



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network Release 2013 – 986 Newsy Stuff

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

**August 02 2013**



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### USA, TX, AMARILLO, JULY 18 2013. SEMI-TANKER DAMAGES US 287 BRIDGE IN OVERNIGHT ACCIDENT

 **Watch the Video** [Semi-Trailer Slams into Rail Bridge](#)



Traffic remains diverted after an overnight accident on US 287. At about 11:30 Tuesday night a semi-tanker slammed into a railroad bridge on US 287 about 20 miles north of Amarillo. DPS Officers tell us the truck was off its route when it struck the bridge. Railroad officials say they are investigating the damage on the bridge and have suspended rail service until it is deemed safe. No one was injured in the crash. Traffic is still being diverted from the northbound lane to the southbound. TxDOT officials say motorists can expect one-lane traffic in each direction and delays for at least the remainder of the week.

<http://www.newschannel10.com/story/22863598/semi-trailer-damages-us-287-bridge-in-overnight-accident>

### CHINA, SHAANXI, YAN'AN, JULY 18 2013. OIL SPILL POLLUTES RIVER IN NW CHINA



*Oil spilled from a cracked underground oil pipeline has polluted a section of a river in Northwest China's Shaanxi province, local authorities said Tuesday.*

Oil spilled from a cracked underground oil pipeline has polluted a section of a river in Northwest China's Shaanxi province, local authorities said Tuesday. The severe impact of a rain-triggered landslide cracked the pipeline, located in Zichang county, Yan'an city, at 4:58 am Monday, causing nearly a ton of crude oil to flow into the Haojiachuan River, a seasonal river, according to the city's publicity department. Yanchang Petroleum Group's Pipeline [Transportation](#) Company, the operator of the pipeline, immediately turned off the oil valve after the leakage was detected. More than 3,000 people have joined clean-up efforts, and 18 floating dams have been built to curb the spread of oil and remove it from the river. The publicity department added that the spill had been contained within

21 km of the leakage point as of 5 p.m. Monday. The oil-tainted river is not a water source for local residents, as it usually runs dry when precipitation drops in October. Ma Hongyu, vice mayor of Yan'an, urged local authorities and the oil company to work together to stop the oil from spreading and remove pollutants from the river before 6 p.m. Tuesday.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2013-07/17/content\\_16787426.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2013-07/17/content_16787426.htm)

### USA, MD, CHESTERTOWN, JULY 18 2013. OIL CONTAMINATION FROM HOSPITAL CLOSER TO DRINKING WELLS

*daniel menefee*

The Chester River Hospital recently reactivated remediation pumps to prevent heating oil contamination from further migrating towards the town's shallow well field, located near the water plant. "Oil was moving towards our shallow well field," said Chestertown Utilities Manager Bob Sipes at last night's council meeting. "It showed up in some monitoring wells." The monitoring wells located between the well field and the hospital had never before detected any contamination, Sipes said. He said the contamination was now the closest it's ever been to the wells. The reactivation of the hospital's 22-year remediation program comes after the hospital's recovery pumps were turned off at the end of last year with approval from MDE. The hospital wrote MDE in March of 2012 that 81,000 gallons was reclaimed by their remediation system since 1991. The spill occurred during the mid 80s and was estimated at over 100,000 gallons. Hospital officials lobbied MDE that the \$50,000 annual cost to keep the cleanup plan in force was reclaiming only nominal amounts of heating oil. Sipes said that two of the five monitoring wells between the hospital and the well field recently detected liquid phase hydrocarbons, which is a property of heating oil. "They fired the system up again to keep the [oil] plume from moving anymore," Sipes said. He objected strongly last year to ending the remediation program because the hospital's own consultant, Earth Data, said the natural ground water flow was in the direction of the shallow well field. Sipes said there has been no detection of contamination of the shallows



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wells. Sipes' announcement of the cleanup reactivation came just moments after he informed the council that Well-9, the town's deep water drinking well, would go back online either this Friday or next Monday. "We're having extraordinary results with the rehab of [Well-9]," Sipes said. Well-9 seized up last August due to iron bacteria buildup — and has forced the town to draw exclusively from the shallow wells since. Well-9 draws from 300 feet into the [Magothy Aquifer](#). The shallow wells draw from the [Aquia Aquifer](#).

<http://chestertownspy.com/2013/07/16/oil-contamination-from-hospital-closer-to-drinking-wells/>

#### USA, VA, PORTSMOUTH, JULY 18 2013. DIESEL FUEL TANK RUPTURES IN PORTSMOUTH

*holly henry,*

 **Watch the Video** [Diesel Fuel Tank Ruptures](#)

A commercial vehicle was making a delivery to a business when a large diesel fuel tank ruptured and leaked fuel that spread into a storm drain, according to Portsmouth Deputy Chief Hoffler. A resident noticed the odor, and reported it. The storm leads into Lake Holland off of City Park Avenue and officials worried that some of the fuel would get into the Elizabeth River. They were able to stop it. They say clean-up should be done by the person who caused the spill. Geese and birds in the area have been affected, officials say. PETA was there to help the animals by washing the fuel off of the ones they were able to catch. A contractor was hired to clean up the spill. It is unknown how long it will take to clean up. A fire investigator has been assigned to look into this incident. HAZMAT will have more information about the amount of fuel that was spilled and how it will impact the area on Thursday.

<http://wtkr.com/2013/07/17/diesel-fuel-tank-ruptures-in-portsmouth/>

#### ISRAEL, JERUSALEM, JULY 18 2013. COMPTROLLER: STATE BODIES NOT DOING ENOUGH TO REPAIR ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION

*sharon udasin*

Report says Israel Military Industries and Israel Aerospace Industries sites pose public health hazards that must be rectified. The long-standing failure of Israel Military Industries (IMI) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) to rehabilitate areas polluted by their factory contaminants poses a public health hazard that must be rectified immediately, State Comptroller Joseph Shapira declared in his latest report issued on Wednesday. The State Comptroller's Office reviewed the behavior of IMI – a government company that operates as the military and industrial support unit of the Defense Ministry – intermittently from November 2011 through July 2012, examining the firm's failure to evacuate and clean up its long abandoned Haifa site. In addition, the audit evaluated IMI's mismanagement of the perchlorate pollution flowing from the company's Givon plant toward Rehovot, as well as the Environmental Protection Ministry and Water Authority's failure to curb this situation. From March to July 2012, the state comptroller also analyzed IAI operational units that have been contaminating Ben-Gurion Airport sewage facilities. An IMI military vehicle production site in Haifa closed down in the early 2000s, leaving the site rife with environmental hazards, according to the state comptroller. By the time of the audit's completion in July 2012, the firm still had not budgeted a plan for the site's evacuation and decontamination, despite an IMI board of directors decision from March 2006. Stressing that this situation constitutes an "environmental hazard," the state comptroller concluded that it is "vital that IMI and the Defense Ministry will work – each in its area of responsibility – without additional delay toward the decontamination." Further south, at its Givon plant near Ramle, IMI has been facing other serious problems since at least the summer of 2005. At that time, the Water Authority detected the presence of perchlorate – a toxic salt that frequently contaminates public water systems around the world – in water wells used for irrigation in the hills west of the factory, according to the state comptroller. The rate of contamination spread was very rapid, with the toxin flowing from Givon toward the drinking-water production wells in eastern Rehovot. Equally problematic is the fact that the contaminated water is being used to irrigate orange trees in the area, and the state comptroller warned that farmers must immediately cease using this water. By the end of the audit in July 2012, the Water Authority had not finished its pollution identification and demarcation efforts, and therefore has been unable to provide a risk assessment or plan for curtailing the spread, the audit said. Meanwhile, despite the fact that the Environmental Protection Ministry received information about the groundwater contamination originating from Givon, the office did take part in the case until January 2011, the report added. Warning that the situation presents a "danger to public health, damage to natural water sources that are scarce" and will require expensive rehabilitation, the state comptroller demanded that "every institution associated with the pollution caused to the land by IMI must act immediately to prevent the continued spread of contamination." In response to the state comptroller's recommendations, a statement from IMI said that the company is



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“working on the issue of the environment, according to the most stringent of standards customary of security companies in the Western world.” The Environmental Protection Ministry said that the Water Authority is leading the treatment effort, and that the ministry has contacted the authority many times to accelerate the effort. As the institution that discovered the Givon infection, the Water Authority stressed that it is “the only regulatory body acting to identify sources of pollution, conduct risk assessments and perform detailed groundwater investigations toward preparing and implementing rehabilitation plans.” Because for decades various factories have been polluting the environment and groundwater all over Israel, treatment of the contaminants takes a long time and requires large budgets that are not always readily available, the authority said. In addition to the focus on the pollution caused by IMI, the IAI company likewise came under fire in the state comptroller's report for failing to properly restrain contaminants from flowing out of its own systems and causing damage to the Ben-Gurion Airport wastewater treatment facility. Deviating from the mandated quality standards for wastewater constitutes a violation of the business licenses granted by the Interior Ministry's licensing authority, the audit added. Only in early 2011 did the Environmental Protection Ministry demand that IAI perform a comprehensive historical land survey, the state comptroller said. Although IAI completed and submitted the survey to the ministry in June 2011, by the end of the audit in July 2012, the ministry had yet to finish its evaluations, according to the report. It is therefore impossible to quantify the extent of the soil and groundwater contamination and the accompanying environmental implications, the state comptroller explained.

<http://www.jpost.com/National-News/Comptroller-State-bodies-not-doing-enough-to-repair-environmental-contamination-320152>

### USA, PA, LIMERICK, JULY 18 2013. SOURCE FOR LIMERICK WELL CONTAMINATION STILL UNCERTAIN

*evan brandt*

A well sample on a chemically contaminated site on Ridge Pike showed pollution levels 832 times the government safe drinking water standard. However, state officials are still not sure the site is the source of the pollution that has fouled 22 area wells and will result in carbon filtration systems being installed in five homes as part of an effort to protect residents from the pollution's effects. The test result — 4,160 parts per billion — was revealed during Wednesday night's public hearing on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's proposed “interim solution” to the groundwater pollution problem at what it is calling the “Landis Creek Site.” The test was taken at the location of a former heating equipment company known as Roll Form on West Ridge Pike. The safe drinking water sample for the pollutant, trichloroethylene, or TCE, is five parts per billion. Dustin Armstrong, the DEP project officer for this pollution site, said the site was first identified in 1981 and after violations were found there, the site and neighboring properties were connected to public water in the early 1980s. Roll Form has since closed. Further investigations have looked into whether this site, or the former Limerick Carpet Cleaners across the street, are the source of the trichloroethylene (TCE) and tetrachloroethylene (PCE) that has been found at varying levels in 22 nearby private wells, but have so far failed to definitively identify the source of the well-water pollution. As many as 150 homeowners in the area of Ridge Pike, Royersford Road, North Township Line Road and Heffner Road have had their wells tested, but most of those wells were found to have no evidence of contamination, according to Armstrong. Although the Roll Form site seems like a likely candidate for the contamination, Armstrong said, tests show the groundwater beneath the site flows south, toward Royersford Road, away from the areas to the north and east that have shown the most contamination. “We're still not sure Roll Form is the source,” Armstrong said during the DEP's public hearing, held Wednesday evening in the Limerick Township Building, that was attended by about 40 people. The primary purpose of the hearing was to outline the DEP's proposed response to the pollution, which is to pay for the installation of full-home carbon filtration systems on five homes where levels of TCE and/or PCE are above the five-parts-per-billion safety standard established by the Environmental Protection Agency for both contaminants. TCE, the more prevalent of the two, is part of a family of chemical pollutants known as “volatile organic compounds.” It has been linked to having a “significant bearing on excess lifetime cancer risks,” according to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The other 22 homes where TCE or PCE have been detected in the well water have levels below the five-parts-per-billion standard and DEP has proposed no action on those wells so long as those levels remain low, Armstrong said. He said the cost of installing the filtration systems and maintaining them for two years would cost taxpayers \$44,000, whereas the cost of extending the nearby public water system and hooking up all the homes carried an estimated price tag of \$2.5 million. A third option, continuing to provide bottled water to the affected homes, priced out at \$30,000, he said. Armstrong said a comparison of costs over three years showed the average home would incur \$1,025 in costs with a filtration system, but \$1,800 in public water bills, assuming a monthly bill of \$50. Because the contamination levels in the homes are comparatively low — the highest was just under 70 parts-per-billion — Armstrong's presentation



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indicated the carbon filters would last longer and require changing less frequently. In addition to receiving the filtration systems, the five homes with the worst contamination must also have "environmental covenants" attached to their deeds, said William Blasberg, from DEP legal expert. Those covenants would restrict the use of water from the well until tests showed that the contamination had dissipated and the water tested met the safe drinking water standard. That, and the proposed filtration solution, won little praise from those who came to listen and to speak Wednesday. Limerick Supervisor Elaine DeWan, who was joined at the hearing by fellow supervisors Joseph St. Pedro and Thomas Neafcy, said by requiring the covenants "you're telling people their property values are going to be reduced drastically." Pat Webster, who said she has been selling real estate with Century 21/Alliance for 11 years, said providing public water to these homes would protect and increase their property value. "From a buyer's perspective, nothing compares to public water and sewer," Webster said. "That filtration system will be a constant reminder of the problem that lives on the other side of that filter." Richard Soto does not need a reminder. He lives in one of the homes with elevated contamination levels requiring a carbon filtration system. Soto has lived most of his life within earshot of the home he now occupies on North Township Line Road "and since the time I was 11 or 12 years old, the water's been bad there, and I'm 50 now, so that's a long time." He told the DEP officials, "I think you're rolling the dice here and hoping it solves the problem, but I don't think its going to solve the problem any time soon." However, the problem may be on the way to solving itself. Armstrong noted that when the area's contamination was first investigated, the contamination levels were higher than the ones seen in the most recent tests. "Compared with the data we took in the mid-to-late 90s on Heffner Road and Landis Creek Lane, the levels are dropping. Hopefully that trend continues," he said. "The trend seems to be downward." As part of the proposed interim solution, DEP will continue to conduct soil tests and well tests, and install monitoring wells to try to better determine the direction the plume of pollution is taking. The official public comment period on the proposed solution will remain open until Aug. 22. Official comments may be emailed to Armstrong at [darmstrong@pa.gov](mailto:darmstrong@pa.gov), or mailed to him at the Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Office, 2 Main St., Norristown, PA 19401

[http://www.pottsmmerc.com/article/20130717/NEWS01/130719337/source-for-limerick-well-contamination-still-uncertain#full\\_story](http://www.pottsmmerc.com/article/20130717/NEWS01/130719337/source-for-limerick-well-contamination-still-uncertain#full_story)

## CANADA, QUEBEC, LAC-MÉGANTIC, JULY 18 2013. SIZE OF LAC MEGANTIC OIL SPILL REMAINS A COMPANY SECRET

eric andrew-gee

 **Watch the Video's:**

- [Lac-Mégantic close-up: Inside the security perimeter](#)
- [Social workers help shell-shocked Lac-Mégantic residents](#)



*A worker pumps oil from the lake near the site of the train wreck in Lac-Mégantic, on Tuesday.*

The company cleaning the oil out of the Chaudière River in Lac-Mégantic will not say how much they have removed, citing a confidentiality agreement with the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway. As flames soared above Lac-Mégantic, Que., in the early hours of July 6, the railway company whose [train had jumped the tracks and exploded](#) hours earlier made an urgent phone call to Cornwall, Ont. That's where the emergency dispatcher for Ottawa-based oil clean-up specialist Eastern Canada Response Corporation (ECRC) is located. Later that

day, ECRC was on the scene in Lac-Mégantic, using a complicated array of technologies to remove oil from the Chaudière River, which feeds into the St. Lawrence. Since then, the company's booms, vacuums, skimmers, and trucks have removed about 100,000 litres of oil from the Chaudière, according to an estimate by the Quebec environment minister. The minister has said that in weeks, if not days, the ecological danger to the river will have passed. But as light crude continues to shimmer on the river's surface and dead fish slick with oil continue to be pulled ashore, the true size of the spill remains unknown. That's because a confidentiality agreement between Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway and ECRC prevents the clean-up company from disclosing how much oil and water they have pulled from the river. Asked whether the company had told them the scope of the oil removal, Jean-Marc Lachance, a regional director in the Quebec environment ministry said, "It's something we're working on." "We'll have them one day," he said of the figures, conceding that the 100,000-litre estimate was "just a guess." The train that derailed at Lac-Mégantic comprised 73 tank cars, each capable of carrying almost 100,000 litres of crude. Some



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of the spilled oil is thought to have burned up in the fire that consumed half of the city's downtown. ECRC president Jim Carson confirmed that the company has not shared the quantity of oil removed from the river with any government body. "I can't give you that," said Carson when asked about the amount. "There's some confidentiality here towards our client." Carson explained that under Canadian law, the polluter in an oil spill has to pay for the cleanup. That means that the company responsible for the spill generally hires a company like ECRC and gives them "marching orders." Environment Canada and the provincial government have a presence along the Chaudière, but they are there in a "monitoring role," Carson said. "They recommend things, but we take our direction from (MMA)." The environment ministry insists they have some input. "We're working with them on their methods of cleaning the riverbed," Lachance said. But all of the equipment and staff cleaning the river belong to ECRC, Carson noted. The company is using a range of devices to remove the light crude, from sausage-like "sorbent booms" made of shredded cellulose that soak up the oil; to "mini-vacs" that Hoover oil off the water's surface; to large drums called "skimmers" that spin in deeper sections of the river and bind the oily water to their plastic surface. The company has also used non-absorbent booms to divert the oil, running with the river's current, toward the shore, where it's easier to remove. The light crude oil spilled by the train sits like a "skin" on the water surface, Carson said. The summer heat has helped evaporate some of it. Heavy crude would have evaporated less and been harder to clean, he said. A group of citizens calling themselves "Nos cheveux à Mégantic" approached the company about using booms made of human hair in the clean-up, but the company declined. When the oil is collected, it is trucked to a disposal plant. The company knows how much water and oil they have gathered, but cannot tell for sure how much of the liquid is oil and how much is water. Keith Stewart, a Greenpeace researcher, said he was "stunned" by ECRC's silence on the oil removal total. "By keeping (the government) in the dark, you're making everyone's life more difficult . . . Why complicate what is already one of the most complicated oil spill cleanups in Canada's history?" Carson said he had "no idea" how long the cleanup would take. "I wouldn't want to give any number because it's so uncertain," he said. The environment ministry says the ecological fallout from the oil spill will be minimal, and short-lived. "A few dozen (dead) fish along hundreds of kilometers is not a lot," said Lachance. He also said that a visual survey of the river's surface suggests most of the oil is gone or lodged in the riverbed, where it is just a matter of digging it out. Authorities were also quick to pronounce the lake safe to swim in last week, although residents interviewed by the Star said they still considered the lake dirty and would not swim in it.

[http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/07/17/size\\_of\\_lac\\_megantic\\_oil\\_spill\\_remains\\_a\\_company\\_secret.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2013/07/17/size_of_lac_megantic_oil_spill_remains_a_company_secret.html)

#### INDIA, GUJARAT, VADODARA, JULY 18 2013. FIRE AT GUJARAT REFINERY PLANT, 1 HURT

 **Watch the Video** [Major Fire in Vadodara Oil Refinery Plant brought under control](#)



Fire erupted at a plant of the [Gujarat refinery](#) on the outskirts of the city in which one person was injured, official sources said on Wednesday. "There was a fire near the flare knock out drum (KOD) of FCC (fluidised catalytic cracking) unit of Gujarat Refinery yesterday at around midnight. As a precautionary measure, the unit was taken for safe shutdown," Anjali Bhavne, the spokesperson of the refinery, said here. "Emergency response personnel extinguished the fire in about 10 minutes and one employee sustained burn injury. No casualty has been reported," she said. The injured employee has been admitted to a private hospital for treatment. A multi-disciplinary committee has been constituted to investigate the cause of fire, she said. The FCC was the only unit involved (in the fire) and it was temporarily shut down. From today morning, the unit has been restarted. Gujarat refinery's other processing units are operating normally, she said. Appropriate government agencies have been informed about the mishap, she added. Gujarat refinery, with 13.7 million refining capacity, is the largest refinery owned by the Indian Oil corporation). FCC units are standard installations widely used throughout the world on oil refineries for converting the heaviest components of crude oil into a range of useful products such as motor fuels.

#### **Related Stories**

[Fire at Gujarat Refinery plant, one hurt](#)

[IOC restarting fire-hit secondary unit at Gujarat refinery](#)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vadodara/Fire-at-Gujarat-Refinery-plant-one-hurt/articleshow/21119908.cms>



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#### **CYPRUS, KARPAS PENINSULA, JULY 18 2013. MASSIVE OIL SPILL OFF CYPRUS COAST, UN OFFER HELP**

*Gomez said that today they have no further information about the oil spillage and they haven't been contacted by the Turkish Cypriot side.*

Clean-Up efforts are underway after a tanker spilled more than 100 tonnes of fuel oil near the coastline in northern Cyprus. The UN peace-keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) has said they are ready to assist and bring together the island's two communities to face jointly efforts to contain the spillage, at the AKSA power plant in the Karpas peninsula. Rolando Gomez, UNFICYP Spokesman, that yesterday morning they received a call from the Turkish Cypriot side "to facilitate a request to the Greek Cypriot side for assistance regarding the oil leak caused at around 2am, after a pipeline from a tanker broke during attempts to supply the AKSA energy power station" in occupied Gasteria. "The mission approached the matter with great urgency and established channels to put the sides into a contact," he added. The Greek Cypriot side agreed to provide help with the Turkish Cypriot side initially accepted it, according to Gomez. Later in the day yesterday, UNFICYP learned from the Turkish Cypriot side that the assistance from the Greek Cypriot side was no longer required as support from Turkey was about to arrive sooner than it was accepted, the Spokesman explained. Gomez said that today they have no further information about the oil spillage and they haven't been contacted by the Turkish Cypriot side. "We are standing ready to assist as required. It's clear that both sides are recognizing the seriousness of this and are working well together. We believe that bringing the sides to participate jointly to this operation is considered as a success itself," he pointed out. Around 100 tones of oil were spilt in the sea area in the Karpas peninsula, with the Turkish Cypriot media reported that this is the largest environmental disaster the occupied areas have faced. Reports claim the oil spill covered a radius of five or seven kilometres on the southern side of the Karpas peninsula, towards the occupied village of Vokolida. The spill is reported to affect also a nearby fish farm. The Turkish Cypriot side asked yesterday, through the UN, assistance from the government of the Republic, which responded within the hour, offering personnel and necessary material, according to reliable sources. At the end, the offer was turned down. The Turkish Cypriot side thanked the government but said aid from Turkey was on the way and it would arrive earlier than expected. All indications at this stage are that this aid has not yet arrived in occupied Cyprus.

##### **Related Stories**

- [Oil spill in northern Cyprus threatens wildlife, tourism](#)
- [Oil disaster](#)
- [Cyprus sends oil absorbent booms to north after oil spill](#)

<http://famagusta-gazette.com/massive-oil-spill-off-cyprus-coast-un-offer-help-p20021-69.htm>

#### **NEW ZEALAND, AUCKLAND, JULY 18 2013. AUCKLAND BLAST WORKERS 'EXTREMELY LUCKY'**

 **Watch the Video** [South Auckland Blast Played Down by Plant Owner](#)



*Firefighters at the National Steel plant in Wiri, South Auckland.*

Workers were lucky to escape an explosion at a South Auckland scrap metal plant last night without injury, the Fire Service says. Six workers were in the National Steel plant in Wiri at the time of the incident, believed to have been caused when an LPG bottle inside a car being processed blew up shortly after 7pm. "The occupants of the premises are extremely lucky, extremely lucky given the force the of the explosion that they weren't in an area that they [could have been] seriously injured or even worse," Auckland Fire Service acting commander Roger Callister told Radio New Zealand. Mr Callister said local firefighters didn't

need a callout to be alerted to the explosion. "[The] fire brigade over in Papatoetoe station felt the explosion before they were called out to it and looked out and saw a little bit of a mushroom cloud above the area too. They thought they were going to something pretty significant." The fire took about 15 minutes to get under control and the incident has been referred to the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment's labour team for investigation. The owner of the company, Roshan Nauhria, said he had spoken with one of his staff who told him there was only a little damage to the building. Although the Fire Service believed an LPG bottle was the cause of the explosion, Mr Nauhria said it was possible there was still some petrol in vehicle going through the shedder. "We check every car and sometimes you miss a petrol tank or something," he said. "When we started we used to have a blast, more or less one every week - now we probably have a blast, one every two months, three months. "We take a lot of precautions," Mr Nauhria said. National Steel, which opened in New Zealand in 2008, is a scrap-metal recycling company. According to its website, the company processes various types of ferrous (contains iron) and non-



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ferrous metals including aluminium, copper, steel and stainless steel in various forms such as car bodies, whiteware, building materials, cans, and cables.

### Related Stories

- [Workers 'extremely lucky' to escape explosion uninjured](#)
- [Investigation into building explosion](#)
- [Inspectors shut down Wiri recyclers after explosion](#)
- [Workers 'lucky' to escape blast at Wiri factory](#)
- [Fire Service says lives at risk at Wiri plant](#)
- [Gas canister in car causes Wiri explosion](#)
- [South Auckland blast played down by plant owner](#)

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/national/265234/auckland-blast-workers-extremely-lucky>

### USA, N.D, BISMARCK, JULY 18 2013. CLEANUP OF 2006 ND SALTWATER SPILL STILL ONGOING >> BRINY WATER AN UNWANTED BY-PRODUCT OF OIL AND NATURAL GAS DRILLING

james macpherson



*In this Jan. 12, 2007, file photo Ned Hermanson inspects Charbonneau Creek near Alexander, N.D., where a disposal pipeline owned by an Oklahoma oil company ruptured spilling more than 1 million gallons of saltwater into the creek. It's been called the worst environmental disaster in North Dakota's history and nearly eight years later cleanup continues with no end in sight.*

It's been called the worst environmental disaster in state history: A broken pipeline belched more than a million gallons of saltwater into a northwestern North Dakota creek, aquifer and pond. Yet nearly eight years later, cleanup efforts are ongoing — with no end in sight, state health officials say. The ruptured pipeline allowed briny water to spew unnoticed for weeks into a tributary of the Yellowstone River near Alexander and caused a massive die-off of fish, turtles and plants. Briny water is an unwanted byproduct of oil and natural gas drilling that is 20 times saltier than ocean water. Since the spill,

critics say, the state hasn't gone far enough to ensure that such catastrophic spills are avoided. "It's hard to get a bill through that could impact oil production," said Rep. [Dick Anderson](#), a Willow City Republican whose proposed legislation to mandate flow meters and cutoff switches on such lines was overwhelmingly rejected this year in the Legislature. A worker discovered the spill by accident in January 2006 along an 18-mile-long, 3-inch underground plastic pipeline. The saltwater had been flowing into Charbonneau Creek. The pipeline's owner, Oklahoma-based Zenergy Inc., has excavated tons of salt-tainted soil and hauled millions of gallons of briny water from the area, but the cleanup has proved tougher than initially thought, said [Dennis Fewless](#), director of water quality for the [North Dakota Health Department](#). State health officials say Charbonneau Creek is as clean now as it was before the spill and has been repopulated with plants and animals. But a pond and underground aquifer remain tainted with saltwater, despite a continuous cleanup effort by the company, Fewless said. "We all thought it would be done by now," Fewless said. "(Zenergy) has been very good and very diligent but they're still into it for the long haul." Zenergy officials have not returned repeated telephone calls from [The Associated Press](#) over the years, including this week. The state reached a \$123,300 settlement with Zenergy in 2007 that included a civil penalty of \$70,000 for violating state laws and regulations and \$53,300 to cover the cost of the state's investigation. Two Alexander ranchers who sued Zenergy in federal court for damages caused by the spill settled out of court that same year, though terms of the settlement were not disclosed. State officials said Zenergy has spent more than \$5 million so far in its cleanup effort. Zenergy's spill came during the infancy of North Dakota's oil boom. Today, a network of saltwater pipelines extend to hundreds of disposal wells in western North Dakota, where the briny water is pumped underground for permanent storage. "Right now, there is a spider web of lines crisscrossing each other out there," said [Myron Hanson](#), a Souris farmer and chairman of the [Northwest Landowners Association](#). "The potential for something way bigger exists than what happened at Charbonneau Creek. Way bigger." The association has pushed for more stringent saltwater disposal regulations, and Hanson stressed how harmful a single spill can be. "Nobody likes saltwater. It's extremely toxic to farm and range land. It ruins it," said Hanson, who grows wheat, canola, soybeans, flax and barley at his farm. "The state is benefiting hugely from this oil activity but it's not looking very far down the



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road to make oil companies toe the line and make them do it right." [Lynn Helms](#), director of the state Department of Mineral Resources, said 42 of the nearly 400 active saltwater disposal lines — including Zenergy's — require metering, a determination that is made based on the pipeline's proximity to environmentally sensitive areas or from a company's past careless operating practices. Helms said such metering, however, did not prevent a 2011 spill in which an estimated 332,000 gallons of the salty water leaked from a pipeline near Mohall, contaminating about 25 acres of cropland and wetlands. Flow from that ruptured pipeline was "pinhole" in size and not strong enough to be detected from metering that was installed on the line, he said. The pipeline, owned by Plano, Texas-based [Petro Harvester Operating Co.](#), now is required to be pressure tested annually for leaks, as are about a dozen others in the state, Helms said. Petro Harvester already has spent about \$2 million on its cleanup, which could take a decade to finish, Helms said. Fines and other sanctions against the company are pending, state officials said. North Dakota produced 25.5 million barrels of briny water last year, records show. A barrel is 42 gallons. There were 141 pipeline leaks reported in North Dakota last year, 99 of which spilled about 8,000 barrels of the saltwater, Helms said. About 6,150 barrels of the spilled saltwater was recovered, he said. Helms said 28 of the spills in 2012 may have been prevented if the pipelines were equipped with metering and had been required to be pressure tested. Anderson, the Republican lawmaker and farmer from Willow City, said his constituents increasingly worry about saltwater spills "People are getting very vocal and think the best solution is to prevent spills to begin with," said Anderson, who hasn't given up on requiring additional monitoring for saltwater pipelines. Convincing his fellow representatives will be tough; his bill failed 86-4 in the last Legislative session. "My bill is sure to come up again next session," Anderson said. "But it will probably end up with the same fate."

<http://www.sfgate.com/business/energy/article/Cleanup-of-2006-ND-saltwater-spill-still-ongoing-4670409.php>

### USA, MT, BILLINGS, JULY 18 2013. EXXON CONTESTS \$1.7M PENALTY FOR PIPELINE BREAK

Representatives of Exxon Mobil Corp. appeared at before federal regulators Wednesday to contest \$1.7 million in proposed civil penalties over a Montana oil spill. The penalties stem from a 2011 pipeline break that spilled an estimated 63,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River near Laurel. Federal regulators charged in March that Exxon failed to take sufficient steps to protect its 12-inch Silvertip pipeline against erosion caused by flooding. They also said the company did not close an upstream safety valve quickly enough, making the spill much worse. Exxon's attorneys have said in paperwork submitted to the government that the company took reasonable precautions, including surveying the riverbank in the weeks before the spill to make sure the line was still buried. They want the penalty reduced. A U.S. Department of Transportation spokesman said Wednesday's closed-door hearing in Denver was presided over by a representative of the chief counsel's office within the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. A ruling is expected within six months. Exxon spent an estimated \$135 million on cleanup and repair work after the accident fouled an estimated 70 miles of riverbank with crude oil. That included replacing the damaged section of Silvertip with a new length of pipe installed dozens of feet beneath the river. The spill has prompted other pipeline companies to take similar measures to prevent their lines from being similarly exposed and damaged. The Montana Land Board on Monday approved a temporary construction license to Phillips 66 to replace a petroleum pipeline crossing the Yellowstone River near Lockwood with a new one that runs 40 feet below the river's bottom. A temporary license was granted because the company and state officials are still negotiating whether to leave the abandoned Glacier Transfer pipeline where it is or to remove it. But the company must begin work on horizontally drilling the new pipeline now so that it is operating by spring, when the river level rises, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation director John Tubbs said. Tubbs said the agency would like to see the old pipeline removed because erosion in the river channel may eventually expose it. Company officials would prefer to leave it in place, as it runs below an irrigation system on one side of the river and would be difficult to remove, Tubbs said. The company and state officials plan to come up with criteria on when the company would be required to remove the abandoned pipeline.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/07/17/4349659/exxon-challenging-17m-penalty.html>

### USA, PA, PHILADELPHIA, JULY 18 2013. PGW PAYING \$500,000 TO SETTLE CIVIL ACTION AFTER 2011 TACONY EXPLOSION

*tom macdonald*

The Philadelphia Gas Works has been ordered to pay \$500,000 in penalties for a fatal gas explosion in 2011. The five-member Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission approved a settlement for the January 2011 incident. The explosion occurred in the Tacony section of Philadelphia, killing a 19-year-old PGW worker who responded to a gas leak call. Five others were



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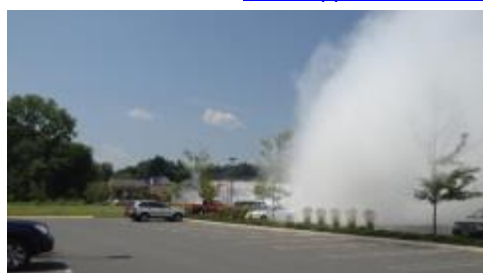
injured. Commissioner Wayne Gardner says the half-million-dollar fine was the most the PUC could impose, based on when the explosion occurred. If it happened today, though, he said the fine would have been \$1.6 million. PUC commissioners were vocal in their criticism of PGW's performance on the day of the blast. The explosion leveled a row house, destroyed cars and shattered windows along Torresdale Avenue on the night of Jan. 18, 2011. Tacony neighborhood residents, including Anne Cybulski, recalled complaining to the Philadelphia Gas Works about the smell of gas for about a year and a half before the explosion. "I couldn't tell you how many times I would come home from the library and I'd say to my mother, I'm like 'I smell gas again on Torresdale Avenue,'" she said Wednesday after hearing of the fine leveled at PGW. Cybulski said she remembers seeing fire shoot up from an open manhole in the middle of the street. The city-owned utility is working with the state to make sure the incident is not repeated, said PGW spokesman Barry O'Sullivan. "As part of the settlement, the PUC has also directed PGW to file a plan for a pilot program designed to test enhanced leak-detection measures," he said. "PGW welcomes the opportunity to work with the PUC to identify those measure and how they might be integrated into our established, robust leak-detection operations." The penalty includes \$100,000 for the Philadelphia Fire Department's smoke-detector program. Gardner said that alert, coupled with smart responses that day by city firefighters, prevented the incident from turning into a worse catastrophe. Five people -- four PGW workers and a city firefighter -- were hospitalized with severe burns in the blast that claimed the life of 19-year-old Mark Keeley, a PGW employee.

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/57423-pgw-paying-500000-to-settle-civil-action-after-2011-tacony-explosion>

#### USA, CT, WEST HARTFORD, JULY 19 2013. FIRE SUPPRESSION MATERIAL DISCHARGES COATING GAS STATION

ronni newton

 **Watch the Video** [Fire Suppression Material Discharge](#)



*The ground and everything surrounding the Stop & Shop gas station on Newington Rd. was covered with white powder from the fire suppression system that discharged accidentally.*

The fire suppression system discharged Wednesday afternoon at the Stop & Shop gas station at 176 Newington Rd., in West Hartford, coating the ground, six vehicles, and numerous customers with a salty white powder. West Hartford Assistant Fire Chief Mike Sinsigalli said the incident, which occurred at 2:19 p.m. Wednesday, was accidental and not triggered by a fire. "There are only two ways the fire suppression system can be set off - heat detection or by pulling the activating device," Sinsigalli said. That device is in the kiosk and

was not touched. While Sinsigalli could not say for sure that the day's scorching temperature, which read 102 degrees on the car thermometer, was a factor, he did not rule it out. He is recommending that the heat detection device be replaced, and that process began immediately on the roof of the gas station structure. Approximately six vehicles were at the station when the incident occurred and one woman was taken to a local hospital as a precaution, Sinsigalli said. While the material is a base not an acid, he said it is still treated as hazardous. "I wouldn't eat it but a little bit of exposure won't really hurt you," said Sinsigalli. The affected vehicles were washed and those with material inside were also detailed by Stop & Shop staff. The station will remain closed until the material is swept up, the area washed down, and the detectors replaced. That will either be late Wednesday night or on Thursday morning, Sinsigalli said.

<http://westhartford.patch.com/groups/police-and-fire/p/fire-suppression-material-discharges-coating-gas-station>

#### USA, FLA, ALGIERS, JULY 19 2013. RTA BUS COLLISION WITH TANKER TRUCK INJURES 16 PEOPLE

darian trotter

 **Watch the Video** [Bus Collision with Tanker Truck Injures 16 People](#)

More than a dozen public transportation passengers are recovering from injuries they suffered when their RTA bus collided with a tanker truck. The impact caused an explosion and fire. Witnesses described the aftermath to WGNO News Reporter Darian Trotter. Evening rush slammed to a halt Wednesday on Behrman Highway in Algiers. Literally. "I seen all the smoke from a distance," witness Danny Ellis said. "It was a big ball of smoke, black smoke," witness Paulette Rogers said. An RTA bus collided with a tanker truck. The impact caused the front end of the 18-wheeler to catch fire; sending up plumes of smoke, which were seen miles away. "It was a big ball of black of smoke and I saw it all the way from home depot. I thought it was the nursing home on fire," Rogers said. Investigators say the bus was traveling east on Behrman Highway, preparing to



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turn left onto Behrman Place, when the truck heading southbound swerved to avoid hitting the bus. But the truck tipped over and collided with the driver's side of the bus. "It looks like a garbage truck its turned on its side, onto a bus and it was huge flames toward the front of it and I heard a couple of explosions while we were standing out there," Ellis said. The impact of the crash pushed the bus into a taxi. Brenda Howard was a passenger inside that taxi. "The 18-wheeler just came from nowhere and it hit the bus and everybody just collided all together," Rogers said. Trotter asked, "Describe the impact? I'm hurting too bad, it was horrible though," Rogers replied. First responders created a triage in the neutral ground. In all 16-people were hurt. Our camera was rolling as eleven were placed on gurneys, wheeled into ambulances, and taken to area hospitals. "Oh my prayers go out to them," Rogers said. Turns out it was an excavation truck labeled Hydro Spy; which according to the company's website provides hydro and air vacuum services to contractors in the oil, gas, and chemical industries. It's still unclear what caused the explosion that obliterated the front end of the truck. The smell of diesel fuel was in the air. Debris, oil, and mechanical fluids were on the ground. A hazardous materials team was called to the scene, but as it turns out the tanker was carrying a combination of mud and water. There were no life-threatening injuries.

<http://wgno.com/2013/07/17/rta-bus-collision-with-tanker-truck-injures-16-people/#axzz2ZUikrizD>

#### LEBANON, SIDON, JULY 19 2013. DRIVER UNHARMED AFTER FUEL TANKER CATCHES FIRE IN S. LEBANON



*Firefighters in the southern coastal city of Sidon work on extinguishing a fuel tanker truck that caught fire on Thursday, July 18, 2013.*

The driver of a fuel tanker truck escaped unharmd after his vehicle caught fire in the southern coastal city of [Sidon](#) Thursday. Bound to the [Bekaa Valley](#) from the [Zahrani](#) power plant, driver Mohammad Qamra's truck came to a stop under a footbridge in Sidon after a malfunction in the steering wheel forced the vehicle off the highway. A fire then erupted in the cabin of the 30,000-liter fuel truck as a result of a short circuit. Qamra jumped out of the vehicle just as the truck was being engulfed in flames.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2013/Jul-18/224121-driver-unharmd-after-fuel-tanker-catches-fire-in-s-lebanon.ashx#axzz2ZUOEEdLrh>

#### USA, PA. CUMBERLAND CO, LOWER ALLEN TWP, JULY 19 2013. GASOLINE TANKER CRASH CAUSES DELAYS IN LOWER ALLEN

*andrew carr*

A crash involving a tanker truck caused lane restrictions for five hours on Wesley Drive in Lower Allen Township Thursday morning. At 8 a.m., police, fire and EMS responded to the crash in the 800 block of Wesley Drive, which involved a fully-loaded tanker truck carrying gasoline. Police said the truck had just left the tank farm on Simpson Ferry Road. Police said a minivan, driven by Theresa Keck, 41, of Lemoyne, with three people inside crossed the center line and hit the rear of the tanker truck, which was then pulled over to the side of the road. Only the wheels and axles were damaged and no gasoline was spilled, police said. The minivan spun around after the impact, continuing into the opposite lane and hit another vehicle, driven by Teresa Shelly, 36 of Mechanicsburg. The impact caused Shelly's vehicle to go off the side of the road and part way down an embankment. The three people inside the car and Shelly, the driver of the third vehicle were taken by ambulance to Holy Spirit Hospital. The tanker, owned by Sunoco, was loaded with 9,000 gallons of gasoline. The company had to arrange for a second tanker to transfer the gasoline from the damaged trailer. Once this was completed and the trailer removed, the lane restrictions were removed and the roadway reopened. Wesley Drive was reopened around 1 p.m, Thursday. Wesley Drive was closed for about one hour due to the crash but lane restrictions were in place and closures continued as crews removed the gasoline from the tanker and transferred it to another trailer. They also removed the damaged trailer. Lower Allen Fire and EMS were assisted by Hampden Township Fire and EMS at original accident scene. Lower Allen Township Public Works, provided cones and signage for the lane restrictions. Anyone with information on this accident who hasn't already talked with Lower Allen Police, is asked to call Cumberland County Communications at 717-238-9676. The accident investigation is still ongoing.



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### Posted Earlier on Cumberlink:

A crash involving a tanker truck is causing lane restrictions in Lower Allen Township this morning. At 8 a.m., police, fire and EMS responded to the crash in the 800 block of Wesley Drive, which involved a fully-loaded tanker truck carrying gasoline. Police said the truck had just left the tank farm on Simpson Ferry Road. Police said a minivan with three people inside crossed the center line, hitting the rear of the tanker truck, which was then pulled over to the side of the road. Only the wheels and axles were damaged and no gasoline was spilled, police said. The minivan spun around after the impact, continuing into the opposite lane and hit another vehicle. The three people inside the car and the driver of the third vehicle were taken by ambulance to Holy Spirit Hospital. Wesley Drive was closed for about one hour due to the crash. The tanker truck will need to have the gasoline off-loaded before it can be removed from the scene and response teams are working in the area. Wesley Drive will have narrowed lanes in both directions due to the incident. When the transfer tanker arrives, the road may be closed to ensure the safe transfer, police said. Additionally, there may be closures when the damaged trailer is removed. Motorists are asked to use caution or avoid the 800 block of Wesley Drive.

[http://cumberlink.com/news/local/gasoline-tanker-crash-causes-delays-in-lower-allen/article\\_01539cfa-efb3-11e2-beaf-0019bb2963f4.html](http://cumberlink.com/news/local/gasoline-tanker-crash-causes-delays-in-lower-allen/article_01539cfa-efb3-11e2-beaf-0019bb2963f4.html)

### USA, PA, PENN TWP, JULY 19 2013. XTO ENERGY AGREES TO PAY \$100,000 FINE FOR FRACKING SPILL

An Exxon Mobil Corp subsidiary agreed to pay a \$100,000 fine for spilling wastewater from a natural gas drilling site in Pennsylvania that polluted a local river, U.S. regulators said on Thursday. In a statement announcing the fine, the U.S. Justice Department and the Environmental Protection Agency also said [XTO Energy Inc](#) XTO.TG, which was acquired by Exxon in 2010, would also be expected to spend about \$20 million to improve wastewater management near its gas wells that use fracking in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Alan Jeffers, a spokesman for XTO, said the company thought the fine was fair and already had begun spending on the improvements required. "There is no lasting environmental impact," he said. Fracking, short for hydraulic fracturing, involves injecting water and chemicals deep underground to fracture shale rock and unleash oil and gas. Energy companies are increasingly treating and reusing water in the drilling process. State environmental inspectors in 2010 found dirty water leaking from an open valve on a tank at an XTO water recycling plant in Penn Township, Pennsylvania. Authorities later found pollutants from the chemically treated water, including chlorides, barium, strontium and total dissolved solids, in a tributary of the Susquehanna River basin, the government agencies said. The fine was issued for violations of the federal Clean Water Act. Wastewater from natural gas exploration and production often contains high levels of dissolved solids and other chemicals that can contaminate the environment and drinking water, the government said. "The operational improvements required by today's settlement will help to protect precious surface and drinking water resources in Pennsylvania and West Virginia," EPA official Cynthia Giles said in a statement. The Justice Department and the EPA said XTO must install a remote monitoring system for its drilling operations and wastewater storage tanks, with alarms that immediately alert operators if a spill occurs. The government also said the company cannot use open tanks to store wastewater to try to cut down on air emissions.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/07/18/us-usa-energy-xto-idUSBRE96H1FT20130718>

### USA, IN, ROCHESTER, JULY 19 2013. FIREWORKS EXPLODE AFTER STORE CATCHES FIRE



Flames roared through a northern Indiana fireworks store, shooting off numerous rockets that exploded high in the air. The fire broke out Wednesday night at Windy City Fireworks in Rochester. WSBT-TV and WNDU-TV report that firefighters arrived to find the building fully engulfed in flames and that several fire departments were called to the scene to help extinguish the blaze. No injuries were reported and the fire's cause wasn't immediately known. The destroyed store is along Indiana 14 and authorities closed that highway for a time in the city about 40 miles south of South Bend. Police say traffic backups happened on nearby U.S. 31 as many drivers stopped to watch the fire.

<http://www.wane.com/dpp/news/indiana/fireworks-explode-after-store-catches-fire>



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### USA, MT, BILLINGS, JULY 19 2013. PHILLIPS 66 PAYS \$17K FOR MONTANA WATER VIOLATIONS

[Phillips 66](#) has paid \$17,075 to resolve pollution violations involving wastewater from the company's Billings refinery. The [Montana Department of Environmental Quality](#) says the Texas-based company's refinery exceeded chlorine limits in its wastewater in 2010, and limits on oil and grease in 2012. The agency says chlorine is toxic to fish, so there are limits to how much can enter a stream. The company used chlorinated water to test a large storage tank for leaks, but did not remove the chlorine prior to draining the tank. [The agency](#) says the company has taken steps to ensure the violations aren't repeated.

<http://www.chron.com/news/science/article/Phillips-66-pays-17K-for-Montana-water-violations-4671962.php>

### ENGLAND, OXFORD, JULY 19 2013. DIESEL POLLUTION THREAT BRINGS ALLOTMENTS ALERT

reg little



*Cripley Meadow allotment holder Gina Cowen.*

Allotment holders have been told that ground water may have been contaminated from diesel during building work at Oxford University's controversial Castle Mill development. A warning has been issued by Oxford City Council as an investigation gets under way to find out whether wells used by allotment holders may have been polluted by a diesel leak on the site. But there is anger this week that it has taken more than three months for an alert about the potential health risks to people. Cripley Meadows Allotment holders were only told on July 11 that an "unknown quantity of diesel" had spilt from a tank on the site on Roger Dudman Way in April. The allotments are close to the site where the university has built accommodation blocks on the edge of Port Meadow, which campaigners say have ruined historic views. Allotment holder

Gina Cowen said: "I am surprised that it has taken three months before we found out about it. "It feels like there is something wrong." Allotment holder Nigel Earl was horrified to find black oil when he filled a bucket from a well on Sunday. He said: "There are accidents that happen but this is simply not on. I knew nothing about this." The university said it had only recently learnt of the leak during contamination tests on the site. Spokesman Matt Pickles said: "While carrying out planned tests, one reading was found to be higher than normal. "When the contractor was asked what might have caused this, it was found there had been a diesel spill. "Immediate steps were taken by the university to notify the Environment Agency and the city council. "The allotment association has also been informed and we have provided fresh water taps for allotment holders to use while the water is tested. "We will monitor the ground water and carry out additional remediation as necessary to ensure that the site is ready for residential use and the allotment site is safeguarded." The city council's head of environmental development, John Copley, told users of the allotments not to drink water from the irrigation wells. He also urges them to take extra vigilance with hand and vegetable washing. Mr Copley said: "Elevated levels of total petroleum hydrocarbons within the diesel range were detected in a ground water sample 20m from the spill. "Environmental consultants working on behalf of Oxford University are currently excavating soils that have been contaminated. "Water samples were taken from four irrigation wells on the allotment site on July 10 and are being analysed. "Once the results are known, we can advise what risk, if any, exists and what action should be taken."

[http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/yourtown/oxford/10558487.Diesel\\_pollution\\_threat\\_brings\\_allotments\\_alert/](http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/yourtown/oxford/10558487.Diesel_pollution_threat_brings_allotments_alert/)

### VIETNAM, HO VHI MINH, JULY 20 2013. GAS-TANK EXPLOSION KILLS TECHNICIAN IN US CONSULATE IN VIETNAM



*The US consulate's warehouse in Ho Chi Minh City where Duong Trong Han, 33, a local air-conditioning technician, was killed in a gas tank explosion.*

A Vietnamese air-conditioning technician was reported killed in a gas-tank explosion in a warehouse of the US consulate in Ho Chi Minh City Thursday afternoon. The accident occurred at around 3 p.m. when Duong Trong Han, 33, was carrying out maintenance at the site in District 3 when gas leaked and the tank exploded. Some newspapers reported that Han caused the leakage. The pressure of the blast slammed the gas tank into Han, hitting him on his head and killing him instantly. The tank then went on to hit the door of the warehouse, denting it, according to Dan Viet newspaper. At least five other employees were injured, the newspaper reported. The body of Han, who hailed



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from Dong Thap Province, was taken to nearby An Binh Hospital in District 5 for an autopsy. The police are investigating. Le Thanh An, the US consul, said: "The ambassador and I and the entire US Mission in Vietnam send our deepest condolences and sympathies to the family of Mr. Duong Trong Han. "Mr. Duong will be deeply missed by all those who had the good fortune to know him. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this most difficult time." Han had worked for the consulate for five years.

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/index/pages/20130718-gas-tank-explosion-kills-technician-of-us-consulate-general-in-vietnam-metro.aspx>

### USA, LA, NEW ORLEANS, JULY 20 2013. HAZMAT CREWS RESPOND TO OIL TRAIN DERAILMENT IN EASTERN NEW ORLEANS RAIL YARD

john harper



Map:

[Jourdan Rd & Almonaster Blvd, New Orleans, Orleans, LA 70126](#)



A tanker train carrying crude oil came off the track in the rail yard near the intersection of [Almonaster Blvd and Jourdan Road](#) on Friday afternoon, according to the New Orleans Fire Department. The [New Orleans Fire Department](#) dispatched a hazardous materials crew to the [eastern New Orleans](#) site. Crews responded just before 5:50 p.m. No injuries have been reported as a result of the derailment. It is not yet known whether any of the train's crude oil cargo has spilled.

[http://www.nola.com/traffic/index.ssf/2013/07/hazmat\\_crews\\_respond\\_to\\_oil\\_tr.html](http://www.nola.com/traffic/index.ssf/2013/07/hazmat_crews_respond_to_oil_tr.html)

### USA, PA, HAMPDEN TWP, JULY 20 2013. LIGHTNING STRIKES FUEL TANKS IN HAMPDEN TOWNSHIP



Emergency crews have responded to a report of a lightning strike at a fuel tank farm at 5125 Simpson Ferry Road in Hampden Township. Abc27 reports that Simpson Ferry Road has been closed from Wesley Drive to Shiremanstown, and residents in the immediate area have been told to leave their homes. John Breutsch, Cumberland County's public information officer, said one of the tanks was damaged by the lightning. He said there is a small fire inside the tank, which has partially collapsed at the top. Fire departments could be seen hosing down the tanks. Simpson Ferry Road has been closed from Wesley Drive to Shiremanstown, and residents in the immediate area have been told to leave their homes. Those evacuated may go to Trinity High School.

[http://cumberlink.com/news/local/lightning-strikes-fuel-tanks-in-hampden-township/article\\_8128a2a4-f0c1-11e2-8cb1-0019bb2963f4.html](http://cumberlink.com/news/local/lightning-strikes-fuel-tanks-in-hampden-township/article_8128a2a4-f0c1-11e2-8cb1-0019bb2963f4.html)

### KENYA, NAKURU, JULY 20 2013. FUEL THIEVES PUT LIVES AT RISK IN DANGEROUS PETROL PLUNDER

steve mkawale

Residents of Sachagwan still remember the harrowing events of 2009 . . . hundreds of people engulfed in a ball of fire after an oil tanker exploded as villagers siphoned fuel off a truck. By the end of that day, police were able to assemble the charred remains of some of the 113 souls who perished in the inferno. These images are forever etched in local leader Joshua Cheruiyot's mind. So powerful are the images that he cannot understand why fuel siphoning still thrives around his Salgaa home despite the inherent dangers involved. Police and Kenya Revenue Authority experts say hundreds of thousands of litres of fuel are siphoned from tankers every day around Salgaa in an operation which the truck drivers collude with shady petroleum dealers around the Nakuru/Salgaa area. The contraband is part of the three million litres of fuel that leave the Nakuru's Kenya Pipeline Company depot every day destined for Uganda, Rwanda and South Sudan along the country's northern corridor. This is how the illegal trade is conducted; an exporter of petroleum products sources fuel from KPA depots using official documents, which are verified by custom officials at the depots before loading. "A tanker, whose capacity is normally 35,000 litres, is cleared after the loading and sealed by the custom officers at the KPA depot," said a source in



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Nakuru. But the trucks never make it across the borders. We learnt that documents are taken to the exit point where they are verified and stamped by custom officials to confirm that the product has left the country. The fuel is then sold locally. These are easy pickings for the crooks who sell the fuel to pump stations at Sh60, which is Sh10 more than they had paid for it at the KPC depot. Legitimate petrol dealers then offer this fuel at a pump price of Sh109 per litre for the Premium (Super) brand and Sh79 for kerosene. So a 35,000 litre tanker with fuel purchased at Sh1.75 million at the depot will ultimately release fuel to local pump stations which can raise as much as Sh3.8 million from the sale of this cargo. Fuel on transit is exempted from all taxes and when it is diverted to local pump stations, the state loses millions of shillings in revenue. Only those who divert the product benefit. The smaller players in this syndicate use a more dangerous method to steal fuel. Here the racketeers siphon off an agreed amount of fuel from the export truck then mix the remaining amount of either Super or Regular with the cheaper kerosene fuel to avoid detection because the volume remains unchanged. The driver of the truck is paid between Sh2,500 and Sh5, 000 depending on the amount siphoned from the truck. At least 3,000 litres of the product is siphoned off a tanker ferrying 35,000 litres of fuel. This fuel, which was purchased at the depot at Sh150,000, can raise Sh330,000 at the pumps. Where the remaining amount of export fuel is not mixed with kerosene, the driver of the tanker is forced to fake an accident where some fuel is spilled. A case in point is the tragic Sachagwan oil tanker accident, which claimed more than 100 lives when villagers rushed to the scene of the accident to scoop the spilled fuel. "The Sachagwan fire tragedy was a clear case of fuel siphoning. The driver parked the truck on the road a few minutes after leaving Salgaa Trading Centre where the fuel had been siphoned. But the incident ended in a tragedy after locals decided to scoop the spilled petrol," said Joshua Cheruiyot, a former civic leader in Rongai. The tragedy that occurred in January 31, 2009, resulted in the deaths of 113 people and left 200 others injured. A similar accident in February 2010 that claimed the lives of two people was also attributed to fuel siphoning by authorities who accused the oil tanker driver of causing the accident to cover-up his crime. Fuel siphoning has become a lucrative business in Nakuru, Mai Mahiu and Salgaa trading centre, especially where long-distance truck drivers make stopovers. A recent crackdown by security officers at a makeshift petroleum depot in Salgaa trading centre resulted in the seizure of 10,000 litres of fuel meant for export. The security officers under the command of the Rongai OCPD Joseph Mwamburi pulled down the structure but no arrests were made. The Nakuru county administration says there are at least 49 illegal oil siphoning dens in the region, but the county's Minister for Trade and Industrialisation, Sam Gitau, says attempts to stamp out the vice have been unsuccessful. A KPA officer we spoke to said they were just as helpless and estimated that exporters lost between 1,000 and 3,000 litres of fuel from each of the 100 or so tankers that left the depot every day. Sometimes, the trucks are driven to the temporary structures at between 3 pm and midnight then the fuel is emptied into drums or small oil tankers for transportation to vendors. In Nakuru a prominent businessman has set up an illegal oil depot along the Nakuru-Nairobi highway where he siphons off export fuel from the oil tankers. We managed to identify two other makeshift depots disguised as timber yards along the old Nairobi-Nakuru road. Other depots within Barnabas shopping centre along the Nairobi-Nakuru highway are in residential homes. During our stakeout, we noticed that within half an hour, the process was completed and the siphoned product had been emptied into a waiting truck for onward transfer to vendors. Most vendors own independent petrol station scattered within Nakuru county. Unknown to many motorists, the siphoned fuel is often mixed with kerosene. According to a mechanic we spoke to, the use of the adulterated fuel often leads to engine malfunction. "Often when a motorist complains of an "engine knock," it is sometimes attributed to the use of adulterated fuel. In some cases the siphoned fuel contains dust particles that block the fuel pump and causes the vehicle to stall," said Josephat Njoroge who repairs cars in Nakuru's industrial area. A KRA official told us that in his estimation, illegal dealers pocket about Sh100 million every week from the sale of stolen fuel. So attractive are the returns that the racketeers have become more ruthless and will hunt down those who attempt to expose them. When they caught wind of our investigations, they dispatched three men to our office to establish the identity of the reporter and photo-journalist involved in the probe. Our source says police officers in Nakuru County are aware of the fuel siphoning syndicate but are reluctant to act; he believes some perpetrators are being shielded by the police. However, Nakuru OCPD Bernard Kioko laughed this off and said there had been no incident of siphoning since his recent posting to the outpost. Dismissing reports that some of his officers were involved in the racket, Kioko said the KRA has a police wing that deals with this sort of thing and his office can only come in when arrests have been made. The KRA customs department in Nakuru have a different view. Mr Kimani, a deputy officer recently assigned to the station, said they are not equipped to make arrests. "We are aware that the trade has been going on in this region but we have no capacity to stop it. The only thing that we can do is fine the perpetrators by demanding that they pay excise duty for the amount of fuel they have siphoned," he said.

[http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000088789&story\\_title=fuel-thieves-put-lives-at-risk-in-dangerous-petrol-plunder](http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/?articleID=2000088789&story_title=fuel-thieves-put-lives-at-risk-in-dangerous-petrol-plunder)



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#### USA, CO, DENVER, JULY 20 2013. TESTS SHOW RISING BENZENE IN PARACHUTE CREEK

Tests of water from Parachute Creek show benzene levels are above the federal limit for safe drinking water, more than six months after a leak of hydrocarbon liquids from a pipeline was detected. The Denver Post reports (<http://bit.ly/12Qalwg>) data provided Thursday by the Colorado health department show water samples drawn from near the spill showed benzene levels at 5.5 parts per billion on July 11 and 9.2 ppb on Monday. The federal standard for drinking water is 5 ppb. The state allows for benzene levels of 5,300 ppb in Parachute Creek because it isn't designated as a drinking-water source. The Williams Cos. has said a faulty valve on a pipeline allowed the release of more than 10,000 gallons of hydrocarbon liquids near its natural gas-processing plant near Parachute.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/07/18/4352957/tests-show-rising-benzene-in-parachute.html>

#### USA, OH, FRANKLIN CO, YOUNGSTOWN, JULY 20 2013. D&L APPEALS PERMIT DENIAL >> ILLEGAL DUMPING AT AN OILFIELD WASTE DUMP



*Ben Lupo.*

The company at the center of an oilfield waste dump on Salt Springs Road that led to federal charges against the owner and an employee appealed that state's ruling that denied reinstating their permits. D&L Energy, owned by Ben Lupo, filed its appeal Friday in Franklin County Common Pleas Court. Records say they are trying to overturn the state's Oil and Gas Commission's ruling on D&L's permit revocation by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The case was assigned to Judge David Fais. The commission denied June 21 D&L's appeal, calling it the "worst case scenario" in illegal dumping, in rejecting the reinstatement of D&L's six injection well permits and three pending permit applications. The commission noted the permit revocations "basically removed D&L Energy, Inc. from the brine disposal business" in order to protect the state's

water supplies. D&L and Hardrock Excavating owner Lupo, 62, of Poland, is currently facing federal illegal dumping charges that could land him in prison for up to three years. Lupo has since stepped down as D&L's president but retained an 81 percent ownership in the companies, according to records. D&L also has filed for bankruptcy. Lupo at the time told investigators he ordered the oilfield waste dump that eventually made its way into the Mahoning River. Investigators believe he also ordered at least 20 similar dumps down a storm sewer that fed in to a Mahoning River tributary. The commission noted they normally issue non-compliance citations for various issues surrounding the case, including a complicated web of companies with various permits, names and tasks but all owned by Lupo and headquarter at the Salt Springs road building. The decision says Lupo was solely responsible for the companies' actions and acted in complete disregard for Ohio law. A field report by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency says Lupo told investigators ordering brine dumps into the storm sewer on a "regular basis" and later said it he ordered the dumps at least six times between September and February. He said the brine was "light water" that came from cleaning out frac tanks that stored a variety of fracking fluids. Lupo said he tried to dispose the water in the Koontz well in Leavittsburg and the Peribeck well in New Lyme but the tanks were full, so he ordered they be dumped into storm drain that flowed into the Mahoning River, the report says. D&L also is known for owning an injection well that was found to be the cause of 11 earthquakes in late 2011 and early 2012 in the Youngstown area. Those injection wells were shut down by the state. The company was cited for more than 50 violations in Ohio since the 1980s, but ODNR granted Lupo a permit for a new injection well on Jan. 7, according to records obtained by WKBN.COM. The company has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Filings say D&L owns assets totaling more than \$50 million and expects to make more than \$2 million this year. Lupo resigned his position as president of the company the day after he was indicted, but kept an 81 percent ownership in the company filings say. His wife, Holly Serensky Lupo, owns four percent and Susan Faith, of Girard, owns the remaining 15 percent. Bankruptcy filings also say officials may have improperly diverted funds from D&L to other companies the group owns and operates.

<http://www.wkbn.com/2013/07/19/dl-appeals-permit-denial/>

#### INDIA, C TONDIARPET, HENNAI, JULY 20 2013. MASSIVE CLEAN-UP AFTER OIL LEAK TO TAKE A MONTH

Workers braved Friday's downpour as they extracted [oil](#) by the barrel from [borewells](#) in Tondiarpet, starting a major clean-up operation after a series of leaks from fuel pipes polluted at least one large aquifer used by [Tondiarpet](#) residents for their



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drinking water requirements. The operation is expected to last at least a month, given the magnitude of the contamination of groundwater, over an area that experts estimated to be 1sqkm. Six days after the first reports about the leak from two oil pipelines in the area, temporary workers hired by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) collected more than 1,000 litres of fuel, mostly diesel, from borewells. But the damage appears to have already been done — complete removal of the highly carcinogenic pollutant appears to be impossible or could take many years — and residents are reporting ailments commonly exhibited by victims of toxic pollution, including irregular menstrual cycles, severe bleeding and skin diseases. In cases like this, it could take several years before the water is free from pollutants, said Indumathi M Nambi, an IIT-Madras professor and an expert in the field. The oil leaks started around a year ago. Residents first sent a complaint to BPCL officials on November 9, 2012, alerting them that their borewells were filled with oil. K Umachandran, who lives near Tondiarpet High Road, said he realised his borewell was polluted 10 months ago. "We first noticed that the water smelled of oil," he said. "The water soon became black but we continued to use it because Metrowater supply in the area is infrequent. But when residents found that diesel had contaminated all the water in the aquifer, we sealed all nine borewells on the street and complained to BPCL and TNPCB." He said neither the pollution control board nor the oil company took proper action despite the leaking oil posing a serious public health concern. At least 300 people live in the area where the groundwater has been polluted and many are now reporting major health problems. Selvi Rajkumar, a 52-year-old housewife, said she was one of several women who had irregular menstruation and severe bleeding. Muthulakshmi, 27, said many had skin diseases and headaches. "These health problems started after we consumed the polluted water. It cannot be a coincidence," she said. Prof Nambi said, "If the contamination is extensive, it will severely impact the health of residents who consumed the contaminated water." A senior scientist at the National Environment Engineering and Research Institute said instead of simply flushing out the oil, TNPCB and BPCL should first assess the impact of pollution and examine the possibility of the polluting oil spreading to other aquifers. "We have three pipelines in the area, between Chennai port and the BPCL terminal near Tondiarpet," said a BPCL official. "We abandoned two pipelines and we have informed the TNPCB." Experts said the abandoned pipelines could still be leaking if the company did not ensure that the oil was completely flushed out of them.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Massive-clean-up-after-oil-leak-to-take-a-month/articleshow/21179806.cms>

### CANADA, QUEBEC, LAC-MEGANTIC, JULY 20 2013. TSB CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE REGULATORY CHANGES FOR TRAIN TRAVEL IN WAKE OF LAC-MÉGANTIC TRAGEDY THAT KILLED 47

#### Watch the Video's:

- [Catastrophe Lac Mégantic 06/07/13](#)
- [Incendie à Lac-Mégantic](#)
- [Witness Shocked by Train Crash Explosions, Lac Megantic, 24 Dead, 26 Possibly Vapourized](#)
- [TSB Calls for Immediate Regulatory Changes](#)
- [Lac Mégantic residents Search for normalcy after tragedy](#)



*Emergency crews are seen in the wreckage in the restricted area of Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, July 16, 2013.*

The FTSB [Federal Transportation Safety Board] has requested two immediate regulatory changes for train travel, despite its investigation into the Lac-Mégantic tragedy still being in its early stages. The agency says it won't wait for the final results of its multi-month investigation, which has just begun, to make the recommendations. It sent Transport Canada two safety advisories asking for a pair of changes — the first being that dangerous goods should not be left unattended on a main track, and also that rail equipment be properly secured. News of that request came on a day when officials set a new official death toll for the disaster: 47. The estimated death toll has fluctuated since the July 6 crash, with authorities initially unclear on how many of the people

declared missing might actually have been out of town. Police say they didn't recover any more bodies while conducting searches Friday. Insp. Michel Forget said that left the official death toll at 42 bodies recovered, with five other people missing and presumed dead. He said the latest estimate was based on information drawn from different sources. Crews from the coroner's office are now taking a one-day break Saturday after working every day since July 6. Meanwhile, the Transportation Safety Board asked policy-makers to get to work on immediate regulatory changes. "As this accident has demonstrated, accidents involving trains carrying dangerous goods can have tragic consequences," said the TSB in one of its letters to the



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government. "Given the importance to the safe movement of dangerous goods and the vulnerability of unattended equipment, (Transport Canada) may wish to consider reviewing all railway operating procedures to ensure that trains carrying DGs (dangerous goods) are not left unattended on the main track." In its other letter, the safety board urged a revision of the Canadian Rail Operating Rule No. 112 governing the securement of parked trains. It said Rule 112 is not specific enough because it does not spell out how many handbrakes to apply for various weights and types of cargo. It also says that the standard, so-called "push-pull test" does not always accurately show whether the brakes have been adequately applied. A TSB official told a news conference in Lac-Megantic that it's clear insufficient brake force was applied before a train went slamming into the town on July 6. He says there could be different reasons for that — it could be mechanical problems with the handbrakes, or a problem with the way someone applied them. Two weeks ago, an unmanned train belonging to the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic railway carrying 72 cars of crude oil slammed into the heart of Lac-Megantic, setting off massive explosions. Transport Minister Lisa Raitt, speaking through a spokeswoman, thanked the TSB for its recommendations and asked officials in her department to act. "Minister Raitt has directed Transport Canada officials to review these on an expedited basis," said Ashley Kelahear said in an email. The TSB said it had a closer look at 25 tanker cars since gaining access to the blast site two days ago. "We're continuing to conduct the mechanical inspections of all of the tankers," said TSB investigator Donald Ross. "All of the cars are being examined, being inspected, and measurements are being taken and being documented with a photographic record." Some tankers are being set aside and certain pieces are being sent for analysis. The cars being set aside are being captured in 3D laser images by the Transportation Safety Board and their U.S. counterpart, the National Transportation Safety Board. A 3D view will allow authorities to get a better idea of what happened, Ross said. As for what was inside the cars, samples have also been sent for analysis, Ross said. "We've taken samples of the liquefied petroleum product that was being transported and that's being sent for analysis so we understand the specific properties." The TSB has also inspected the track between the blast site and Nantes, where the train had been parked. It has met numerous witnesses — including the train conductor, railway company officials and firefighters who were on site. Ross said they are also looking at official documents, like shipping records and rail journals. "We are interested in the one-man train operation that existed here as well as the railways' safety management system plan," Ross said. Ross said there are similarities between the Lac-Megantic accident and previous ones, including an incident near Sept-Iles, Que., in December 2011, when a freight train transporting iron ore had brake problems and went out of control on a slope. The agency said it also took part in a Quebec provincial police briefing with victims' families and was trying to get information to them as quickly as possible as their investigation progressed. In Ottawa, the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities will reconvene for an emergency meeting on Tuesday. The Opposition NDP had pushed for MPs to meet as soon as possible. Olivia Chow, the NDP transport critic, said that even though the final results of the Lac-Megantic investigation are months away, there are many important issues that can be tackled. "We want to work together to make sure the recommendations from the experts — the auditor general and the Transportation Safety Board — are implemented to prevent future tragedies from happening," Chow said in a phone interview. She suggested the committee could study recommendations made by the TSB over the years. Also, a 2011 auditor general's report revealed that recommendations made in years previous had still not been implemented by Transport Canada. Transport Canada was expected to address all the recommendations by April this year, but it has not yet. Even in the absence of a final report into Lac-Megantic, Chow said MPs could go over some key recommendations and hear from the industry's comments about different recommendations and why they work or don't. "A road map has already been provided by these experts. It just needs to be followed," she said.

#### Can crude oil explode?

News reports this week floated a number of theories about the exact cause of the Lac-Megantic explosion after the owner of the railway conceded that crude oil does not explode. In light of the new development, National Post reporter Jake Edmiston looks at the properties of crude oil — the sole cargo believed to be onboard tankers that derailed on July 6, killing 47.

**Q: "Crude oil does not blow up," Ed Burkhardt, the chairman of the Maine, Montreal & Atlantic Railway, told media this week. Is that true?**

**A:** Not really, said Professor Michael Birk, who runs an explosions lab at Queen's University focusing on rail cars and other transport and storage vessels. Crude oil does not burn when it is in liquid form, but it gives off highly flammable vapours when it is heated. According to Prof. Birk, if crude oil is heated in a closed container, it will give off more and more vapour until pressure build-up causes the container to burst.

**Q: Some theories have suggested there was other, more volatile substances in the tankers as well. But is it probable that it was just crude oil that caused the explosion?**



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## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 986 Newsy Stuff

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

**August 02 2013**



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**A:** It wouldn't surprise the professor. Judging from the gaping holes in some tank cars, crude oil most likely spilled onto the ground after the derailment. "When that light crude was poured onto the ground, it would have produced some vapours," Prof. Birk said. If an ignition source, such as a spark from the crashing rail cars, ignited the vapours, the ensuing fire would have heated the oil inside the remaining, intact cars. The pressure inside those cars would grow, until the weakened cars burst. It's what Prof. Birk calls a Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion (BLEVE).

**Q: But online videos of the disaster show massive fireballs. Could a BLEVE have caused that?**

**A:** Yes. After the tank bursts, the compressed vapour flies out into the atmosphere, mixes with the air and burns. "That is a fireball and that is exactly what we saw in the video," said Prof. Birk.

**Q: So is the case closed, then?**

**A:** Without data on the chemical makeup of the crude oil, the professor says the exact cause and type of explosion cannot be determined. "I need to know exactly what hydrocarbons were in there to do calculations," Prof. Birk said.

#### Related Stories

- [Canada making Little Progress in Fixing Safety Risks: Report](#)
- [Insufficient brake force applied before oil-filled train slammed into Lac Mégantic: report](#)
- ['When the sky fell': Mother struggles to support family after common-law husband killed in Lac-Mégantic blast](#)
- [CP Rail strengthens safety measures after Lac-Mégantic train disaster that killed dozens](#)

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/07/19/safety-board-calls-for-immediate-regulatory-changes-for-train-travel-in-wake-of-lac-megantic-tragedy-that-killed-47/>

#### ENGLAND, WESTMINSTER, JULY 20 2013. FRACKING 'COULD PUT GAS AND CHEMICALS' IN DRINKING WATER



*Cuadrilla started fracking in Lancashire in 2011.*

Drinking water could be contaminated with methane gas and chemicals due to fracking, water companies have warned. Water UK, which represents all major UK water suppliers, said the shale gas extraction method posed a threat if not "carefully planned and carried out". It also warned fracking's "huge" use of water could cause shortages in areas of low supply, like South East England. Shale gas company Cuadrilla said there were no proven cases of aquifers being contaminated by fracking. Dr Jim Marshall, of Water UK, called on fracking firms to hold "upfront discussions" with water companies "before fracking becomes widespread in the UK". He said the water industry was not "taking sides" in the

fracking debate, but wanted to ensure "corners are not cut and standards compromised, leaving us all counting the cost for years to come".

#### 'No Contamination'

Fracking - short for "hydraulic fracturing" - involves drilling deep underground and releasing a high-pressure mix of water, sand and hundreds of chemicals to crack rocks and release gas stored inside. Water companies are worried the process could contaminate drinking water aquifers that lie above shale gas reserves. Water UK said this could happen by gases such as methane permeating into water sources from rocks where it was previously confined, chemicals getting in through cracks created by the fracking process, or by poor handling of waste water on the surface. A spokesman for Cuadrilla, which is carrying out test drilling in Lancashire, said: "There have been over two million hydraulic fracture treatments carried out globally, the majority in the US, and from that activity we are not aware of one single verified case of fracturing fluid contaminating aquifers." The spokesman said the firm, which also wants to drill at a site in West Sussex, was "committed to the highest standards of well integrity". He added that Cuadrilla was in "regular contact" with water suppliers and its supply of water "will never be prioritised over peoples' houses or farming". A [joint report](#) by the Royal Society and Royal Academy of Engineering published last year said the risks could be managed effectively through "strong regulation". Joseph Dutton, of Leicester University, told the BBC fracking presented "minimal danger" of water contamination if done properly, as the cracks it created were far deeper underground than aquifers. He said leaks in well casings near the surface, caused by "poor workmanship" or the tremors associated with fracking, were the most likely cause of contamination. Current EU and UK regulations "should ensure" no such incidents take place, Mr Dutton said - but he said the government "wants to speed up the process" and warned that loosening environmental controls, as happened in the US, would increase the risks. Mr Dutton said the amount of water used in fracking varies, but each well uses at least a million gallons. The Department for Energy and



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Climate Change said water companies "will assess the amount of water available before providing it to operators". Speaking about the risk to water quality, a spokesman said there was "no evidence to date from the US of fracking causing groundwater contamination".

#### Fracking Expansion

He said the Environment Agency would regulate use of chemicals in the UK on a "site-by-site basis and would order fracking to stop if a risk to groundwater was identified. Widespread fracking has not started in the UK yet, but Cuadrilla began exploratory drilling in Lancashire in 2011 and many other possible sites have been identified. BBC industry correspondent John Moylan said he expected the creation of 40 to 50 fracking wells over the next two years. Large-scale fracking has reduced energy bills in the USA, but there is debate over whether the same would happen in the UK. Chancellor George Osborne, who earlier announced tax breaks to promote fracking, said it had the "potential to create thousands of jobs and keep energy bills low for millions of people." But Friends of the Earth said the government's "wild-eyed reverence for the new god of shale is completely misguided" and said there was "no evidence" it would reduce energy bills.

#### Related Stories

- ['Generous' tax cuts for shale gas](#)
- [Guide to frackingWatch](#)
- [Q&A: What is fracking?](#)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-23373618>

#### USA, OK, SAND SPRINGS, JULY 21 2013. VALVE CLOSED ON RAILROAD TANK CAR LEAKING ACID IN SAND SPRINGS

 [Watch the Video Valve Closed on Railroad Tank Car Leaking Acid in Sand Springs](#)



Firefighters stopped a small hydrochloric acid leak coming from a railroad tank car Friday morning near downtown Sand Springs. Sand Springs Fire Chief Mike Wood said fire-fighters closed a pressure valve left open on the tank car parked near a railroad crossing on Morrow Road after a vapor cloud was spotted at 8:40 a.m. Wood said Friday morning's warm temperatures caused a hydrochloric acid in the tank car to form a vapor cloud above the tank car. Firefighters responded in full Hazmat gear and closed the valve. Wood said there were no evacuations because the leak was small and was resolved rather quickly. Morrow Road at the Sand Springs Railroad crossing was closed for about an hour.

<http://www.news9.com/story/22884672/sand-springs-fire-at-railroad-tank-car-after-reported-acid-leak>

#### USA, PA, HAMPDEN TWP, JULY 21 2013. CREWS DRAINING FUEL TANKS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING >> DRAINING OVER 2 MILLION GALLONS OF FUEL

 [Watch the Video Fuel Tank Struck by Lightning](#)

Crews are back on the scene of a lightning strike on the bulk fuel tanks in Hampden Township, Cumberland County. Over the next couple days hundreds of tanker trucks will be draining over 2 million gallons of fuel from the damaged tank. On Friday, lightning struck the facility, in the 5100 block of Simpson Ferry Road, at around 5:30 p.m. as thunderstorms were moving through the area Friday afternoon. John Breutsch, Cumberland County's public information officer, said one of the tanks was damaged by the lightning. The 2-million gallon tank partially collapsed at the top, and officials are worried about its structural integrity. The tank contains home heating oil. Several fire departments could be seen hosing down the tanks in an attempt to keep them cool. Officials are not aware of any leaks. Simpson Ferry Road was closed from Wesley Drive to Shiremanstown, it has since reopened. About 300 residents in the immediate area were evacuated, and were given the okay to return to their homes around 9pm. No leaks were reported from the tank, and no one was injured.

[http://cumberlink.com/news/local/crews-draining-fuel-tanks-struck-by-lightning/article\\_8128a2a4-f0c1-11e2-8cb1-0019bb2963f4.html](http://cumberlink.com/news/local/crews-draining-fuel-tanks-struck-by-lightning/article_8128a2a4-f0c1-11e2-8cb1-0019bb2963f4.html)



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