on 20th February, it was discovered that the earth could no longer absorb the crude, and it was running over the surface with the force of a stream, killing all plants in the vicinity. There were two pipelines running across the community through the Suma river. It was the one carrying crude oil that leaked both underneath the river and on the ground, totally polluting the water, a source of drinking water for several communities along the river, which flows all the way to Niger State. However, when this reporter got there two weeks after, the situation was worse. Fire had engulfed everywhere covered by the spillage, damaging farmlands, thereby exposing the upper most layer of the soil to erosion. The villagers' health is at risk as the river from which they draw water for domestic use, and the air in the area, have been polluted. Notwithstanding the spillage, the villagers were still seen fetching water from the polluted river which is the only source of drinking water for them and their animals. A villager who spoke with this reporter during his first time of visit, Yelo Sariki said their lives were in danger following the spillage. He described the situation as a serious one which could consume the whole area. While condemning the insensitivity of the NNPC to the incident, Sariki called on the government to come to their rescue. On the other side of the river were NNPC staff preparing to begin the process of replacing the rusty pipes, after seven days. Just as Sariki predicted, two weeks after, most members of



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the community are already experiencing serious health problems, while their farmlands have been consumed by fire as a result of the spillage.

### **Baby Tokwaze is ill**

Baby Tokwaze who is a two year old daughter of James Sannu, a resident of Lamo community, has been complaining of stomach pains for months. Her twin brother, who the father identified as Aboy, looking sick with a protruding stomach, was also suffering the same fate. James Sannu, the father of the children, said all the family members have been falling sick one after the other since the start of the year. Sannu has two children, ages; three and two, and resides in the Lamo community. The resident who does not understand or speak the English language, spoke to this reporter in Hausa, while a third party interprets. He said that persistent oil leakage was no longer new to the community, as its inhabitants have been living in such situation for years without reprieve from any quarter. Sannu said there have been five separate leakages this year alone. "It has broken some five times this year alone, and it flows directly into the river. "The last time it broke, the government came to fix it after several days, but it broke again after two days. They only returned yesterday to do the digging." The community consisting of over 200 households, according to Sannu, has no government presence. Hence, there could not be any other source of water supply. Every other member of the community also drinks from the river. He said they normally use their hand to push away the oil on the surface of the river, before they fetch, but that the water smells of crude oil and they drink it that way. "We drink the water, wash and cook with it." To authenticate his claim, Sannu and his children drank water with a visible oily surface, from the river in the presence of this reporter. Similarly, a native of the community, Yusuf Soko said a fire outbreak resulting from the spillage burned down his farm. Soko who said he is a Bassa by tribe took Daily Trust to his farm which has nothing left of it. He said he depends on his farm to feed his family, but with the disaster, he is left with a smaller farm across the river, which will certainly not be enough for his family. He said he will feel the repercussion more during the next farming season, as he would hardly get seedlings to plant. The natives of the community told this reporter that the oil pollution has been having negative effects on them, causing them, most especially the children, stomach pain. "We are all having diarrhoea." Daily Trust witnessed herdsmen leading their animals to the contaminated river to drink. The animals also fed from the plants already damaged by the spill. None of the herdsmen was willing to speak with this reporter despite several efforts to convince them to.

### **Danger**

Experts said Crude oil toxins can attack the human body in many ways at once. Children and pregnant women are said to be especially at risk. Swimming in crude-slicked waters is an unsavory prospect at best, and one that is most definitely unhealthy, although the molecular mechanics of why crude is so dangerous to humans are poorly understood, toxics researchers have said. Crude oil is a complex mixture of petrochemicals that includes all the most dangerous chemicals in gasoline, plus plenty of others. "A lot of those chemicals are neurotoxins, which means they affect the brain," said Tracey Woodruff, an associate professor and director of the Program on Reproductive Health and the Environment at the University of California at San Francisco. Dizziness, euphoria, nausea, blurry vision and headaches, are a few of the short-term effects of such compounds as benzene, toluene, and xylenes, which are also found in gasoline. The symptoms can be a lot like a very bad case of alcohol poisoning, she said, which also negatively affects the workings of the nervous system. There are long-term health dangers too. Benzene, in particular, has been tied to adult leukemia and other cancers. Benzene does this by entering cells and damaging DNA material, Woodruff said. What makes crude oil potentially even more dangerous, however, is that it contains so many toxic chemicals that can all attack the body at once, Woodruff explained. "The combination can, in many cases, have more effect," Woodruff said. "It's like getting hit from different sides - right hook, left hook and on top of the head." This sort of multiple attacks is less well understood, as most studies tend to focus on one chemical at a time. Another variable is how differently the toxins can affect different sorts of people. "It definitely would be worse for children to be exposed," said Woodruff. Infants and even unborn children could also be seriously harmed because the neurotoxins can interfere with brain development, she said. The Spokesperson of 'Friends of the Earth', Philip Jakpor told Daily Trust that the oil spill in Lamo has so many environmental and health implications on the people of the community and livestock. He noted that they inhale polluted air, drink from a polluted water, while their farm lands were engulfed by fire.

### **Compensation**

The Nigerian law concerning oil spills is fairly clear. The Nigerian Federal environmental Protection Agency Act of 1988 orders that following an oil spill, oil companies should "begin immediate clean-up operations following the best available clean-up practice and removal methods." The clean-up efforts from the NNPC since the spillage happened about a month ago, was the digging of pits for the oil to flow into, and the use of a bulldozer to upturn the surface of the soil formerly covered by the spill.



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Apparently, the company took the step after the fire outbreak that destroyed several farmlands. The Oil Pipeline Act of 1990 states that oil companies should pay compensation to any person suffering damage as a consequence of any breakage of or leakage from the pipeline or an ancillary installation (except when the spill is the result of the malicious act of a third person). The Nigerian Petroleum Act of 1990 states that oil and gas production shall conform with good oilfield practice, according to American standards. From what this reporter gathered, there have not been any sort of compensation, neither from the government nor the NNPC since the spillage started. Sannu and Soko said they have not received anything from the government or NNPC as compensation or otherwise since the leakage started. This reporter could not speak to the Sarki (Paramount ruler of the village) to confirm if he had received any sort of compensation, as he was said to have traveled to a village across the river for a burial ceremony. Mr. Jakpor demanded that the NNPC swing into action immediately, and clean up their mess and also replace the pipelines. "I am not surprised that the NNPC pipelines are having problems. All over the country, we have facilities belonging to the NNPC that are old and need to be replaced. Their pipelines have been leaking into communities all over the country, and I think it's high time something was done about that." He expressed dismay that the laws concerning oil spillage in Nigeria were obsolete and disjointed. Mr. Jakpor said the oil spill laws which were made during the Colonial era, must be reviewed to measure up to the modern challenges. "We as an organisation are advocating for a law which is based on the polluter - paying principle. What we are saying is if the people accused the NNPC of polluting, it's the responsibility of the NNPC to prove that its facilities have not polluted. So, the burden of proof should shift from the people, to the polluter." When Daily Trust contacted the NNPC General Manager (Media), Omar Farouk Ibrahim for information on what the company had done in line with the laws of the land to cushion the impact of the spillage on the community, he expressed ignorance of the spillage, asking this reporter to give him time to inquire from the Community Relations department. He was contacted the following week but he asked for more time and promised to put a call across to this reporter. Daily Trust has not heard from him since then.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201303290773.html?viewall=1>

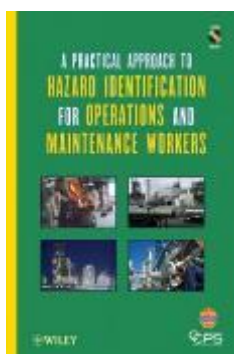
## USA – CENTER FOR CHEMICAL PROCESS SAFETY - A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO HAZARD IDENTIFICATION FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE WORKERS

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**Pages** 295

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## USA, CA, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, APRIL 1 2013. TAHOE RESORT FINED OVER ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS

Heavenly [Mountain Resort](#) on Lake Tahoe's south shore has been fined more than \$90,000 for several violations of California environmental laws. The violations stem from a 2010 inspection of the ski resort and its upper maintenance shop, [California Department of Toxic Substances Control](#) officials said. The resort was accused of failing to have controls to prevent spillage of a used-oil tank, failing to have the tank assessed and inspected, failing to maintain secondary containment for the tank and



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connected pipes, and failing to provide refresher training to a hazardous waste manager. In addition, aerosol cans were not properly disposed of, and the resort lacked a required eyewash and shower for employees who became contaminated with hazardous waste, according to a February court filing. "Compliance with the Hazardous Waste Control Law is vital to protecting the environment close to Lake Tahoe," said [Paul Kewin](#), assistant deputy director of the department's Enforcement and Emergency Response Program. "This settlement signifies the department's continuing efforts to uphold both environmental safety and compliance with existing law." Heavenly was penalized \$94,000 for the violations and charged \$26,000 to cover the Department of Toxic Substances Control's administrative costs, the agency said. Resort spokesman [Russ Pecoraro](#) stressed there was no spill associated with the violations. He told the [Tahoe Daily Tribune](#) (<http://bit.ly/ZK1ldQ>) that the area where the violations occurred is not near any perennial streams and is far from Lake Tahoe. The resort has worked with the department to ensure it is following environmental regulations, Pecoraro said, and Heavenly currently is in compliance. A new waste oil tank was installed at the upper maintenance shop above the [California Lodge](#) in May, according to the court filing. Heavenly is owned by Colorado-based [Vail Resorts Inc.](#) Vail Resorts also operates [Northstar](#) and Kirkwood in the Lake Tahoe area; Beaver Creek, Breckenridge, Keystone and Vail in Colorado; Afton Alps near Minneapolis; and Mount Brighton near Detroit.

<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/science/article/Tahoe-resort-fined-over-environmental-violations-4398616.php>

#### USA, TX, MOUNTRAIL, APRIL 1 2013. FATAL OIL EXPLOSION

 **Watch the Video** [Fatal Oil Explosion](#)



A Burlington man is dead after an explosion, yesterday, at oil truck facility in Ross. Now there's a growing concern about the safety of oil workers. At around 3:00 Wednesday afternoon, emergency crews received a call of an explosion at the Plain Trucking yard northwest of Ross. "After our initial investigation, we found there were two young gentlemen working on the tanker truck," explains Mountrail County Sheriff Ken Halvorson. When the explosion happened, Trevor Davis, 19, of Burlington was ejected from the roof of the building and pronounced dead at the scene. Halvorson said, "I think there was a lot of shock of it happening with him knowing these gentlemen and something like that occurring." These types of accidents are becoming a big problem. Halvorson said, "Yes, we are getting more and more of these accidents in the oil field and they are getting more serious all the time. Basically, in two weeks, this will be the

second person that we've had that has perished." For Halvorson, the dangers of working in the oil field are all too familiar. "You go to work out in the oil field, and I did work out in the oil field when I got out of college for a period of time, you have to be on your toes all the time. While oil companies are investing more time in training and safety since Halvorson's days out in the oil patch, he says accidents can still happen. "There isn't a second time or a second chance a lot of times. You got one goal and that is it." Davis's body was transported to the North Dakota Forensic Examiner's Office in Bismarck for autopsy. The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

[http://www.kfyrvtv.com/News\\_Stories.asp?news=62920](http://www.kfyrvtv.com/News_Stories.asp?news=62920)

#### AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA, VERMONT , APRIL 1 2013. INSTANT EXPLOSION: POLICE WARN OVER STOLEN FIREWORKS

deborah gough



*No time to run ... Police have released images of some of the stolen fireworks and equipment.*

Police have warned that some of the fireworks stolen from a van in Vermont South have a "one-second" fuse that can explode almost instantly after being lit, potentially causing serious injuries. Police say the commercial-grade fireworks were stolen from a van in Vermont South on March 24 at about 1am. They say the van's driver's side window was smashed while it was parked out the front of a home in Stanley Grove. The one-second-fuse fireworks and a number of commercial-grade fireworks were stolen including a firing system



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and a remote control access key. "The propensity for danger is of serious concern," a police statement said. Police have released images of fireworks and a firing system similar to those stolen. Police also released a photograph of the case and kit actually stolen. Anyone with information about the fireworks theft are asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or log onto [www.crimestoppers.com.au](http://www.crimestoppers.com.au)  
<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/instant-explosion-police-warn-over-stolen-fireworks-20130401-2h29k.html>

#### CHINA, JILIN PROVINCE, BAISHAN CITY, APRIL 1 2013. 28 DEAD IN CHINA MINE GAS BLAST

tom porter



Twenty-eight miners have been killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in northeast China, state media have confirmed. The accident at the Babao Coal Mine in the city of Baishan in Jilin province came on the same day as 83 miners were feared dead after a [landslide near a mine in Tibet](#). A further 13 workers were rescued after the incident at the colliery, which is owned by the state's Tonghua Mining (Group) Company, the official Xinhua news agency reported. There is rising concern in China about the number of fatalities in mining accidents, as corrupt officials cut corners with safety measures in order to meet the insatiable demand for coal, making Chinese mines amongst the most dangerous in the world. China is the world's largest consumer of coal, with the fossil fuel meeting up to 70 percent of the country's energy needs. Earlier this month 28 people were killed and 58 managed to escape to the surface after an explosion at the Machang coal mine in Guizhou Province, Xinhua reported. An explosion at the Shangchang coal mine in the southwest Yunnan province left 17 people dead last December, while earlier that month, 23 people were killed in a gas explosion in a coal mine in Guizhou province, which borders Yunna. In

August seven people died in an explosion at a mine in Jilin, in China's northern industrial area. The Chinese government last year closed down 600 of country's smaller and least safe mines. Official figures show a fall in the number of mining fatalities, with the 1,384 killed in 2012 down from 1,973 the year before. However, many believe that the real death toll may be much higher, with managers often concealing fatalities and accidents in order to escape punishment and avoid being exposed as corrupt. The gains of a successful cover-up often outweigh the risks of a successful disaster response in China's authoritarian system, in which managers are rewarded for strictly adhering to centrally imposed targets.

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/451887/20130330/china-mine-explosion-28-killed-blast.htm>

#### USA, ARK, MAYFLOW, APRIL 1 2013. KEYSTONE PIPELINE PLAN ASSAILED AFTER OIL SPILL IN ARKANSAS >> THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY DECLARES THE ARKANSAS LEAK A "MAJOR SPILL,"

steven mufson

 **Watch the Video** [Exxon Pipeline Breaks in Arkansas](#)

 **Photo's [2]** [Oil Spill in Arkansas](#)



*Emergency crews work to clean up an oil spill near Interstate 40 in Mayflower, Arkansas, on Sunday. An Exxon Mobil pipeline carrying Canadian crude oil was shut off after a rupture on Friday causing an evacuation of 22 homes. (March 31, 2013)*

Exxon Mobil said that one of its pipelines leaked "a few thousand" barrels of Canadian heavy crude oil near Mayflower, Ark., prompting the evacuation of 22 homes and reinforcing concerns many critics have raised about the Keystone XL pipeline that is awaiting U.S. State Department approval. The pipeline breach took place late Friday, Exxon said, in the 50-centimetre diameter, 95,000-barrel-a-day Pegasus pipeline, which originates in Patoka, Ill., and carries crude oil to the Texas Gulf Coast, the United States' main refining centre. Mayflower is about 40 kilometres north of Little Rock, Ark. By Sunday afternoon, the company had



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deployed 15 vacuum trucks and 33 storage tanks to start cleaning up and temporarily store about 12,000 barrels of oil and water that had been recovered, the company said. Crews were steam-cleaning oil from property, Exxon Mobil said, while some fought in rainy weather to keep the oil from reaching nearby Lake Conway through storm drains. The pipeline, which was built in the 1940s and was recently expanded, was carrying low-quality Wabasca Heavy crude oil from Alberta, Exxon Mobil spokesman Alan Jeffers said. According to the Crude Monitor website, Wabasca Heavy is a blend of oil produced in the Athabasca region, where the oilsands are located. An existing Keystone pipeline carries crude oil that comes from the oilsands deposits in Alberta to Patoka though Exxon Mobil's. Jeffers said he did not know if this batch of crude oil came from the Keystone line. Many critics of the Keystone XL pipeline say that corrosion risks are greater in pipelines carrying low-quality bitumen-laden crude from the oilsands. They have urged U.S. President Barack Obama to reject the Keystone XL permit application. The Environmental Protection Agency declared the Arkansas leak a "major spill," a label put on any spill of 250 barrels or more. The company and other responders were battling to keep the crude oil, which gushed into yards and ran down residential streets in a Mayflower neighbourhood, from leaking into Lake Conway, a popular recreation and game-fishing spot. As of Sunday afternoon no oil had reached the lake, Jeffers said.

### Related Links

- [Homes evacuated after ExxonMobil oil pipeline spill in Arkansas](#)
- [Arkansas town is stuck with oil spewing all over its streets](#)
- [Rivers of oil flow in Arkansas town after pipeline rupture](#)
- [An inside look at Mayflower neighborhood affected by oil spill](#)
- [Arkansas town is stuck with oil spewing all over its streets](#)
- [No timetable set for Mayflower residents' return](#)
- [Mayflower residents speak out after oil spill](#)
- [Oil Running Down The Road, Oil Pipeline Spill In Mayflower, Arkansas](#)

[http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/03/31/keystone\\_pipeline\\_plan\\_assailed\\_after\\_oil\\_spill\\_in\\_arkansas.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/03/31/keystone_pipeline_plan_assailed_after_oil_spill_in_arkansas.html)

### USA, MA, CHARLTON, APRIL 1 2013. WELDING CO. OWNER FACES FINES, HOUSE ARREST FOR DIESEL SPILL >> PLEA DEAL REQUIRES PUBLIC APOLOGY

The owner of a Charlton welding company could face a \$75,000 fine and be ordered to issue a public apology in a newspaper after he pleaded guilty last year to a misdemeanor violation of the Clean Water Act. In June 2010 more than 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into wetlands near Charlton Welding & Repair Inc. at 11 Griffin Road in Charlton, run by Larry McKissick II, 43. Mr. McKissick was called to his business then and told there was a smell of diesel fuel. Valves on a storage tank were open and roughly 3,200 gallons of diesel fuel had been released from the tank, federal court records show. Authorities said Mr. McKissick did not notify state, local or emergency response officials and instead began to wash off his property. Later that day residents in a condominium complex about a quarter-mile downstream from the business called Charlton police and fire departments to report a fuel smell. Fire officials found fuel in the wetlands and traced the discharge to Mr. McKissick's property, federal records show. Firefighters notified the state Department of Environmental Protection about the fuel and it was discovered that the ground, wetlands and a half-mile of the Cady Brook had been contaminated. The cleanup took more than six months and cost the state Department of Environmental Protection roughly \$683,000. Mr. McKissick was charged in federal court with violating the federal water pollution control act — negligent discharge of oil. In mid-2010 the state fire marshal cited Mr. McKissick for 13 fire code violations relating to the oil spill. The state also turned over the remaining cleanup work to Mr. McKissick. A sentencing hearing in federal court is scheduled for Thursday, but a plea agreement has been reached that includes a \$75,000 fine. If the plea agreement is accepted, Mr. McKissick would be placed on probation for a year and serve four months of home detention. Paperwork filed by his attorney also states he would be ordered to have publicized — at his own expense — a public apology in a newspaper. That would have to come within two weeks of sentencing. After the spill the state DEP ordered Mr. McKissick to hire a licensed professional to clean the contaminant from his property and test private wells in the area. Fire officials also said Mr. McKissick did not have the permit to house a diesel fuel tanker. Mr. McKissick's lawyer contends in paperwork that his client took responsibility for his actions once contacted by Charlton authorities. Mr. McKissick also had no knowledge of how much diesel fuel was spilled after estimates were made later.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20130401/NEWS/104019945/1003/NEWS03>



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#### USA, OH, OTTAWA, APRIL 1 2013. DIESEL FUEL SPILL IN PUTNAM CO. RIVER

*chris delcamp*

 [Watch the Video Diesel Fuel Spill in Putnam Co. River](#)



A diesel fuel leak was discovered after emergency crews in Putnam County were called to investigate a strange odor. "They noticed on the bridges in town, they did smell it, and they did see a sheen or streaking in the Blanchard River," says Steve Odenweller, Director of Public Safety. Crews were able to trace the origin of the leak back to this alfalfa mill a few miles away. They discovered they had a fuel tank that had ruptured at some point in the recent past, and they just weren't aware that they were losing diesel fuel. The leak, which made its way from the sewer, is estimated to have spilled anywhere from 500 to 1,000 gallons of fuel into the river, and left a rainbow sheen still visible on the surface. However, the leak was very slow, which means it could have been leaking for some time, and the number of gallons could be more. Luckily, the 10,000 gallon tank had not been refilled recently, which limited

overall loss, and made the leakage very diluted. Odenweller says, "It was really diluted to the point where it wasn't going to cause any real environmental impact." A river boom has been set up to stop the leakage from flowing farther down the river, and officials say the affected area has been contained. No animals were reported to be affected. It will take at least another week before the cleanup is complete. Officials say the alfalfa mill has been completely cooperative, and they are taking full responsibility in the clean-up efforts.

<http://www.northwestohio.com/news/story.aspx?id=879461#.UVpv35P-GM4>

#### USA, CO, GLENWOOD SPRINGS, APRIL 1 2013. FINES, SPILL REPORTING BILLS MOVE THROUGH LEGISLATURE >> INDUSTRY, CRITICS WATCHING CLOSELY AS PARACHUTE PLUME WORK CONTINUES

*john colson*

At least two of the energy-related bills now working their way through the Colorado General Assembly might directly affect a current oil and gas issue in Garfield County. The bills, dealing with fines against energy companies that violate state rules (HB1267) and the reporting of spills from oil & gas facilities (HB1278), are being watched closely by the industry and its critics in light of an ongoing spill event on Parachute Creek. The state House and Senate, which both are controlled by Democrats, have been working on a number of bills concerning a wide range of issues related to oil and gas exploration and production around the state. Among them are bills that would reduce conflicts of interest among members of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; give local governments authority to charge the industry to address impacts; dramatically increase the number of inspectors and the frequency of inspections of oil and gas facilities; and boost the level of research into human health impacts due to industry activities. The fines legislation, HB 1267, was introduced by Rep. Mike Foote, D-Lafayette, which is near the city of Longmont. The Longmont City Council is being sued by the COGCC to overturn a new municipal law outlawing the controversial drilling practice known as hydraulic fracturing or "fracking" within city limits. According to the text of HB1267, current law specifies that a violation of the "Oil and Gas Conservation Act" is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 per day, with a cap of \$10,000 for "violations that are not significant." Rep. Foote's bill would increase the maximum daily fine to \$15,000 and would set an additional minimum fine of \$5,000 per day for violations that "have a significant adverse impact on public health, safety or welfare, including the environment and wildlife resources." The bill also would repeal the existing cap on maximum total fines. The bill was passed out of the House Finance Committee on March 27, and is now headed for the House Appropriations Committee. A hearing on the spill-reporting bill, HB 1278, was to have started on March 28 but was delayed until the next scheduled meeting of the House Committee on Transportation and Energy. The Colorado General Assembly was closed on March 29 in observance of the Good Friday holiday. The spill-reporting bill, sponsored by Routt County Democrat Rep. Diane Mitsch-Bush, would require that energy companies report spills of a single barrel's worth (42 gallons) or more of hydrocarbons, where the industry currently is required only to report spills of five barrels (210 gallons) or more. In addition to reporting a spill to the COGCC, an oil and gas operator also would need to report a spill to either the local city or county, whichever holds jurisdiction; to the surface property owner; and to owners of adjacent property. And the spill, under HB 1278, would have to be reported within 24 hours of discovery, rather than the 10 days a company can now take to formally report a spill. The bills are supported by industry critics, who have maintained that there was inadequate public notification of the ongoing Parachute plume spill until more than a week after it was discovered. The operator at the site,



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Williams Midstream, reported the spill by telephone on the day it was found, March 8, according to Williams and the COGCC. But notice of the spill was not placed on the COGCC website, and the public was unaware of the situation, until a Denver Post story appeared on March 16. Industry critics also have long argued that the fines assessed against drillers are too small to deter further violations of the rules. Doug Flanders, spokesman on legislative issues for the Colorado Oil and Gas Association, wrote in an email to the Post Independent that the industry realizes that "oil and gas regulations must work to both protect the environment and the business climate by encouraging best practices without being punitive." While not happy the industry was not consulted prior to introduction of HB 1267, Flanders wrote, "We look forward to working with State Representative Foote on his legislation." Concerning HB 1278, Flanders wrote that the current regulations regarding spills are "more than adequate and protective." But, he added, the industry also is eager to work with Rep. Mitsch-Bush. "We think it's important that any conversation about oil and gas acknowledge how interdependent Coloradoans are with these resources," Flanders wrote. "There are energy providers and energy users, and any legislation must acknowledge that we are all invested in this together."

<http://www.postindependent.com/article/20130401/VALLEYNEWS/130339993/1083&ParentProfile=1074>

#### ENGLAND, SOMERSET, APRIL 1 2013. FUEL SLOP TANKS TOO NEAR TO HOMES, SAY PORTISHEAD RESIDENTS

People living near an oil tank storage depot in Portishead are calling for plans to bring more fuel tanks back into operation to be thrown out. The Oil and Pipelines Agency has applied to North Somerset Council for a hazardous substances consent to allow it to continue the operation of two slop tanks at its depot at Redcliffe Bay. The agency has been using the tanks, which store aviation fuel, for the past few years without permission after an administrative error when the original tanks on the site were granted approval. Currently there are 15 tanks on the site, five of which are not used. North Somerset Council recently approved plans to open up a further three tanks on the site, despite concerns from residents. The slop tanks are used to store waste fuel products and are emptied on an ad hoc basis with the waste material being taken away by tanker. Residents have raised concerns about moves to bring the two slop tanks back into formal operation because of the close proximity to properties and are asking for them to be moved. Residents say that when the tanks are emptied the emission of the fumes cause headaches and nausea. They have also raised concerns that if there was a problem at the site with emptying the tanks, fuel stored inside them could flow down on to properties, causing the land to become contaminated. Portishead town councillor Marilyn Koops, who represents the Redcliffe Bay ward, said: "Residents are concerned that if there was a problem with the tanks any fuel escaping would affect homes on the lower parts of Waterside Park. "People also suffer from the fumes from the tanks when they are emptied as they are so close to properties. "I do not see why these tanks cannot be relocated well away from properties – the only reason is a financial one. The OPA says it cannot justify the expense." Portishead Town Council has also objected to the moves to regulate the use of the two slop tanks. The depot was originally built by the Ministry of Defence in the 1950s to store fuel for military purposes and laid vacant for a number of years before being re-commissioned in 2005. The fuel is brought to Royal Portbury Dock by sea tanker, and pumped up to the storage tanks at Redcliffe Bay and Hallen. It is then pumped through an underground pipe network to several commercial airports throughout the country. The underground pipeline runs under Portbury, through parts of Portishead – including through the grounds of Gordano School – and up to Redcliffe Bay.

<http://www.thisissomerset.co.uk/Fuel-slop-tanks-near-homes-say-Portishead/story-18578079-detail/story.html#axzz2PHadPG3G>

#### USA, WASHINGTON DC, APRIL 2 2013. STATEMENT OF CSB CHAIRPERSON DR. RAFAEL MOURE-ERASO ON COURT DECISION IN DEEPWATER HORIZON/MACONDO INVESTIGATION CASE

Investigation Details: [Macondo Blowout and Explosion](#)



Late this afternoon, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) learned that a Federal Court in the Southern District of Texas has upheld the CSB's legal authority to investigate the tragic April 2010 blowout and explosion in the Gulf of Mexico. U.S. Federal District Court Judge Lee Rosenthal [issued an Order](#) that denied a motion by Transocean Deepwater Drilling, Inc. to block the CSB's access to information pertinent to the CSB's investigation. A number of other companies have cooperated with the CSB's ongoing investigation; Transocean, however, had raised a number of legal arguments and has not provided the CSB with key information even as the accident approaches its third anniversary. The Court found that "In sum, the CSB has shown that it has jurisdiction to investigate the Macondo incident. The subpoenas the CSB issued are within its authority. Because



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Transocean raised no challenge to the subpoenas other than the argument that the CSB exceeded its statutory authority, the motion to dismiss or to quash the subpoenas must be denied." The Court's ruling follows an extensive litigation effort by the CSB and our colleagues in the United States Attorney's Office in Houston. This ruling greatly supports the CSB's [ongoing investigation](#) and will enable CSB investigators to access critical information that might have otherwise been unavailable. The CSB's investigation has been taking a broad look at the causes of the Gulf tragedy. The issues include how the industry and the regulating agencies learned or did not learn from previous incidents. The report also examines the lack of human factors guidance for offshore production, the reliance on manual safety controls instead of automated systems, and organizational issues that can impair effective engineering decisions. We are also examining the implementation of effective corporate governance and sustainability standards to address safety and environmental risk. The Court's decision affirms what we always believed – that the CSB has the legal authority and, indeed, the duty to thoroughly investigate the Gulf tragedy.

[www.csb.gov](http://www.csb.gov)

### INDONESIA, JAKARTA, APRIL 2 2013. GIANTS JOIN FOR PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX

*watchara pussayanawin*



*PTTCG and Pertamina signed a tentative deal yesterday in Thailand to invest jointly in a petrochemical complex in Indonesia. PTTCG CEO Anon Sirisaengtaksin, third from right, shakes hands with Hanung Budya, Pertamina.*

PTT Global Chemical has signed a tentative deal with Indonesian oil and gas company Pertamina to develop a petrochemical complex in Indonesia worth up to Bt150 billion. The two companies signed the heads-of-agreement deal yesterday in Thailand to

determine the framework of their collaboration to study details of investment and a business plan, and to set up a joint venture to establish the petrochemical complex, said PTTCG chief executive officer Anon Sirisaengtaksin. The complex will comprise a refinery, an olefin plant with capacity of 1 million tonnes per year, and a downstream polymer plant, all to serve the fast-rising demand of Indonesia's market. The cost of the establishing the complex will be US\$4 billion to \$5 billion (Bt117 billion to Bt147 billion). Pertamina will own 51 per cent of the project, while the Thai partner will hold the remainder. Of the total investment, 50 per cent will be financed by loans. Of the rest, each of the two partners will contribute about \$1.2 billion. Anon added that PTTCG had sufficient cash flow to finance the project. The joint venture serves part of PTTCG's strategy of boosting its strength by expanding its regional market. It is possible that in the future [PTT Group](#) and Pertamina will expand their collaboration in other business areas. Pertamina president and CEO Karen Agustiawan said the olefin plant planned under the deal was expected to be up and running by 2017. After this the company will also discuss with [PTT Exploration and Production](#) the possibility of collaboration on the exploration of new petroleum fields. Besides Pertamina, [PTT Group](#) is also interested in partnership deals with other global oil giants. PTTCG is in talks with China's Sinochem group to explore the possibility of setting up a polyurethane plant with production capacity not lower than 300,000 tonnes per year. The talks are expected to be wrapped up in June. During the past two months the prices of petrochemical products have been higher than last year. While PTTCG will conduct refinery-plant maintenance for 30-40 days in the middle of this year, its olefin production will be continued at full steam, which means its revenue will not be affected, it says. Though olefin contributes only 30 per cent of total revenue, it contributes 70 per cent of total net profit. Olefin fibre is used in ropes and car interiors. The company expects that its revenue this year will not be lower than last year's, which stood at Bt550 billion.

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/business/Giants-join-for-petrochemical-complex-30203184.html>

### USA, N.J, HANOVER, APRIL 2 2013. NITROGEN TANK EXPLODED, HURTING 60-YEAR-OLD MAN

*brendan kuty*

A 60-year-old man was hurt when a nitrogen tank he was working on exploded, Chief Steve Gallagher said. The man was checking the tank's filter when it exploded at a North Jefferson Road business around 6 p.m. Thursday, Gallagher said. Shrapnel from the tank caused several lacerations to the man's hand, chest and chin, according to the chief. He was taken to Morristown Medical Center for treatments by the Cedar Knolls First Aid Squad, Gallagher said.

[http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2013/04/nitrogen\\_tank\\_explodes\\_hurting.html](http://www.nj.com/morris/index.ssf/2013/04/nitrogen_tank_explodes_hurting.html)



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### USA, ME, KITTERY, APRIL 2 2013. TANKER HITS NH-MAINE BRIDGE, CLOSING IT TO TRAFF

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Large Tanker Collides with Sarah Long Bridge](#)
- [Tanker Hits Sarah Long Bridge in Kittery](#)
- [Crews Inspecting Damage to Sarah Long Bridge n NH](#)

 **Photo's [5]** [Tanker Ship Hits Sarah Long Bridge](#)

 **Photo's [16]** [Tanker Hits Sarah Long Bridge in Kittery](#)



An oil tanker broke loose from a pier and struck a heavily traveled bridge that links New Hampshire and Maine, damaging it and closing it to traffic, but there was no sign of a spill and no reports of injuries, officials said. The 473-foot Harbour Feature was reported to have broken free from the State Pier in Portsmouth and swung into the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge at about 1:30 p.m. Monday, Coast Guard Lt. Nick Barrow said. The Portuguese-flagged vessel, he said, was transporting tallow oil, an animal product that carries less of an environmental risk than a petroleum product in the event of a spill. "It wasn't under power at the time," Barrow said. "It was moored up, and it somehow came unattached from the pier and floated free. But we're unsure exactly how that transpired." The lift bridge carries the U.S. Route 1 bypass over the Piscataqua River between Portsmouth and Kittery, Maine. It carries more than 15,000 vehicles per day. Following the accident, the tanker was pinned against

the bridge with the rising tide of the tidal river. Tug boats moved the vessel away from the bridge Monday evening between high and low tides, when currents were minimal. The tanker had damage on the side that hit the bridge, but there was no evidence of any leaking, Barrow said. The bridge was closed to traffic so transportation officials could inspect it and determine if repairs are necessary. The bridge is owned by Maine and New Hampshire. It will remain closed into Tuesday and possibly longer to allow crews to inspect the structural damage and determine what repairs are necessary, said Bill Boynton, spokesman for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. "There's definitely visible damage," Boynton said. "How much damage isn't clear." The lift span was operating Monday evening to allow for river traffic, officials said. The 73-year-old Sarah Mildred Long Bridge is one of three bridges connecting Portsmouth to Kittery. The Memorial Bridge downriver closed to vehicle traffic in 2011 to allow for a replacement bridge to be built. The closure of the bridge left just the high-level Interstate 95 bridge open. In January, the bridge was shut down for several days after its center span got stuck during a routine test.

[http://bostonherald.com/news\\_opinion/national/northeast/2013/04/tanker\\_hits\\_nh\\_maine\\_bridge\\_closing\\_it\\_to\\_traffic](http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/national/northeast/2013/04/tanker_hits_nh_maine_bridge_closing_it_to_traffic)

### ENGLAND, HAMPSHIRE, WEYHILL, APRIL 2 2013. DRAMATIC EXPLOSION AS THIEVES BLOW UP ATM

 **Watch the Video** [Dramatic Explosion as Thieves Blow Up ATM](#)

 **Photo's [7]** [The Moment Thieves Blow Up Cashpoint on Petrol Station Forecourt](#)



Police in the United Kingdom have released footage of an explosion that ripped apart an ATM in a quiet Hampshire village. The explosion ignited a small fire and caused homes to shake when it was detonated at around 4am on Sunday at the Texaco petrol station in Weyhill, the Telegraph reports. When police arrived at the scene, they found the machine had been destroyed and the money from inside stolen. It is not yet clear how much money was stolen. A number of gas cylinders were found nearby. "Although this was a relatively contained explosion and fortunately no-one was injured, the unpredictable nature of this type of offence means we could easily have been dealing with serious injury or death," said Hampshire Police detective chief inspector Stuart Murray. Murray said police are aware of similar crimes occurring across Europe. Two robbers were killed in 2009 when they attempted to blow up an ATM with



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dynamite in Belgium. While, in 2010 criminals in Berlin miscalculated the amount of explosives they would need to open a cash point and ended up destroying the Volksbank.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/world-news/dramatic-explosion-thieves-blow-up-atm-5392666>

#### NIGERIA, LAGOS, APRIL 2 2013L. I SELL PETROL AT N48 PER LITRE – PIPELINE VANDAL



##### *Pipeline Vandals.*

A suspected oil pipeline vandal, Komuko Ayekede, says he sells stolen petrol at N48 per litre. The suspect, who was arrested by the Inspector General of Police Special Task Force on Anti-Pipeline Vandalism Unit on Sunday, added that he had numerous customers including filling stations, due to his attractive price. He however pleaded with the police to release him and the other four suspects, Oluwafemi Bamidele, James Awolowo, Eugene Stanley and Kunle Ogushe, in the spirit of Easter. "We thought that on a day like Easter, security operatives would go and rest with their families. Please forgive us at least for the sake of Christ that rose from the dead because of you and me," he said. Narrating how he joined the illegitimate business, Ayekede, 52, said he was involved in sand

dredging but joined other vandals when he couldn't make ends meet. He said, "I was engaged in sand dredging. Some years ago when my business was not moving well, my friend, Ebi, advised me to join him in pipeline vandalism. Initially, I said no because I was a hardworking person, but when it dawned on me that this was the only source of living, I joined Ebi. "We were using kegs but because of the level of the water, we introduced the use of sack which contains a larger quantity. The sack can contain as much as 125 litres of fuel or diesel. Normally we move about 270 bags per trip. "When we get to the pipe, we will open it and use our own valve to block it immediately. You then run it through the hose to the water where the bags and my boys are waiting. On how they sell the products, Ayekede said there were always buyers at Apapa to collect the product at N6000 per sack of 125 litres. He said, "Selling the product is not a problem. There are so many of them at Apapa. The main job is to collect the product and successfully cross the river especially through FESTAC canal. This is why we normally work at midnight." Stanley, another suspect, claimed he was an aspiring footballer based in Bayelsa but was pushed to crime because he needed money to bribe scouts who would help him get a good offer in Europe. Another suspect, Bamidele, who claimed to be a university dropout, said he was not part of the vandals but only wanted to patronise them. Friday Ibadin, who is in charge of the Task Force said that at about 12am, on Sunday they got an intelligence report that vandals were at Ijedodo, Ijegan in Iba Local Government Council Development area of Lagos. He said they were arrested around 7th Avenue, FESTAC with 270 bags of 120 litres of petrol.

<http://www.osundefender.org/?p=96748>

#### USA, N.Y, HOLTSVILLE, APRIL 2 2013. CAR COLLIDES WITH FUEL TRUCK IN HOLTSVILLE

matthew mcgeevna



*Police say roughly 10 gallons of fuel spilled, shutting down roadway for five hours.*

Police said the driver of the passenger vehicle which was involved in an accident with a tanker truck in Holtsville needed to be extricated, but said that driver was not seriously injured. A Selden man was hospitalized for minor injuries after his vehicle collided with a fuel truck on Union Avenue in Holtsville this morning. According to police the fuel truck was leaving the Northville Terminal on Union Avenue at around 4:15 a.m. when it was T-boned by a 2005 Chevy traveling eastbound on Union. The car was wedged under the truck upon impact. The driver, Vincent Sanita, 26, of Seldeon was transported to Brookhaven Memorial Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The driver of the fuel truck was not injured. Police say the fuel truck dumped approximately

10 gallons of fuel from the rupture caused by the impact and emergency workers shut down Union Avenue for about five hours for cleanup. The fuel truck driver was issued a summons for an equipment violation, according to authorities.

<http://sachem.patch.com/articles/car-collides-with-fuel-truck-in-holtsville>



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#### ENGLAND, NORFOLK, THETFORD, APRIL 2 2013. POLICEWOMAN IN NORFOLK SUES PETROL STATION OWNER OVER ALLEGED INJURIES SHE GOT DURING A CALL-OUT

 [Watch the Video Police Officer Sues Garage over Fall](#)



*Kelly Jones has instructed Pattinson Brewer solicitors to take action against a petrol station owner for 'failing to ensure' her safety during a routine break-in investigation.*

A police officer will sue a petrol station owner on whose property she tripped and - she claims - injured herself. WPC Kelly Jones was attending a night-time report of a break-in at the Harvest filling station in Thetford, Norfolk last summer. Now she claims she fell on the six inch kerb and injured her leg, and that the call exposed her to "an unnecessary risk of injury." Her case makes a total of 11 allegations against him - including that he failed to turn the lights on or warn her of the kerb. She says she injured her left leg and her right wrist in the fall. Petrol station owner Steve Jones told the Daily Mail: "I am incredulous that I am being sued by a police officer whose duty is to protect the public. "How can anyone feel safe calling the cops if they size you up for compensation while they're fighting crime? "Surely policing has elements of both public service and risk. Isn't that what officers sign up for when they put on the uniform - chasing villains and keeping us safe?" Norfolk Police said the force was "wholly unaware of this litigation", which "appears to be instigated privately" by the officer." A spokesman said: "We have a duty of care to any officer injured whilst on duty, to support their continued health and well-being and fitness to return to work. "Officers can, in addition, receive further support from their staff association, as well as pursuing private treatment." Keith Vaz, chairman of the Commons Home Affairs Committee, said: "This civil claim will have huge implications for every citizen if they call police out to their premises to help them in an emergency. "It is in the public interest to know where exactly people stand in circumstances like this. If there are going to be cases like this, then people will feel reluctant to call the police in case they are sued."

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/policewoman-in-norfolk-sues-petrol-station-owner-over-alleged-injuries-she-got-during-a-callout-8555441.html>

#### JAMAICA, KINGSTON, APRIL 2 2013. CARIBBEAN NATIONS SEARCH FOR OIL AMID SPILL FEARS

david mcfadden



*In this Sept. 5, 2005 file photo, the refinery of the state-owned Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd., PETROTRIN, is shown in Pointe-a-Pierre, on the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad & Tobago. From the Bahamas and Cuba down to Aruba and Suriname, international oil companies are lining up to locate potentially rich offshore deposits in the Caribbean. The countries hope drilling could lead to a black-gold bonanza, easing demand for imported oil and diversifying their economies.*

The turquoise waters that have long brought treasure seekers to the Caribbean now are drawing a new kind of explorer as countries across the region increasingly open their seas to oil exploration. From the Bahamas and Cuba down to Aruba and Suriname, international oil companies are lining up to locate potentially rich offshore deposits in the Caribbean. The countries hope drilling

could lead to a black-gold bonanza, easing demand for imported oil and diversifying their economies. It's a longstanding dream for many. As the Dominican songwriter [Juan Luis Guerra](#) once sang, "If petroleum sprang from here, oh but there would be light and hope." So far, the twin-island nation of Trinidad & Tobago is the only major hydrocarbons producer in the Caribbean, and its waters are crowded with offshore platforms. The country sits just about seven miles (11 kilometers) off the coast of Venezuela, which has the world's largest proven oil reserves. It's pushing hard into deep-water drilling and has signed production-sharing contracts with British oil company BP for new exploration blocks. A growing number of other Caribbean nations are also authorizing or at least aggressively pursuing offshore exploration. The Bahamas recently announced it would try offshore exploratory drilling and said it should have enough information by late 2014 to decide whether it can move forward with production. A voter referendum would first have to decide the matter. [Bahamas Petroleum Company](#) CEO [Simon Potter](#)



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## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 947 Newsy Stuff

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

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said a rig will drill to subsea depths of roughly 22,000 feet (6,705 meters) in some 1,600 feet (488 meters) of water adjacent to Cuba's offshore territory. Barbados and Jamaica have also been seeking well exploration in their seas, while the Anglo-Dutch group Shell announced in December it was preparing to sink its third offshore well in nearby French Guiana, an overseas French department, with other companies also exploring in deep waters there. "What once was a trickle is fast becoming a stream in the Caribbean, with new announcements of expanding deep-water exploration lease offerings and drilling permits being issued," said Lee Hunt, a Houston-based consultant who retired last year as the longtime president of the [International Association](#) of Drilling Contractors. The push for exploration has been fed partly by worries that Venezuelan President [Hugo Chavez](#)'s nearly two-year-long cancer fight and March 5 death would affect a Venezuelan aid program called PetroCaribe that sells petroleum to 17 Caribbean countries on preferential terms. PetroCaribe provided \$14 billion worth of Venezuelan oil to the region last year, with Cuba being the principal beneficiary. Chavez's successor Nicolas Maduro hasn't said he would stop the aid, but his challenger in April 14 elections, Gov. [Henrique Capriles](#), has pledged to cut off subsidized oil to Cuba and reevaluate the PetroCaribe program if elected. Keeping the oil flowing is crucial. Caribbean countries generate nearly all their power from imported oil although the region is blessed with solar, wind and other alternative energy opportunities. Nonetheless, many people across the region fear their famed clear water, fringing reefs and white-sand beaches could end up a casualty to any future oil boom, threatening the tourism bonanza that many countries already depend on. Even with the possibility of a windfall still distant, regional officials have begun to discuss how they would cooperate in the event of a major accident, such as the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. "First, we have to prevent any kind of spill. And second, if something happens, we have to make sure everyone is working together," said [Ernesto Soberon Guzman](#), the Cuban ambassador to the Bahamas, during regional talks about oil spill preparedness in the Bahamian capital of Nassau this month.

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/energy/article/Caribbean-nations-search-for-oil-amid-spill-fears-4398275.php>

### USA, CA, FAIRFAX, APRIL 2 2013. CLEAN-UP OF UNDERGROUND TOXIC PLUME IN FAIRFAX COMPLICATES PLAN FOR NEW GAS STATION

*richard halstead*

Work remains to remove toxic chemicals from the soil in downtown Fairfax where a prospective property owner wants to open a new gas station and convenience store. Seventy tons of soil and 1,600 pounds of polluted groundwater have been removed from the site at 2001 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. since elevated levels of diesel, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes and methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) were found in soil samples in 1998. Measurements of MTBE in groundwater at the site started out at 5,000 parts per billion and have declined to 170 ppb. The state's limit for MTBE in drinking water is 13 ppb, but no wells supplying drinking water in the area have been affected, officials said. Test wells confirmed in 2003 that a petroleum hydrocarbon plume had migrated off-site. In 2005, investigators determined that a water main trench was acting as a pathway for the plume to move east and southeast of the site. In 2007, a large quantity of soil was removed and a French drain was installed to halt migration of the plume. Elevated concentrations of gasoline and diesel remain, however, in an area near the station's dispenser island. In an email to San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board geologist Ralph Lambert on March 15, Bob Clark-Riddell, president of Pangea Environmental Services, who was hired by the property's current owner, wrote, "After you departed the site, my staff found significant impact near the northeast dispenser and completed more step out borings." Clark-Riddell said, "There is one hot spot that we're planning on digging up, and once that is done I think the water board will close the case." Stephen Hill, a spokesman for the water quality control board, said, "A lot of good work has been done here. There is a bit more work that needs to be done before we can wrap up this case. It doesn't present a current threat to any creeks or wells or the public in general." The remediation work is being overseen by the property's current owner, the Sherbon Family Trust. The pending new owner of the property, the Salkhi Family Trust, is seeking permission from town officials to operate a Chevron gas station and an Extra Mile convenience store there. Representatives of both trusts declined to comment for this story. Service stations occupied the site at 2001 Sir Francis Drake from at least 1931 until 2009, when Fairfax Gas closed. Due to zoning changes implemented as part of the 2010-2030 Fairfax general plan, the operation of a service station at the site is neither a permitted use or a conditional use. The town's laws allow for exceptions, however, and a conditional use permit is a possibility. First, however, the owners of the property must complete a traffic study and negotiate with the town regarding an easement the town holds over a portion of the site. "The town owns the right of way for the continuation of Bank Street on through to Sir Francis Drake and this is high on the radar of the council," said Fairfax Planning Director Jim Moore. Fairfax's 2010-2030 general plan says "Bolas Road could eventually become a pedestrian-only area



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from Broadway to Elsie Lane. Traffic would be routed along the approximate route of present Bank Street to Elsie Lane. This idea would actually result in more parking through a re-engineering of the Pavilion lot, and would immediately make the Pavilion more central to the flow of traffic through the town." Moore said, "There is great interest in increasing the connectivity from both Bolinas and Broadway to Sir Francis Drake using that town-owned axis." Moore, however, stressed that no decisions have been made about this controversial proposition. "The pedestrianization of Bolinas is not a done deal," Moore said.

[http://www.marinij.com/fairfax/ci\\_22902409/clean-up-underground-toxic-plume-fairfax-complicates-plan](http://www.marinij.com/fairfax/ci_22902409/clean-up-underground-toxic-plume-fairfax-complicates-plan)

### JAMAICA, ST CATHERINE, APRIL 2 2013. WISYNCO AMMONIA LEAK ALSO BEING PROBED

 **Watch the Video** [Not Enough of the Substance had been Released to Cause any Real Harm](#)

William Mahfood, chief executive officer of Wisynco Group Limited yesterday said the entity was conducting its own internal investigations following an ammonia leak at the company's White Marl, St Catherine plant Saturday. "Our technical persons are investigating. We sent a few persons to the hospital to do tests as a precautionary method, there were no admissions. We should be back to normal here by this evening," Mahfood told the Jamaica Observer yesterday. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), in a statement issued to the media yesterday, said the leak was "fully contained and (the area) rendered safe". It said checks made to adjoining properties and plants indicated that the smell had dissipated and there was no further threat to plant workers or the public. The ODPEM said approximately 12 workers were taken to hospital, as a precautionary action, after complaints of nausea, however, no serious injuries were reported. Mahfood added that "not enough of the substance had been released to cause any real harm". "One of the valves where the oxygen runs through to the cooling system must have malfunctioned. These kinds of accidents happen from time to time in plants of this nature," he told the Observer. The Spanish Town Fire Brigade suggested that the leak was caused by a blown-off valve that occurred during sanitation at the plant. It said the gas rapidly spread to the bottle plant section due to windy conditions. Ammonia is a strong, colourless gas with a distinct odour. If the gas is dissolved in water, it is called liquid ammonia. Poisoning may occur if inhaled or swallowed.

[http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Wisynco-ammonia-leak-also-being-probed\\_13980095](http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Wisynco-ammonia-leak-also-being-probed_13980095)

### USA, WASHINGTON DC, APRIL 2 2013. OSHA ISSUES NEW RESOURCE TO PROTECT EMERGENCY WORKERS AT COMBUSTIBLE DUST FIRES

 **Document** [Combustible Dust: Firefighting Precautions at Facilities with Combustible Dust OSHA 3644 – 2013](#)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration today published [Firefighting Precautions at Facilities with Combustible Dust](#), a new, informative booklet that outlines safe procedures for emergency responders who may face fires and explosions caused by combustible dust. "This booklet will keep both emergency response and facility workers safe by giving them a framework to prepare for potential emergencies involving combustible dust," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. "Stakeholders that have reviewed the booklet, including fire chiefs and union health and safety representatives, describe it as 'an excellent resource for explaining the hazards associated with combustible dust and outlining the best practices for pre-incident operational preparation by emergency responders.'" Since 1980, more than 130 workers have been killed and more than 780 injured in combustible dust explosions. The publication describes how combustible dust explosions occur and uses previous incidents to illustrate how firefighting operations can prevent combustible dust explosions. The booklet explains the preparations emergency responders can make before a response and how these preparations will affect the operational plan during a response. Combustible dusts include fine particles, fibers, chips, chunks or flakes that, under certain conditions, can cause a fire or explosion when suspended in air. Types of dusts include metal (for example, aluminum and magnesium), wood, plastic, rubber, coal, flour, sugar and paper, among others. OSHA's [Combustible Dust](#) Web page provides employers and workers with additional information and resources for preventing and minimizing the effects of combustible dust fires and explosions. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance.

<http://www.osha.gov>.



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