



## Dangerous Goods - Hazardous Materials Group & Network

### Release 2013 – 995 Newsy Stuff

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

**August 24 2013**



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#### USA, PA, LANSDALE, AUGUST 11 2013. OIL FROM REX HEAT TREAT IN LANSDALE LEAKS INTO NESHAMINY CREEK

brian bingaman

 **Watch the Video**

- [Report from the Scene](#)
- [Oil spill at Rex Heat Treat](#)



Lansdale Borough Fire Marshal Jay Daveler center left, talks with Fairmount Fire Chief Joe Stockert center right, along with Colmar Fire Company Assistant Chief James Swartley, center, at the scene of a oil spill at Rex Heat Treat in Lansdale Friday.

Fairmount and Colmar fire companies contained a 210-gallon mineral oil leak Friday afternoon at a borough business. At 4:01 p.m. Fairmount Fire Company was dispatched to Rex Heat Treat on West Eighth Street to respond to the leak, which originated from the roof of the building and seeped into a tributary to the western branch of the Neshaminy Creek. According to Fairmount chief Joe Stockert, the mineral oil was "not that bad," and did not pose a significant environmental threat. "We put booms in the creek. Colmar put booms in their end (of the creek, near Walnut Street). J.W. Rex (Heat Treat) cleaned up most of their

own spill," said Stockert. The cause of the leak was not known at the scene. According to the company's website, the locally-founded metallurgical heat treatment facility is the largest commercial heat treat facility in the Northeast. A rain shower slowed down the containment and cleanup, but shortly after 5 p.m., four trucks from J & J Spill Service in East Norriton, including a residual waster pumper truck and an emergency response trailer, were on the scene. They joined four Fairmount units, a DEP emergency response vehicle, and a Colmar Volunteer Fire Company truck.

<http://www.thereporteronline.com/article/20130809/NEWS01/130809494/oil-from-rex-heat-treat-in-lansdale-leaks-into-neshaminy-creek>

#### THAILAND, NARATHIWAT PROVINCE, MUANG, AUGUST 12 2013. BLAST DESTROYS NARATHIWAT GAS FACTORY



Security officials inspect a cooking-gas storage facility in Narathiwat after at least six raiders used cooking gas to trigger explosions in the building early yesterday.

A powerful explosion destroyed a Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) filling factory in Narathiwat's Muang district early yesterday morning, damaging more than 10 nearby houses and injuring three people. Police believe it was an insurgent attack in revenge for the recent extrajudicial killings of insurgent leaders. Two blasts occurred - one soon after the other - at the factory of Nara Petroleum

Partnership on Petkasem Road, leading from Pattani to Narathiwat. Worawut Prompet, the factory's managing director, called firefighters to put out a blaze that engulfed eight-tonne LPG cylinders located inside the factory. The fire raged for one hour before firefighters were able to bring it under control. It destroyed all gas cylinders stored in the main factory building as well as the building where cylinders were filled with gas. A pick-up truck used to deliver gas to customers was also destroyed in the fire. More than 10 houses opposite the factory were damaged in the explosions. Among those injured was Arunee Jehma, 33, who suffered head wounds from the flying debris. She was sleeping when the explosions occurred. Another casualty, Pa-ob Damnuin, 57, received leg wounds from flying glass, while Paiji Wongthornpitak, 38, also suffered similar injuries. Police said the bombers planted two homemade devices, weighing 5 kilograms each, under the base of some gas cylinders. The bombs were detonated by mobile phones, resulting in powerful explosions. The second bomb is thought to have been detonated about ten minutes after the first. The bombers also turned on gas valves, allowing gas to escape, but the factory's safety system shut down the flow of gas from the cylinders to the building used to fill them. Police Sub-Lt Chaen Paisit, deputy chief of the bomb squad team said the bombers planted the two bombs and wrapped the gas pipe leading from the gas tank around the two explosive devices. A third explosion followed the two main detonations due to exploding gas cylinders. Security officials led by Narathiwat Provincial Police chief Pol Major Wichai Kasemwong have been instructed to step up security in key areas of the province, including convenience stores. Chaen said police suspected the explosions were carried out as revenge after two insurgent leaders were summarily executed on Friday morning in Narathiwat's Rue Soh district. Chaen said the



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factory did not install any security cameras, but police found a backpack left by the bombers, filled with documents linking the blasts with members of the Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) insurgent group based in Narathiwat's Muang and Bajoh districts. Police said Harong Doloh, the factory's security guard, would undergo further interrogation after he gave a statement to police saying the bombers had tied him up before bombing the factory and then untied him before fleeing. Colonel Pramot Prom-in, spokesman for the forward base of the Internal Security Operations Command's Region 4, said six insurgents were responsible for the explosions. They had clear intentions to do harm and cause severe damage to assets and property. He called on all sectors to condemn the group. He said state officials would visit the scene and provide assistance and rehabilitation to those people affected. Meanwhile, Pramot said that with footage from a security camera, police would soon be able to issue arrest warrants for suspects believed to be responsible for shooting dead Imam Yakob Raimanee of the Central Masjid in Pattani.

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/national/Blast-destroys-Narathiwat-gas-factory-30212418.html>

### USA, WA, SOUTH WHIDBEY, AUGUST 12 2013. FREELAND FUEL SPILL WORRIES EXPERTS

justin burnett



*This fuel tank, shown here dug up, leaked an estimated 7,000 gallons in Freeland.*

An estimated 7,000 gallons of gasoline that spilled from a broken fuel tank eight years ago is now threatening Freeland's water supply, state officials have confirmed. According to Louise Bardy, supervisor of the state Department of Ecology's voluntary Clean up Program, recent monitoring has revealed contamination in the area's sea-level aquifer, about 100 feet below the surface. The spill also appears to be traveling, very slowly, toward the Freeland Sewer and Water District's wells, which are about 1,900 feet away and provide water to about 90 commercial business and nearly 400 residences. Bardy believes the danger is "moderate" but it's not clear just how far the "plume" has spread. "We don't know," she said. "We're trying to find that out." Ecology officials plan to attend the district's monthly meeting next week and give the commissioners a

presentation, outlining what happened, what's been done so far and future monitoring plans. The meeting will be held at 5:50 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, at Whidbey Water Services, 5421 Woodard Ave. in Freeland. According to agency documents, the spill occurred in 2005 at what was formerly Whidbey Marine and Auto Supply on Main Street. The store, which also sold fuel, was in operation from 1967 until 2008. Records show then owner Marty Winn submitted a fuel inventory reconciliation report that indicated a "7,000-gallon release of gasoline." Winn could not be reached for comment. His phone number is not listed and contact information provided by ecology officials was no longer valid. Ecology Spokesman Larry Altose said the leak came from a two-inch hole in one of the tanks. It is believed to have been caused by a metal dipstick used to check tank levels. It's dropped down a port from above and, in older tanks, falls with enough force that over time it will penetrate the bottom skin of the tank. He said it's unknown just how long fuel was leaking but speculated it wasn't long. Following Winn's fuel discrepancy report, he began participating in the state's voluntary clean up program. Efforts were undertaken to recover the spilled fuel but less than one-third — about 2,000 gallons — was retrieved. "They recovered what was recoverable," Altose said. Monitoring was continued by Winn's hired consulting firm, Farallon Consulting. Last year, data revealed the gasoline had reached Freeland's sea-level aquifer. Alerted to the progression, ecology officials made the decision about two months ago to notify water district commissioners and employees. The news came as something of a shock. "It was totally out of our radar," Commissioner Marilyn Abrahamson said. The commissioners didn't know about the ongoing monitoring or even the original problem, she said. "Concerned? I'm concerned!" Abrahamson said. "This is absolutely huge and nobody knows about it." Andy Campbell, manager for the water district, said he doesn't believe the issue is an emergency yet but that the news from ecology was "surprising." "I'm glad they finally brought us into the conversation," Campbell said. The district and neighboring property owners were alerted after the spill occurred. It was believed, however, the spill was of minimal threat. Experts thought the perched aquifer, which goes down about 60 feet, would contain most of the fuel and that it would move north towards Holmes Harbor. But monitoring data showed the fuel turned southeast instead, indicating that aquifer water moves in a different direction than surface water, said Diane Escobedo, ecology's site manager for the former marine supply store. "We still don't know how far that contamination goes," Escobedo said. The situation may not be a crisis yet, said



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Campbell, but he is concerned. If the spill reaches the district's wells, it will be a big problem. "We have millions of dollars invested in our well field," Campbell said. "We don't want to lose that obviously; it would be catastrophic." Bardy also made clear that district wells aren't the only ones at risk. A Harbor Hill well could also be affected but she couldn't say at the time how many homes it services. Island County Public Health Hydrogeologist Doug Kelly said additional monitoring of the situation is necessary but doubts well contamination is a serious threat. Fuel leaks underground don't spread fast and have limited lifespans, he said. "They grow for a while and then sputter to a halt," Kelly said. "Then they begin to shrink and go away." Soil acts as a natural filter and a process known as natural attenuation gradually breaks down the contaminants over time, he said. "The odds of this getting to Freeland's wells is almost nonexistent," Kelly said. But the state agency isn't taking any chances. "Right now we don't know where the contamination ends," Altose said. Additional monitoring wells are planned so experts can track the plumes progress. They are expensive, however, and Winn's insurance policy is nearing its limit. Altose and Bardy both said Winn was concerned about the problem and is cooperating, but finances may become a problem at some point.

<http://www.southwhidbeyrecord.com/news/219053221.html>

### CANADA, AB, EDMONTON, AUGUST 12 2013. COLD LAKE BITUMEN LEAK: CRITICS CALL FOR REVIEW OF OILSANDS STEAMING

 **Photo's [27]** [Alberta Oil Spills](#)



*An investigation into the cause of a major oil leak in northern Alberta is underway, but critics are calling for a review of the extraction process that may have lead to the spill in the first place.*

An investigation into the cause of a major oil leak in northern Alberta is underway, but critics are calling for a review of the extraction process that may have lead to the spill in the first place. Clean up crews have been working around the clock to contain a [bitumen leak at Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.'s \(CNRL\) Primrose operation](#), which has been spewing for nearly two months now. Deep, narrow fissures have been seeping bitumen -- a sticky, black form of petroleum -- from within the confines of the [Canadian Forces Base Cold Lake's air weapons range](#), approximately 300 km northeast of Edmonton. Crews have sucked up [7,300 barrels of bitumen](#), but with million of litres already spilled, and another 2,400 litres continuing to seep into the bush each day, critics are beginning to question

the steam injection process used to extract the oil in the first place. While steam injection, or cyclical steam stimulation (CSS), is often considered more environmentally friendly than mining, some fear the method may be causing fissures in the rock, allowing bitumen to rise to the surface and pollute marshland and waterways. Walter Janvier, a councillor with the Cold Lake First Nations, told the Edmonton Journal [he's worried about aquifers deep underground](#). "We are concerned about this [high pressure process](#), as some of those wells go half a kilometre down," he said. "It's not so much the surface spill, that can be cleaned up. But when you can't control what happens underground, that's a different story. [We want an investigation that looks at all the technical data](#)." Canadian Natural Resources Limited president Steve Laut told the Wall Street Journal he's confident are what caused the leak, allowing bitumen to flow into cracks in the rock and migrate horizontally; not weakness in the surrounding cap rock. Environmental organizations, on the other hand, say the high-pressure steaming has fractured capstone. "It's physically impossible to inject steam up through that cap rock because [the pressures that are required are more than we inject](#)," Laut told the Wall Street Journal. However, critics say [the company is jumping to conclusions](#) and should be investigating the matter further, especially considering the similarities between this leak and a [2009 spill](#) the company faced in the same area which saw 5,600 litres spill into surrounding wetlands. "It's when the investigation is incomplete," Chris Severson-Baker, a managing director at the Pembina Institute, told the Wall Street Journal. "[Whatever they learned in 2009 didn't prevent this latest incident](#)," he added. The province's governmental watchdog, the Alberta Energy Regulator, agrees it's too early to reach any conclusions and will continue to investigate. The regulator has [ordered the company to stop steaming](#) in the affected area as a precaution. The regulator's report on the 2009 spill [found no clear evidence faulty well bores contributed to the leak](#). The report, which took years to complete and was not made public until January 2013, noted the steam volume used in 2009 was [significantly higher than normal](#) and likely contributed to the spill, reports the Edmonton Journal. The report also found that "geological weakness, in combination with stress induced by high-pressure steam injection," may have



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contributed to the incident. CNRL president Steve Laut toured the Primrose operation last week, apologizing for the leak and reflecting on what could have been done better. "We're very sorry it's happened and **we're going to do everything we can to make sure it's cleaned up,**" he told reporters. "I think if you go back and look in hindsight, we weren't communicating quickly enough to the public – so lesson learned for us." **Dozens of animals have already been rescued from the site** and taken to Edmonton for rehabilitation, but as many as 60 amphibians and birds have also died. Preliminary estimates state the **clean up will cost more than \$40 million.**

[http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/08/11/cold-lake-bitumen-leak-review\\_n\\_3739496.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/08/11/cold-lake-bitumen-leak-review_n_3739496.html)

### USA, TX, DALLAS, AUGUST 12 2013. DALLAS-BASED DANGER DATA PROGRAM FOR FIRST RESPONDERS STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE AFTER WEST EXPLOSION



*Firefighters and trucks gathered in a staging area recently in West before a procession to Waco's Ferrell Center for a memorial honoring victims of the deadly fertilizer explosion.*

As federal agencies scramble to meet President Barack Obama's Aug. 1 order to fix a broken chemical emergency system after the West Fertilizer Co. disaster, a small program with the potential to save the lives of firefighters and the public is struggling to survive. For more than a decade, workers in a controlled-access office at the University of Texas at Dallas have run the nation's farthest-reaching network offering first responders facility-specific information on chemical risks when they arrive at an industrial fire or leak. With programs such as E-Plan, firefighters at the scene can get free, online and highly secure data on the nature

and location of chemicals, explosion hazard warnings and sensitive risk-management plans — insights that many state-run chemical reporting systems, such as Texas', do not make available to fire departments in real time. But E-Plan's funding ends Aug. 31, the result of a budget decision by the Department of Homeland Security. DHS, which will spend \$60 billion in fiscal year 2014, had been funding E-Plan at about \$900,000 a year. That support now drops to zero. States that participate fully in E-Plan might find enough to keep the system running at least through early next year, when companies must file annual reports of extremely hazardous chemical stocks. Those reports are the program's foundation. Texas is not among the states offering help. Its limited cooperation with E-Plan includes sharing information but not money. Texas budget figures show that is not from a lack of ability. For years, legislators have used federally mandated chemical inventory reporting as a cash cow, collecting about \$1 million a year in companies' filing fees, but then appropriating only about \$600,000 a year to run the program. That decade-long practice has bolstered the state's books, building up a stockpile of unspent chemical reporting fees that totaled \$3.98 million as of Aug. 31, 2012. The 2013 figure will be higher. Meanwhile, E-Plan's managers at UTD hope Obama's executive order on chemical emergencies might at least save their program and perhaps improve and expand it. Suggesting that better sharing of information might have reduced deaths, injuries and damage from the April 17 ammonium nitrate fertilizer plant explosion in West, Obama commanded federal agencies to find a better way by year's end. "When I look at this executive order, this is perfect — that's exactly what E-Plan does," said Ron Bose, director of a UTD center that runs E-Plan and does complex, confidential performance data analysis for clients including telecom companies. "We are keeping the system going," he said. "But we're fully dependent on the money."

#### Lack of Changes

When Congress responded to the 1984 leak of methyl isocyanate from a Union Carbide plant that killed thousands in Bhopal, India, it saw information as the key to keeping American communities safe. Companies would report their chemicals and file risk management plans. Public scrutiny of those filings would pressure industries. Companies, local officials and the public would work together on safety plans. Local emergency planners and fire departments would get copies of the company filings. They would then use them to prepare for chemical mishaps. It was, as it turned out, a utopian view. For one thing, Congress didn't pass on any money to support the local role, and states followed suit. For another, although federal law says each community must have a local emergency planning committee, it provides no penalty for those that meet rarely or not at all. A flurry of renewed local interest after West has not been followed by any basic changes from Congress or the Texas Legislature, which was in session when the West fertilizer plant exploded. Still another shortcoming has come into focus since West: Congress created the system during an age when reports on paper were still the norm, and the precursors of Wi-Fi and smartphones were little known beyond electronics trade shows. As recently as 2008, the Government Accountability Office



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concluded that even with new technologies, urban first responders' ability to detect and model hazardous releases was still "significantly limited." Many large fire departments with resources, such as Dallas Fire-Rescue, have developed their own digital systems for noting chemical risks. When dispatch sends an engine to a business address that has a hazardous chemical, "you can look it up by hand, but it also pops up automatically," said Lt. Joel Lavender, a department spokesman.

### 'Whole Mishmash'

But for many first responders across the country, including thinly funded volunteer organizations that account for 80 percent of Texas' fire departments, chemical information still comes the old-fashioned way: on paper — of little or no value during an emergency. "Most of them rely basically on a three-ring binder in the cab of the firetruck," said Chris Barron, executive director of the State Firemen's & Fire Marshals' Association of Texas and a volunteer fire chief. Fire departments are supposed to get copies of chemical inventory filings, called Tier II reports, from companies. If a local department requests an additional copy from Texas' official repository, the Texas Department of State Health Services, it can ask for a paper or digital copy, department spokeswoman Carrie Williams said. But firefighters can't access the state's system directly, even in an emergency, she said. Texas does provide its Tier II filings to E-Plan as a courtesy, so a fire department can request free user authorization, which the state and E-Plan must approve for security reasons. Few, however, have done so; it's unclear why. Firefighter training by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service covers how to get electronic data for emergencies, spokesman William Welch said. It is uncertain what information West's volunteer fire department received from West Fertilizer or its parent, Adair Grain. Surviving West firefighters told *The Dallas Morning News* that apart from a single walk-through at the fertilizer plant years ago, they had no emergency drills and were never told that the ammonium nitrate might explode. Firefighters who were killed were standing within a few yards of the burning warehouse. Autopsy reports show that all died of blunt-force trauma from the blast and some were burned. Access to E-Plan would have instantly provided a standard warning for an ammonium-nitrate fire: Back away. Don't fight it. Spend those vital minutes evacuating people. The federal law governing Tier II reporting doesn't require states to pass on such information to firefighters, so many don't — a common mistake, said Shilpa Mohan, a vice president of ISDi International of Fort Lee, N.J. The firm has sold some states a commercial software system, Tier II Manager, that is similar to E-Plan with enhanced features. "Agencies get stuck in the statute," she said. "The result is just a whole mishmash. You lose information. There are all these horrible risks."

### Tier II in Texas

The way Texas structures its Tier II program also affects how valuable the program is for firefighters.

All states require companies to file their Tier II reports electronically. The greatest number, including Texas, use the EPA's Tier II Submit program. Nine use E-Plan exclusively, and 29 others share their data with E-Plan, making it a nearly nationwide system. Some use other formats. Electronic filing saves states time, money, personnel and file-drawer space. But it doesn't necessarily help first responders. Except for E-Plan and Tier II Manager, the formats aren't easily sharable with fire departments. Another question with real-world implications is which agency receives the information. In 27 states, Tier II data is seen as emergency-related, so their emergency management offices handle the job — cutting out a middle step between state officials and local firefighters. That's not the case in Texas, which is among a minority of states that assign the task to health or environmental agencies, which might have little or no routine contact with first responders. Texas placed its Tier II program in the Department of State Health Services, the same agency that handles infectious and communicable diseases, birth and death certificates, mental health and substance abuse. The program resides in a DSHS division that also regulates, among other things, tainted milk, X-ray machines, school cafeterias and bedding manufacturers. The annual legislative appropriations for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 are about \$633,000, but chemical fee income is projected at about \$1 million each year. About 10 DSHS employees work on Tier II reports, including field investigators who track down companies that fail to file, said Williams, the department spokeswoman. The state filed 88 enforcement cases against nonfilers in 2012 and 2013, but collected no fines. The reason is simple: The Legislature passed a law prohibiting penalties for ignoring Tier II deadlines. Not filing, however, might result in catastrophe. West Fertilizer/Adair Grain had ammonium nitrate on hand at least since 2006, *The News* found from references in state permit files. But the company never reported it until early this year. The unknown presence of such a threat, said UTD's Bose, is the most important reason to rescue E-Plan — and every volunteer firefighter responding to the next blaze at a local fertilizer company. "He needs to know whether to run toward it," Bose said, "or run like hell."

 **Related Stories** [West explosion: Devastation, aftermath, consequences](#)

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/west-explosion/headlines/20130810-dallas-based-danger-data-program-for-first-responders-struggles-to-survive-after-west-explosion.ece>



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#### INDIA, NAGALAND, DIMAPUR, AUGUST 12 2013. 2 ARRESTED FOR PETROL PUMP INFERNO

A driver of one of the two oil tankers burned during Friday night's incident at 7th Mile and the owner of the "godown" near Essar petrol pump, were arrested by Diphupar police Saturday in connection with the fire that broke out in a storage tank of the petrol pump. The raging inferno was doused after three hours by fire tenders at around 11 p.m. Friday. According to a reliable police source, the driver was identified as one Joy Kishor Roy (29) son of Kabil Roy of Motihari Bihar and presently residing at Khatkati, Assam and the owner of the "godown", identified as one Ashok Prasad (32), son of Basan Prasad of Baliya, Kailali district in Nepal and presently residing at 7th mile Model Village. The police source disclosed that the two who were arrested, claimed that fire started after power lines above the godown snapped while oil was being filled into the tank. However, both of them have not explained how the high tension power cables snapped. Police said 43 barrels of fuel (diesel) were burnt, two oil tankers with registration numbers NL 01 K 1644, NL 01 G 9444 and two unloaded tanks were gutted by the fire. Police found eight tanks out of which two were burnt, two empty and four filled with diesel. Not ruling out an illegal fuel adulteration angle on the incident, the police source said fuel were not stored beneath the earth as was required for every petrol pumps. Instead, police found that fuel were stored in barrels and tanks. Police said all the fuel burnt in the inferno was diesel. Police were still investigating the case and efforts are on to arrest one of the absconding drivers. Police also said that they have summoned all the employees of the "godown" and the petrol pump as well as Bendang and Shrikant, who were reported to be out of station, for interrogation. Police also disclosed that permit of the "godown" was under the name of one Bendang Longkumer and the same was run by one Ashok. As reported, the Essar petrol pump was owned by one Shrikant. However, police has so far not been able to ascertain whether the "godown" was owned by him or whether fuel for the petrol pump was stored in it. Police said both the arrested persons have maintained that the petrol pump did not belong to Shrikant.

<http://www.nagalandpost.com/ChannelNews/State/StateNews.aspx?news=TkVXUzEwMDA0MzAxNQ%3D%3D-Xyh0RsXVjyw%3D>

#### SOUTH AFRICA, CAPE TOWN, AUGUST 12 2013. TONS OF FUEL SPILL FROM KNYSNA SHIP

*kowthar solomons*



*Oil is leaking from a cargo ship, which ran aground off the Knysna coast near a nature reserve earlier this week, the SABC reported.*

More than three tons of fuel have spilt into the sea from the cargo ship that ran aground off Buffels Bay near Knysna, threatening a nearby nature reserve. The 168m bulk carrier, Kiani Satu, ran aground at dawn on Thursday, forcing the captain and its 19-member crew to abandon the ship. As salvage operations by the SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) began on Saturday, they found that an estimated three tons of oil had leaked from a crack in the vessel. Other minor cracks and leaks from the vessel were also reported. The ship is believed to have been carrying 330 tons of fuel. Captain Nigel Campbell, who is overseeing the operation, said yesterday the salvage crew were working hard to contain any leaks. "We believe that there is a crack in the hull in the way of the number two double-bottom starboard tank, which is holding the fuel. "It's a major concern

that so much damage has already been done. We are doing our best to limit any further damage and are preparing a flotation operation on Monday to take the vessel back out to sea," he said. Initial inspections of the vessel on Friday had showed no signs of pollution, damage to the ship or visible leaks. The Kiani Satu, carrying rice, heavy fuels and gas oil, was on a course to Gabon when mechanical failure stranded the vessel in a remote location on one of the country's most pristine coastlines, on the Garden Route, near the Goukamma Nature Reserve. Teams have been sent to the beach to clean up any oil that reaches the shore. Campbell said nine salvors and two surveyors from the salvage vessel Smit Amandla were preparing towing equipment for tomorrow's operation. "These guys are some of the world's best in their field, and will be working 20 hours a day," he said. A helicopter would help to airlift equipment off the vessel and secure a towline to the tug. There have been concerns about waves pushing the vessel further on the reef, but the swells are also needed to carry it out to sea again. The vessel's crew is being accommodated at the Point Hotel in Mossel Bay. They had been warned not to speak to the media owing to "insurance issues". The crew are expected to play a vital role in the salvage operation because of their experience with the ship. The authorities will be eager to avoid a repeat of the Seli 1 disaster, when a Turkish bulk carrier ran aground near Bloubergstrand in 2009, and kept haemorrhaging fuel until late last year. Around R40 million was set aside by the



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National Treasury to salvage the vessel, with blasting operations to reduce the wreck commencing at the beginning of the year.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/western-cape/tons-of-fuel-spill-from-knysna-ship-1.1560429#.UghqvplwdZ4>

#### AUSTRALIA, MURGA, AUGUST 12 2013. MAN LOSES THREE FINGERS MAKING HOME-MADE ROCKETS

emma partridge



**Maps:** [Murga 2864](#)

A man has lost three fingers in a chemical explosion while making rockets in the state's central west. Police said the man was mixing chemicals which unexpectedly detonated on a family farm at Murga, north of Canowindra, about 4pm on Sunday. He had already made a number of rockets, which were found at the Yells Road farm. The man's mother and father found him with severe hand injuries. The Parkes man, who was visiting his family farm, was airlifted to Liverpool Hospital for emergency surgery. His injuries were not considered life threatening. Orange police Inspector Peter Atkins said police did not believe the explosives were intended for anything sinister. "It's more a case of young male making home-made explosive for his own interests," Inspector Atkins said. "[It] appears he is making home-made rockets and unfortunately [has] blown his hand off." Inspector Atkins said the man had been making the explosives with chemicals commonly found on rural properties. Hazardous material firefighters were called to the farm and declared the area safe. Forensic officers have examined the area and police are waiting to speak to the injured man.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/man-loses-three-fingers-making-homemade-rockets-20130812-2rque.html>

#### VENEZUELA, ANZOATEGUI STATE, PUERTO LA CRUZ, AUGUST 12 2013. LIGHTNING STRIKE SPARKS FIRE AT VENEZUELA'S PUERTO LA CRUZ REFINERY

kejal vyas

 **Watch the Video** [Fire at Puerto La Cruz Refinery](#)

 **Document** [About Puerto la Cruz](#)



*Smoke rises from Petroleum of Venezuela (PDVSA) refinery of Puerto La Cruz, in Anzoategui state, Venezuela, on 11 August 2013.*

A fire broke out at Venezuela's 187,000 bpd Puerto la Cruz oil refinery Sunday after the facility was struck by lightning, officials from Petroleos de Venezuela said. Mr. Chavez said that firefighters hoped to have the flames "totally extinguished" within hours, adding that the rest of the refinery continued to operate normally. Heavy storms affected two of Venezuela's key oil refineries as one facility was struck by lightning resulting in a fire while another was hit by a power outage, officials from Petroleos de Venezuela (PdVSA), said. "We are experiencing some quite strong atmospheric conditions in all of the northern coastal part of the country, Asdrubal Chavez, PdVSA's VP of refining, said." A large fire broke out at the country's 187,000 bpd Puerto la Cruz refinery after a lightning strike in the afternoon. The flames were completely extinguished by night, Mr. Chavez confirmed, adding that there were no injuries and that the refinery continued to operate normally. Local media earlier showed tall flames and a towering cloud of black smoke coming from the key oil facility, which lies in the coastal city of Puerto la Cruz, about 160 miles east of Caracas. Residents living around the refinery who were evacuated were starting to return to their houses, Mr. Chavez said. Meanwhile, 230 miles west, the 140,000 bpd El Palito refinery was paralyzed after heavy rains caused a power outage in the region, a PdVSA spokesman said. He said that workers had already begun restarting the facility and that it was expected to be fully operational soon. The incidents are the latest to hit Venezuela's oil industry, which in recent years has been marred by frequent mishaps at its production and refining plants. One year ago, more than 40 people were killed by a gas leak explosion at the Amuay refinery in the country's deadliest accident yet. Critics of the government blamed the explosion on lack of maintenance, charges that PdVSA officials firmly denied. In his comments, Mr. Chavez assured that the company continues to conduct maintenance and preventative measures but noted that "sometimes these situations are uncontrollable."

#### Related Stories

- [3 injured in Puerto La Cruz refinery](#)
- [Fire at Venezuela oil refinery put out, no casualties](#)



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- [Fire at Venezuela's Puerto La Cruz oil refinery 'over'](#)
- [Fire crews extinguish blaze at Venezuela oil refinery](#)
- [Fire at venezuela's puerto la cruz oil refinery](#)
- [Lightning strike sparks Venezuela oil refinery blaze](#)
- [Lightning sparks massive fire at refinery in Venezuela](#)
- [Lightning starts fire at Venezuela refinery](#)
- [Lightning Strike Sparks Fire at Venezuela's Puerto La Cruz Refinery](#)
- [Oil Refinery in Puerto La Cruz Catches on Fire](#)
- [Venezuela oil refinery blaze halted](#)

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3242163/Latest-News/Lightning-strike-sparks-fire-at-Venezuelas-Puerto-La-Cruz-refinery.html>

### INDIA, GUJARAT, VADODARA. AUGUST 12 2013. GOODS TRAIN DERAILS AT VADODARA RAILWAY STATION >> LARGE AMOUNT OF OIL SPILT

Two bogies of a goods train carrying oil to Mumbai from Gujarat Refinery derailed at Vadodara railway station today, briefly affecting the movement of trains on Mumbai-Delhi route. Nobody was injured in the mishap, that caused large amount of oil spillage on tracks this morning, police said. Meanwhile, Vadodara BJP MP Balkrishna Shukla has demanded a probe into the derailment. "About 1.30 lakh litres of oil spilled over the tracks and surrounding areas because of the derailment. It is a very serious matter and guilty should be punished," he said. Gujarat Refinery, located at Koyali on the outskirts of the city, is owned by Indian Oil Corporation.

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/goods-train-derails-at-vadodara-railway-station-113081100697\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/goods-train-derails-at-vadodara-railway-station-113081100697_1.html)

### USA, AZ, GILBERT, AUGUST 13 2013. OIL TANK FIRE SENDS 3 GILBERT FIREFIGHTERS TO HOSPITAL

*jennifer thomas & ryan o'donnell*

 **Watch the Video**

- [Firefighters Hospitalized Due to Exposure at SRP Facility](#)
- [Oil Tank Fire Sends 3 Gilbert Firefighters to Hospital](#)

Three Gilbert firefighters were transported to a hospital while working on an oil tank fire at a Salt River Project plant Monday morning. A hydraulic line for a 240-gallon oil tank broke and caught fire inside one of the operations buildings at the power plant near Val Vista Drive and Warner Road, according to Brian Ruffentine with the Gilbert Fire Department. "Basically, a high-pressure leak," said Gilbert Fire Capt. Mike Connor. "One of the pipes burst and it has a tank reservoir that leaked out some hydraulic fluid that's used for cooling." Without the cooling, Connor said temperatures inside the building reached 1,000 degrees. Because of the heat and lack of oxygen inside, both Gilbert and Mesa fire departments rotated firefighters. SRP shut down the equipment and firefighters quickly put out the fire. Three firefighters were exposed to the oil and were transported to Mercy Gilbert Medical Center for irritation to their eyes and skin. "Basically, the oil is a mild irritant," Connor said. "[The firefighters] got some on their skin and had some eye issues. Everything seems minor. They're going to be OK. It was precautionary as to why we transported them." Ruffentine said there was no threat to nearby residents and there was no disruption of power in the area. Fire crews are still working to cool the oil down before they leave the scene. SRP said the plant is a seasonal natural gas facility that only operates during peak winter and summer months.

<http://www.azfamily.com/news/Oil-tank-fire-sends-3-Gilbert-firefighters-to-hospital-219277421.html>

### SLOVAK REPUBLIC, SPIŠSKÁ NOVÁ VES, AUGUST 13 2013. EXPLOSION IN TUNNEL NEAR LEVOČA CLAIMS 1 LIFE

A 39-year-old man died and another five people were injured in an explosion that occurred on August 12 in the Šibenik tunnel near Spišský Hrhov in eastern Slovakia. The District Mining Authority in Spišská Nová Ves is already investigating the accident, the TASR newswire reported. The explosion was reported shortly after half past four in the morning, the Sme.sk website wrote. The police said that the men, who were working on a tunnel that is to be part of the Jánovce – Jablonov section of the cross-country D1 highway, were in the process of overseeing a planned explosion, during which another blast occurred, which caused the soil in the area to slide, said the spokesperson for the police corps headquarters in Prešov, Daniel Džobanik. Two injured workers were transported to a hospital in Poprad where they were placed in the traumatology ward. One of them



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might undergo surgery, spokesperson for the hospital Sylvia Galajda told TASR. The other three injured workers were transported to hospitals in Levoča and Spišská Nová Ves. One of the workers transported to Levoča has already been released, while another remains hospitalised, although the hospital has not specified his condition. One seriously injured worker was hospitalised in Spišská Nová Ves, but later had to be transported to the University Hospital of Louis Pasteur in Košice. His serious condition will require surgery, the SITA newswire reported. Construction work on the section of the cross-country D1 highway, including the 540-metre-long tunnel, started in June 2012, and is expected to be completed by July 2015, Sme.sk wrote.

[http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/50999/10/explosion\\_in\\_tunnel\\_near\\_levoca\\_claims\\_one\\_life.html](http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/50999/10/explosion_in_tunnel_near_levoca_claims_one_life.html)

### USA, CA, EL CENTRO, AUGUST 13 2013. DIESEL SPILLS ONTO RAILROAD TRACKS IN EL CENTRO

*alexis rangel & antoine abou-diwan*

About 1,500 gallons of diesel leaked onto train tracks from a Union Pacific locomotive, according to Battalion Chief Chad Whitlock with the El Centro Fire Department. The isolated incident occurred near the 300 block of Main Street in El Centro on Sunday morning. "There is no immediate danger to the public," said Battalion Chief Whitlock. Train crews first noticed a leak at 8 a.m. and reported the incident to the El Centro Fire Department. "It appears to have been caused by a mechanical failure of a part," said Whitlock, "causing the diesel to leak." The Fire Department arrived on scene within minutes of the report and followed all procedures mandated by state and federal law before handing the incident over to Union Pacific's Hazardous Material team. "It will take a couple of days to clean up the scene," said Whitlock. Within a couple of days Union Pacific's Hazardous Material team will test the soil to see how much of it may need to be removed due to the spill, said Whitlock.

[http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/valley-police-beat-diesel-spills-onto-railroad-tracks-in-el/article\\_3ab5097e-030f-11e3-9efb-0019bb30f31a.html](http://www.ivpressonline.com/news/local/valley-police-beat-diesel-spills-onto-railroad-tracks-in-el/article_3ab5097e-030f-11e3-9efb-0019bb30f31a.html)

### USA, GA, ATLANTA, AUGUST 13 2013. OVERTURNED TANKER OUTSIDE SE BUSINESS EMITS VAPOR CLOUD

 **Watch the Video**

- [Overturned Tanker Emits Vapor Cloud](#)
- [Liquid Nitrogen Tanker Overturns](#)

 **Photo's [12]** [Liquid Nitrogen Tanker Overturns](#)



No injuries were reported Monday morning when a tanker truck overturned in the parking lot of a southeast Atlanta meat company. The Air Products tractor-trailer, which was hauling refrigerated liquid nitrogen, flipped over around 7 a.m. at C&S Wholesale Meats on Confederate Avenue at Edie Avenue.

Crews are working fast to clean-up a mess caused after a tanker overturned just outside of a business in southeast Atlanta Monday morning. There appeared to be a steady stream of visible vapor, similar to the vapor given off by dry ice, coming from the overturned tanker. The City of Atlanta Fire Rescue Department confirmed that the leaking substance is liquid nitrogen and non-hazardous. The crash happened adjacent to C&S Wholesale Meats local along Confederate Avenue SE at Edie Avenue. Two tankers are on site – with one overturned and the other backed up to it. Authorities say the contents of the overturned truck

are being moved to the second truck. Officials have not confirmed what caused the tanker to overturn or if anyone was hurt.

<http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/story/23108941/overturned-tanker-vapor-cloud>

### MEXICO, SINALOA, CULIACAN, AUGUST 13 2013. FIREWORKS EXPLOSION KILLS 3 IN NORTHWESTERN MEXICO

A mother and her two small daughters were killed in an explosion at an illegal fireworks factory over the weekend in Culiacan, the capital of the northwestern Mexican state of Sinaloa, officials said. The blast occurred Sunday at a house where gunpowder was being stored in a residential neighborhood, Sinaloa Attorney General Marco Antonio Higuera said. "Several crates containing explosive materials and gunpowder for the manufacturing of rockets were found at the site where the explosion happened," Higuera said. The blast occurred in a house in the Lazaro Cardenas district and damaged seven other houses, the AG said. Three people were arrested at a nearby house where more explosives were found. Ana Laura Cruz, 25, and her daughters Guadalupe, 3, and Germayona, 7, were killed in the blast. Cruz and her daughters were from Puebla, a



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state in central Mexico, officials said. Firefighters, emergency management office personnel, Red Cross paramedics, soldiers and police responded to the blast, assisting victims and cordoning off the area.

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=938853&CategoryId=14091>

### **MALAYSIA, NILAI, AUGUST 13 2013. DRIVER KILLED AS TANKER PLUNGES OFF OVERHEAD BRIDGE**



*Tragic end: People gathering at the scene where the tanker lorry plunged off an overhead bridge, killing Perumal along the North-South Expressway.*

A tanker lorry driver was killed when he was thrown out of his vehicle as it plunged off an overhead bridge at Jalan Nilai-Pajam, KM280.7 of the North-South Expressway. G. Perumal, 59, from Taman Pantai Mas, Port Dickson, was killed on the spot in the 3.40pm incident yesterday due to serious body injuries. A police spokesman said Perumal, who was heading south, was believed to have lost control of the liquefied petroleum gas tanker, which crashed into the road divider along the side of the highway and then plunged 4m off the bridge. Perumal's body was sent to the Tuanku Jaafar Hospital in Seremban. Operations chief at the Nilai fire and rescue station Zainal Ahmad said the accident took place just as Perumal was returning to Port Dickson after making deliveries in

Ipoh, Rawang and Kepong. Following the crash, he said the affected stretch along Jalan Nilai-Pajam had to be closed to move the tanker lorry.

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Nation/2013/08/13/Driver-killed-as-lorry-plunges-off-overhead-bridge.aspx>

### **NETHERLANDS, WEMELDINGE, AUGUST 13 2013. DUTCH SAILBOAT HIT BY TANKER ON CANAL, 3 MISSING.**



Rescue workers look for missing people on a Dutch canal near Wemeldinge on Monday, where a German gas tanker had ploughed into a sailboat, dragging it under water

Three people are missing after a German gas tanker ploughed into a sailboat on a Dutch canal, dragging it under water, with one possible survivor taken to hospital. Several dive teams, helicopters, ambulances and fire engines were scrambled to the scene of the accident near Wemeldinge, around 20 kilometres from the Belgian border. "The first casualty has been taken quickly to hospital," emergency services in the Zeeland region said in a tweet on Monday after rescue divers extracted someone from the wreck more than an hour after the

accident. "Dive teams are in and around the boat looking for those missing. There may be four people in the water," they said in an earlier tweet. The sailboat sank after being hit by a tanker, which Dutch media reported was a German gas tanker headed for Antwerp in Belgium. Traffic along the canal was halted pending the rescue operation, with emergency services set to try to bring the stricken sailboat to the surface

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/dutch-sailboat-hit-by-tanker-on-canal/story-fni0xqll-1226695930653>

### **GEORGIA, TBILISI, AUGUST 13 2013. KMG BRANCH TO BUILD 22 PETROL STATIONS IN GEORGIA IN 2014**



The Rompetrol Group N.V., a branch of KazMunaiGas National Company plans to open up to 22 new petrol stations in Georgia by the end of 2014, [KazTAG](#) reports. "Rompertol company will open 7 new petrol stations in Tbilisi by the end of 2013. As for the company's further plans, it mulls opening another 10-15 stations in Tbilisi and other regions of Georgia in 2014," Director General of Rompetrol Georgia Nurken Murzagaliyev said. According to him, Rompetrol network in Georgia currently includes over 70 fueling stations. 19 of them are located in Tbilisi. The company's share of the Georgian retail market of car fuel is 15-16 percent. "Kazakhstan company also takes part in tenders held by the country's state structures. Its clients include Georgian Interior and Defense Ministries. Rompetrol imports from Romania around 20 percent of the fuel that enters the country," Murzagaliyev stressed.



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According to him, the current fuel consumption in Georgia makes around 800 thousand tons per year. Rompetrol Georgia was established in 2005. The company currently sells 5 types of fuel. The Rompetrol Group N.V., subsidiary of Kazakhstan's national oil and gas company KazMunaiGas, is a international oil company with the head office in Amsterdam. Rompetrol owns three refineries in Romania and a European network of over 1 thousand petrol stations. Rompetrol operates in 12 countries, with a majority of its operations in Romania, France, Spain and Southeastern Europe. KazMunaiGas National Company is Kazakhstan's national operator for exploration, production, processing and transportation of hydrocarbons. It represents the country's national interests in Kazakhstan's oil and gas sector. 100 percent of KMG stake is owned by Samruk-Kazyna National Welfare Fund.

<http://en.tengrinews.kz/companies/KMG-branch-to-build-22-petrol-stations-in-Georgia-in-2014-21659/>

### USA, TX, SAN ANTONIO, AUGUST 13 2013. VICTIMS OF HAZMAT SITUATION INCLUDED 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL

dillon collier

 **Watch the Video** [Hazmat Victims Include 3-Year-Old Girl](#)



The mother of a 3-year-old who became sick after breathing hazardous epoxy fumes told KENS 5 her daughter showed symptoms of nausea several hours after the family had been evacuated from their apartment. "As soon as we stepped out of the building she was trying to fall asleep -- literally fall asleep in the back of the truck -- which is not OK," Edlin Elizondo said. Her daughter was one of three people treated early Monday morning outside the Richland Apartment Homes in the 7700 block of Woodchase Drive. San Antonio firefighters evacuated 13 people from eight units, then called hazardous material teams to investigate a downstairs apartment. An SAFD spokesperson told KENS 5 the source of the dangerous fumes was a can of epoxy resurfacing

material left open. The fumes reached overhead air conditioning ducts and spread upstairs, making several people sick. One woman, who appeared to be in her 50s, said she vomited several times and had an accelerated heart rate for several minutes. An SAFD incident commander advised maintenance workers on how to prevent a similar incident from happening again. As of Monday afternoon, maintenance crews continued remodeling several units at the apartment complex.

 **Related Stories** [Chemical scare forces northwest-side apartment evacuation](#)

<http://www.kens5.com/news/Victims-of-HazMat-219315891.html>

### FIJI, SUVA, AUGUST 13 2013. OIL & RUBBISH SPILL TRIGGERS HARBOUR ALARM



*This ugly sight is what greeted tourists who disembarked from a cruise liner in Suva yesterday, debris from a ship filled the Suva Harbour, to the disgust of local boat owners and authorities.*

Rubbish and oil covered parts of the Suva Harbour yesterday morning as a large spill sparked a major environmental concern. The debris consisted mostly of insulation foam used in the hulls of boats and was accompanied by oil. Sabrina Khan, the manager at the Royal Suva Yacht Club, said this was not the first time such an incident had occurred. "This happens several times a year, although this is the biggest spill we've seen. And it is not normally accompanied by oil," she said. "The Suva yacht club does what it can to clean up but it is not an easy task." She said that the oil was a

hazard to people who dived and swam in the area. Dean of the USP Faculty of Technology, Science and Environment Dr Anjeela Jokhan said the issue must be taken seriously, saying it was "unacceptable" that it should happen frequently in a harbour with small scale operations. "Foam can be eaten by marine organisms, and will choke them to death. Foam takes a number of years to break down, and will spread in the ocean, killing more marine organisms," she said. "The different marine organisms are linked to each other in a very delicate web so such incidents can actually disrupt the whole ecosystem." She added that oil on the surface of the water could suffocate marine organisms by preventing the exchange of gases. An official from the Fiji Ports Corporation said they would carry out an investigation. Attorney-General and Acting Environment Minister Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said he would respond to the matter today.

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=242467>



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#### USA, TX, BARNHART, AUGUST 13 2013. A TEXAN TRAGEDY: AMPLE OIL, NO WATER

*suzanne goldenberg*

 **Watch the Video** [Ample Oil, No Water](#)

Fracking boom sucks away precious water from beneath the ground, leaving cattle dead, farms bone-dry and people thirsty. Beverly McGuire saw the warning signs before the town well went dry: sand in the toilet bowl, the sputter of air in the tap, a pump working overtime to no effect. But it still did not prepare her for the night last month when she turned on the tap and discovered the tiny town where she had made her home for 35 years was out of [water](#). "The day that we ran out of water I turned on my faucet and nothing was there and at that moment I knew the whole of Barnhart was down the tubes," she said, blinking back tears. "I went: 'dear God help us. That was the first thought that came to mind.'" Across the south-west, residents of small communities like Barnhart are confronting the reality that something as basic as running water, as unthinking as turning on a tap, can no longer be taken for granted. Three years of [drought](#), decades of overuse and now the [oil](#) industry's outsize demands on water for [fracking](#) are running down reservoirs and underground aquifers. And climate change is making things worse. In [Texas](#) alone, about 30 communities could run out of water by the end of the year, according to the [Texas Commission on Environmental Quality](#). Nearly 15 million people are living under some form of water rationing, barred from freely sprinkling their lawns or refilling their swimming pools. In Barnhart's case, the well appears to have run dry because the water was being extracted for [shale gas fracking](#). The town — a [gas](#) station, a community hall and a taco truck — sits in the midst of the great Texan oil rush, on the eastern edge of the Permian basin. A few years ago, it seemed like a place on the way out. Now McGuire said she can see nine oil wells from her back porch, and there are dozens of RVs parked outside town, full of oil workers. But soon after the first frack trucks pulled up two years ago, the well on McGuire's property ran dry. No-one in Barnhart paid much attention at the time, and McGuire hooked up to the town's central water supply. "Everyone just said: 'too bad'. Well now it's all going dry," McGuire said. Ranchers dumped most of their herds. Cotton farmers lost up to half their crops. The extra draw down, coupled with drought, made it impossible for local ranchers to feed and water their herds, said Buck Owens. In a good year, Owens used to run 500 cattle and up to 8,000 goats on his 7,689 leased hectares (19,000 acres). Now he's down to a few hundred goats. The drought undoubtedly took its toll but Owens reserved his anger for the contractors who drilled 104 water wells on his leased land, to supply the oil companies. Water levels were dropping in his wells because of the vast amounts of water being pumped out of the Edwards-Trinity-Plateau Aquifer, a 34,000 sq mile water bearing formation. "They are sucking all of the water out of the ground, and there are just hundreds and hundreds of water trucks here every day bringing fresh water out of the wells," Owens said. Meanwhile, residents in town complained, they were forced to live under water rationing. "I've got dead trees in my yard because I haven't been able to water them," said Glenda Kuykendall. "The state is mandating our water system to conserve water but why?... Getting one oil well fracked takes more water than the entire town can drink or use in a day." Even as the drought bore down, even as the water levels declined, the oil industry continued to demand water and those with water on their land were willing to sell it. The road west of town was lined with signs advertising "fresh water", where tankers can take on a box-car-sized load of water laced with industrial chemicals. "If you're going to develop the oil, you've got to have the water," said Larry Baxter, a contractor from the nearby town of Mertzon, who installed two frack tanks on his land earlier this year, hoping to make a business out of his well selling water to oil industry. By his own estimate, his well could produce enough to fill up 20 or 30 water trucks for the oil industry each day. At \$60 (£39.58) a truck, that was \$36,000 a month, easily. "I could sell 100 truckloads a day if I was open to it," Baxter said. He rejected the idea there should be any curbs on selling water during the drought. "People use their water for food and fibre. I choose to use my water to sell to the oil field," he said. "Who's taking advantage? I don't see any difference." Barnhart remained dry for five days last month before local work crew revived an abandoned railway well and started pumping again. But residents fear it is just a temporary fix and that next time it happens they won't have their own wells to fall back on. "My well is very very close to going dry," said Kuykendall. So what is a town like Barnhart to do? Fracking is a powerful drain on water supplies. In adjacent Crockett county, fracking accounts for up to 25% of water use, according to the groundwater conservation district. But Katharine Hayhoe, a climate scientist at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, argues fracking is not the only reason Texas is going dry — and nor is the drought. The latest shocks to the water system come after decades of overuse by ranchers, cotton farmers, and fast-growing thirsty cities. "We have large urban centres sucking water out of west Texas to put on their lands. We have a huge agricultural community, and now we have fracking which is also using water," she said. And then there is climate change. West Texas has a long history of recurring drought, but under climate change, the south-west has been experiencing record-breaking heatwaves, further drying out the soil and speeding the evaporation of water in lakes and reservoirs. Underground aquifers failed to regenerate. "What happens is that climate change comes on top and in



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many cases it can be the final straw that breaks the camel's back, but the camel is already overloaded," said Hayhoe. Other communities across a bone-dry south-west are resorting to extraordinary measures to keep the water flowing. Robert Lee, also in the oil patch, has been hauling in water by tanker. So has Spicewood Beach, a resort town 40 miles from Austin, which has been trucking in water since early 2012. San Angelo, a city of 100,000, dug a pipeline to an underground water source more than 60 miles away, and sunk half a dozen new wells. Las Cruces, just across the border from the Texas panhandle in New Mexico, is drilling down 1,000ft in search of water. But those fixes are way out of reach for small, rural communities. Outside the RV parks for the oil field workers who are just passing through, Barnhart has a population of about 200. "We barely make enough money to pay our light bill and we're supposed to find \$300,000 to drill a water well?" said John Nanny, an official with the town's water supply company. Last week brought some relief, with rain across the entire state of Texas. Rain gauges in some parts of west Texas registered two inches or more. Some ranchers dared to hope it was the beginning of the end of the drought. But not Owens, not yet anyway. The underground aquifers needed far more rain to recharge, he said, and it just wasn't raining as hard as it did when he was growing up. "We've got to get floods. We've got to get a hurricane to move up in our country and just saturate everything to replenish the aquifer," he said. "Because when the water is gone. That's it. We're gone."

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/aug/11/texas-tragedy-ample-oil-no-water>

#### USA, N.Y, BRONX, AUGUST 13 2013. BITTERSWEET DEAL IN 22-YEAR FIGHT OVER TOXIC SITE IN BRONX

*william k. rashbaum*



*Patricia Nonnon, whose daughter died at age 10, at the Pelham Bay landfill. She created a coalition and was a leading voice for those affected by the site.*

Kerri was 4 when she started having trouble walking. Justin was 5 when he got a nosebleed that would not stop. Danielle was 7 when her legs began to ache. During the 1980s, the children all lived, played and swam in the shadow of the Pelham Bay landfill, a towering city dump in the Bronx on the shores of Eastchester Bay. For well over a decade, it was a vast environmental crime scene, where bribes to city workers opened the gates to an estimated 1.1 million gallons of [illegally dumped toxic waste](#). By 1991, the three children were dead, taken by childhood leukemia a few years after their symptoms had appeared.

Their families — and the families of nine surviving children who also lived near the landfill and contracted childhood leukemia — sued the city, citing the incidence of disease in the area, and blaming the city for failing to halt the dumping and for taking years to clean up the site. Since then, three mayoral administrations, despite acknowledging the dump's ugly history, stubbornly fought the suits for 22 years. But with the cases now consolidated into a single lawsuit and a trial date next month looming, lawyers for the city have agreed to settle the claims for a total of about \$12 million, Jeff Korek, one of two lawyers representing the families, said. The agreement to settle, which was confirmed by the city Law Department on Friday, came as a bittersweet resolution for Kerri's mother, Patricia Nonnon, and the other parents who lost their children. And for the children who survived, it is little recompense for being stricken with the disease and the loss of much of their childhood. "This is not a victory for me at all," said Ms. Nonnon, who, in a gentle but firm voice, recalled seeing Kerri die in a hospital bed at age 10. "Nothing is going to bring back my daughter." Ms. Nonnon, 58, has battled the city for a quarter-century, creating a coalition and becoming a leading voice among those affected by the 81-acre site. The landfill was transformed in the 1960s and 1970s into a toxic cesspool of sludge, byproducts from oil processing, and hazardous chemicals, as illegal dumpers — some, according to state reports, with ties to organized crime — paid bribes so that city workers would look the other way. The city closed the dump, meant for household refuse, in 1979. Shortly after her daughter's diagnosis in 1985, Ms. Nonnon set up a hot line for other parents whose children contracted the disease, acute lymphocytic leukemia, and other cancers. She [led the fight](#) that in 1990 resulted in the landfill's classification as a [Superfund](#) site, clearing the way for federal money for a long-delayed cleanup. In an interview last week, Ms. Nonnon said that she viewed the settlement as an admission of guilt by the city, proof that she and the other plaintiffs have shown there is a direct connection between the landfill and the children who contracted leukemia. The plaintiffs' epidemiologist, who has done complex studies and was to testify at the trial as an expert witness, would have told the jury that between 1988 and 1996, the incidence rate for those who lived within a mile and a half of the landfill was four times higher than for those three or four miles away. But the city had its own expert, as well as studies that city officials said showed otherwise. Indeed, the city's top lawyer on the case, Fay Leoussis, the chief of the Law Department's



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tort division, made clear in a statement released on Friday that the city was not admitting guilt. "The city believes that it managed the landfill lawfully and in accordance with accepted industry practices and that nothing emanating from the landfill caused plaintiffs to become ill," the statement said. "However, these individuals, three of whom tragically died, undeniably suffered greatly from their disease. In light of the uncertain outcome in front of a jury of a complicated scientific case, the city concluded that it was in the best interests for all concerned to enter into this settlement." The case, which involved thousands of documents and complex issues, had dragged on, in part because the city had three times [unsuccessfully asked](#) appellate courts to dismiss it. Mr. Korek and the other lawyer for the families, [Mitchel Ashley](#), said the outcome was a testament to their clients' "determination and spirit." "While the settlement does not replace their losses, the time was ripe for closure," they said in a statement that praised the city's lawyers and the judges who presided over the case. The city's denials notwithstanding, there is little question for Ms. Nonnon as to what caused her daughter's death. "I would sit in a meeting with the department of health — it was the same people all the time — and I said to them, and it was a legitimate question, I asked who had children," she recalled. "And they raised their hands. And I asked how many of their children had friends that had leukemia." "And they said, 'None.' And I said, 'There are multiple children in the Catholic school and the public school that have leukemia, and you don't think there is anything wrong with that?'" she said of the area near the landfill. "And they didn't say anything."

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/12/nyregion/bittersweet-deal-in-22-year-fight-over-citys-toxic-dump.html?hpw&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/12/nyregion/bittersweet-deal-in-22-year-fight-over-citys-toxic-dump.html?hpw&_r=1&)

### CANADA, ONTARIO, AUGUST 13 2013. UNEXPLODED BOMBS, AMMO IN 150 POSSIBLE ONTARIO LOCATIONS: DND REPORT

 **Photo's [4]** [Unexploded Bombs, Ammo In 150 Possible Ontario Locations](#)



*Spadina Ave. is one of several locations in Toronto the DND lists as a former "ordnance depot."*

A fifth of the 800 sites across Canada where there might be unexploded wartime ordnance are in Ontario, according to Defence Department. From abandoned weapons depots in downtown Toronto to a popular beach near Trenton that was once a bombing range, Ontario is home to more than one in five of Canada's 800 potentially dangerous sites of unexploded wartime ordnance, a Defence department list provided to the Star reveals. Ontario — with 10 "confirmed" locations and about 140 other sites "in assessment" — has the largest number of identified locations of any province, according to a national inventory by the Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) and Legacy Sites Program. There are 19 designated locations in the GTA, including three former "ordnance depots" on Bay, Spadina and Fort York and a "possible bombing range" near Vaughan. Almost all of those sites are designated as "suspected" because historical records indicate there may be homes to unexploded ordnance. But there have been no searches at those locations to confirm any risk to the public. "What we have here is a challenge: bringing people's knowledge to the point where they can be safe but not scaring them," said Jon Preston, operations manager of the DND program. Fears that misinformation could spread has led the DND to retreat from a promise on its website to make "a public database accessible." As well, efforts to clean up some Ontario sites have met with opposition from a sometimes skeptical public as well as environmentalists. Canada's inventory of unexploded ordnance does not compare in numbers or casualties to Europe, where a much larger population is crammed into a much smaller territory that was the battlefield for two world wars. The DND says that since 1927, there have been 15 fatalities and 20 injuries in Canada related to wartime weapons and many more injuries. Since 2005 when the department launched its UXO program, it has spent \$70 million searching for unexploded ordnance, while the country's growing population and urban sprawl were reaching long-abandoned storage sites and testing ranges. "In the past, they were in some pretty remote areas to keep the soldiers and the training away from populated areas," said Preston, "But time passes (and) there is a greater occurrence of events." Between 1944 and 1973, at least nine people were killed near Vernon, B.C., in accidents caused by buried explosives. There has not been a UXO-related death since 1997 in Lethbridge, Alta. [The last known injury](#) occurred in 2007 when a farm employee in Manitoba ran over a buried pyrotechnic device. Preston's team combs through archives and military records and even chats with old-timers in small towns who remember the war years. Then they target a number of hot spots to retrieve and remove undetonated bombs and other potentially dangerous weapons. In some instances, like the ghost town of Winisk in Ontario's far north, ordnance turn up in unpopulated areas, making cleanup easy. But residents near Wellers Bay on Lake Ontario,



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southwest of Trenton, were furious when a longtime favourite strip of boating and beach shoreline was closed to the public in 2011. During the Second World War, the site had been the target for thousands of bombs dropped by Commonwealth aircrews on training runs. During sweeps along the shore, DND personnel found hundreds of kilograms of weapons fragments. They warn that "the possible presence of 500-pound bombs" could be still buried underground. Locals have been using the beach for 60 years without problems, says Daryl Kramp, the Tory MP for Prince Edward-Hastings. "I am not satisfied they have made the case for extreme risk," he said, skeptical about reports that up to four unaccounted large bombs may still be buried in the sand. "They have found fragments the size of a thumbnail but can't find a bomb the size of a small vehicle?" he said. The DND is not backing down. "People who choose to go onto to that beach, there is a risk," said Preston. "I empathize with them that they have been using that site for years without any accident. But I remember growing up with my parents and not wearing seatbelts and now we realize that is not a good idea." In Ostrander Point in Prince Edward County, environmentalists complained contractors hired to look for unexploded ordnance at the former air force site were clearing wide sections of wildlife habitat that is home to migrating birds and endangered species. "All the protective measures are in place," insisted Preston. "We are doing everything we can with the environment in mind." The only "confirmed" UXO site in Toronto was Solway Metal Sales, a scrapyard near Bloor and Dundas. Preston was one of the DND experts who helped clear the site in late 2012, where they found 1,107 unexploded devices ranging from mortar bodies to rockets. Preston said he gave the current owners a letter certifying that "the site has been risk managed down to very low." A list of all the sites is posted on the DND website but it is not searchable by keyword or postal code and no addresses or details are available. Preston says the main danger is not from people stumbling upon unexploded weapons but rather "because people find them and mishandle them and assume they are safe and pick them up." "Our core message is: once you find something, stop!" he says. "There is a hazard out there but it's not going to hurt you if you treat it with respect that it deserves and do not touch it." Here is the list provided by the Department of National Defense of "confirmed" sites in Ontario with unexploded ordnance and those locations that are "in assessment." For more information, you can visit the [DND UXO and Legacy Sites Program](#) on the web or contact them at 1-800-207-0599.

📺 **Multimedia** [Where they Are](#) [On Bottom of Page]

[http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/08/12/bombs\\_in\\_your\\_backyard\\_ontario\\_home\\_to\\_150\\_possible\\_locations\\_of\\_unexploded\\_bombs.html](http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2013/08/12/bombs_in_your_backyard_ontario_home_to_150_possible_locations_of_unexploded_bombs.html)

### USA, LA, PORT ALLEN, AUGUST 13 2013. CHEMICAL [BUTADIENE] LEAK SEALED AFTER LIGHTNING STRIKES PLANT IN PORT ALLEN

📺 **Watch the Video** [Chemical Leak Sealed After Lightning Strikes Plant](#)



*Water being sprayed onto structure at the plant.*

Louisiana State Police say the recommended shelter-in-place for those in Downtown Baton Rouge has been lifted. The shelter-in-place was a recommendation not mandatory for those in the downtown area. This happened about two hours after lightning struck a plant in Port Allen, LA and the chemical Butadiene was released in a vapor cloud above the plant. Department of Environmental Quality officials went to the Capitol in Downtown Baton Rouge and did not detect a presence of Butadiene. Louisiana State Police say the recommended shelter-in-place was announced because of the direction of the winds that were blowing from Port Allen to Downtown Baton Rouge. Hazmat

crews went into the plant around 5 p.m. to manually shut down the valve that was leaking Butadiene. Just before 6 p.m., officials reported that the leak has been sealed. Authorities say a lightning strike is to blame for a chemical leak at Intercontinental Terminals Co. in Port Allen, LA. It happened around 3 p.m. ITC is located at 2449 N River Rd. The Butadiene leak has shut down River Road from Lafitte to the U.S. 190 Bridge. LA 1 was shut down for a short time, but was reopened by 3:10 p.m. Louisiana State Police, West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office and Hazmat all responded to the emergency call. State police say the lightning strike hit a vacuum release valve, and a small vapor cloud of Butadiene was released. Butadiene is a flammable gas. Emergency officials are pouring water on the vacuum release at this time. All air traffic has been restricted over the plant. Nearby plants have been notified to be on standby for possible evacuations, but those have not happened as of this time. As of 3 p.m., police have not ordered evacuations for residents or businesses in that area.

<http://www.wafb.com/story/23115496/possible-chemical-leak-at-wbr-plant-shuts-down-la-1-and-river-road>



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